



South Beach Basketball Court

Consultation Report

March 2015



Contents

Executive Summary	3
Background and consultation objectives	4
Consultation approach	4
Community Feedback	6
Social media.....	18
Submission	20
Summary of outcomes.....	20
Appendix A: Submission by Hoop Hopes	21
Appendix B: Social media site links.....	34

Executive Summary

This report provides a summary of the results of the City of Fremantle South Beach basketball court consultation, which was conducted in January and February 2015.

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the community feedback received over the four week consultation period. The report has been written to acknowledge community feedback on the proposal, as well as other ideas that were raised by community members during the consultation process. In some cases comments have been paraphrased and quotes have been used to illustrate the community sentiment.

The information in this report is based on qualitative research, with most people choosing to participate. It therefore does not necessarily reflect the views of a representative sample of the community. As far as possible, the City attempted to engage a broad range of stakeholders and community cohorts and the feedback includes the views of people who live within close vicinity to South Beach, people who live in Fremantle who use South Beach, people who visit Fremantle to use South Beach, basketball and community groups.

Key findings include:

- Just over half (52%) of the participants support a basketball court being located at South Beach.
- Nearly one third of people (34%) indicated that they were opposed outright to the idea.
- A fair number of people (12%) suggested that a location other than South Beach would be more suitable for a basketball court.
- There was no clear community preference for either of the site options proposed by the City of Fremantle.
- Access to water and shade were the most highly regarded facilities to accompany the court.

I **Background and consultation objectives**

In April 2014 Council agreed to defer consideration of the installation of a basketball court in Wilson Park so that alternative options for basketball facilities within the vicinity of South Beach could be investigated.

Consultation with South Fremantle residents undertaken in August 2013 by the City of Fremantle about the proposed installation of a half-court at Wilson Park, found that numerous residents living opposite Wilson Park were strongly opposed to the idea of a court in this location.

As part of a wider community engagement process the City conducted a survey to collect feedback from the Fremantle community, neighbouring residents, basketball players, users of South Beach, local business and community groups. The survey was available on the City's website for a period of four weeks, commencing 12 January and concluding 9 February 2015.

The primary objectives for this consultation were to:

- Obtain feedback from the stakeholders on South Beach as a potential location for a basketball court.
- Identify the site issues and any other factors impacting on the potential for a basketball court to work in the proposed location.
- Clarify the issues, concerns and aspirations of the stakeholders in response to the proposal.

2 **Consultation approach**

The four week consultation period included a range of methods to inform the community of the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed basketball court at South Beach including:

- **letters** were sent to approximately 226 residents and businesses near the site, advising of the proposal and opportunity to provide feedback.
- **signage** was placed near the two proposed locations to inform members of the public about the proposed court.
- **hard copies** of the survey were available on the counter at the South Beach Café.
- **a project page on the City's website** was established (www.fremantle.gov.au/southbeachcourt) and provided information about the project and link to the online survey.
- **notices** were published in the Fremantle Gazette at the beginning and toward the end of the consultation period, inviting community members to provide feedback.
- **social media announcements** by the City of Fremantle, including a link to the website and online survey.

Feedback was received through the following channels:

- **An online survey** was hosted for the duration of the consultation period. Respondents were asked about their response to the idea of a basketball court at South Beach including questions about proposed location options and design elements.
- **Feedback forms** were handed to community members at the Hoop-Fest street ball competition held at Fremantle Primary School on 7 February 2015. The feedback forms were based on the online survey and asked participants about their response to the idea of a basketball court at South Beach including questions about proposed location options and design elements. Responses were collated and analysed with online survey responses.
- A small number of people forwarded comment on the proposal by **email**. These comments were collated and analysed with other survey responses.
- **Comments on facebook sites** hosted by Hoop Hopes, the City of Fremantle and a South Ward Councillor made during the consultation period.
- **A submission** was received from Hoop Hopes, a group representing the interests of basketball players and streetball.

3 Community Feedback

3.1 Participant Profile

Over 360 people provided feedback on the proposal for a basketball court at South Beach.

Of these a total of 307 people responded to the online survey, 24 completed the survey at the South Beach Café and the remaining 23 people completed the survey at the Hoop-Fest event on 7 February 2015. 10 people emailed comment directly to the City.

Approximately 35% of participants live within 500m – 1km from South Beach and just over half were under 40 years (NETT 52% under 40). There were a slightly greater proportion of male respondents than female (51% compared with 49% respectively).

The full breakdown of how far the respondents lived from South Beach is as follows:

Distance from South Beach	%
500m - 1km	35
1km - 1.5km	16
1.5 - 2km	15
2 - 2.5km	11
2.5+ km	23

The full breakdown of age brackets is as follows:

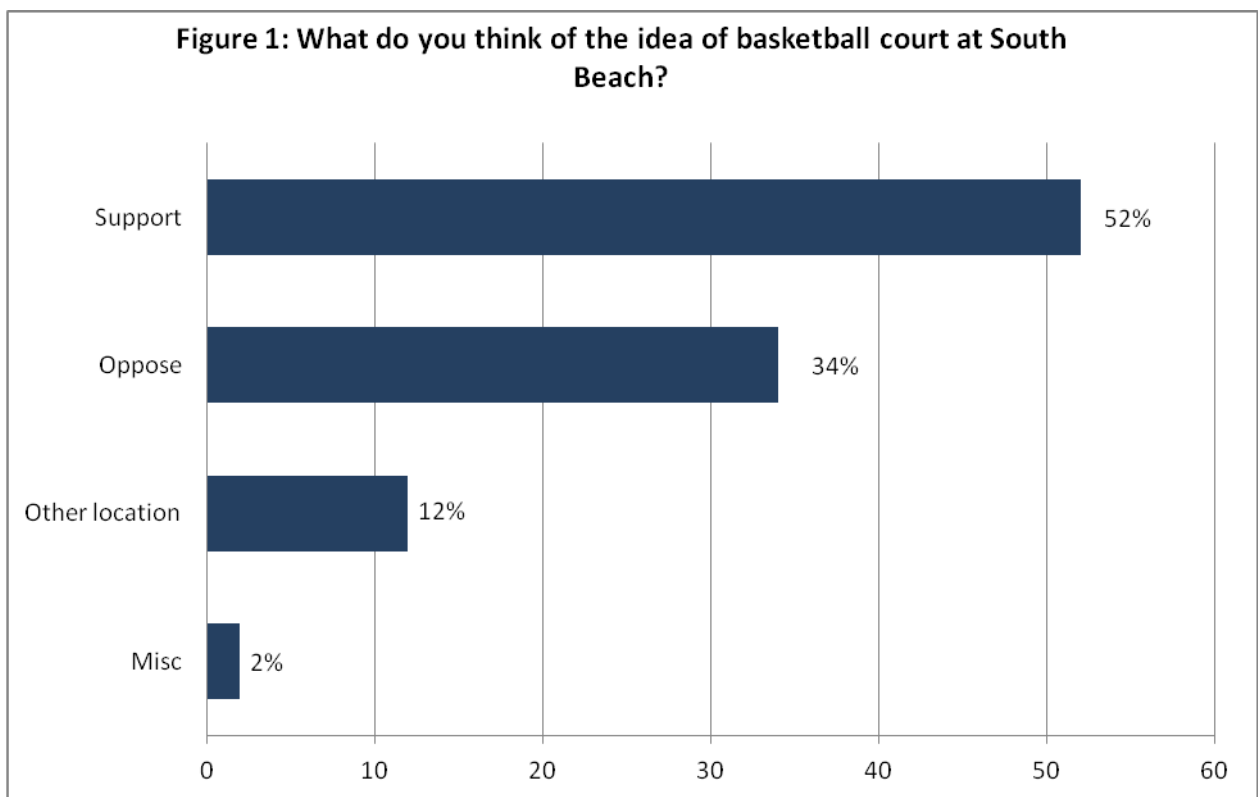
Age Range	%
under 10	0
11 - 15	1
16 - 20	3
21 - 30	25
31 - 40	23
41 - 50	17
51 - 60	14
61 - 70	13
over 70	4

3.2. What do you think about the idea of a basketball court at South Beach?

A preliminary question: “What do you think about the idea of a basketball court at South Beach in general?” was asked to assess the range of responses and attitudes to the proposal. The majority of responses reflected three different community views and were themed accordingly:

- Support Response confirmed a positive view of the proposal.
- Oppose Response confirmed a view that was not supportive of the proposal.
- Other location Response reflected a view that was supportive of a basketball court but not at South Beach.
- Miscellaneous Response did not indicate a position.

Overall 52% (n188) of respondents supported of the idea of a basketball court at South Beach and 34% (n124) of respondents were opposed. A further 12% (n44) of respondents suggested they would prefer to see the court located elsewhere and the remaining 2% (n8) of responses did not reflect a preference or an opinion.



Support

Some of the respondents who supported the court suggested that it would be a popular community recreation facility and maintained that there is a need for a quality court in an accessible location such as South Beach, as indicated by the responses below.

- *I think it's a super idea. I know there are a lot of people very keen to get a court they can play on that is really accessible (and doesn't involve them sharing it with a primary school). I think it will be a wonderful addition to South Beach.*
- *Yes Yes Yes. I can't think of a single accessible quality outdoor court in or near Freo until you're all the way out at Coolbellup Primary. Definitely the growing basketball community would love the full court.*
- *It's an absolutely fantastic idea. Located away from residential areas, discretely positioned into the fold of the land but more importantly it increases recreational diversity along the coast.*

Participants also said the court would enhance recreational opportunities at South Beach, and have a positive effect on community health and wellbeing, such as encouraging young people to be active and enabling diverse people to connect through streetball games.

- *Yes that would be a fantastic idea! People from all over, not only the locals would definitely make use of it. My boys love basketball and that's one thing they always ask about whether there is court that they could play with their friends and other kids. It would be a great location as they could then cool off at the beach and the parents could also use the cafe while their kids are enjoying the fresh and getting exercise as our society is becoming more obese. A BIG YES PLEASE!! :)*
- *I think it's a good idea! It will encourage people to be more active and have a shoot around with their mates. Will give kids something to do instead of getting up to mischief.*
- *I think it is a wonderful idea. It will encourage people to participate in fitness and team-work. Implementing a basketball court would be an amazing facility for the street ballers and the public*

Numerous respondents mentioned the court that was previously located in the car park at South Beach and indicated that they were anticipating a reinstatement of it.

- *Fantastic idea. Council promised years ago to replace the court in the parking area and so building new courts at South Beach is long overdue.*
- *Great idea, it worked before and will surely be great again. We should be encouraging these types of outdoor activities across all generations. One look at the new youth plaza filled with people (and zero social problems as far as I've seen) is all the proof that's needed.*
- *Absolutely great idea! I grew up playing on the courts there about 20 years ago. I think there used to be four courts. It dwindled down to one below par court. If the council are serious about a court they should look at how much use good quality court will get. Good quality basketball courts worldwide become a hub for youth and fitness minded people to play and socialise with friends. I'm sure you have seen the success of the skate park, this would be another very positive step in the right direction. I have wanted to take a photo of all the run down courts around Fremantle and beg for one good quality court. All we need is a flat surface, good quality rings with nets (if they don't have nets don't*

worry about it. Metal ones are more durable.) and preferably a cage/fence. The park on the other side of the tracks from the beach is an ugly, unused wasteland really apart the big beautiful trees on the northern end. Please, please give us a court, you will not regret it

A number of respondents who were supportive of the idea suggested that the site options proposed by the City (see 3.3, Site Options) be reconsidered. Similar sentiment was also reflected by a range of people commenting on the location options on various facebook sites (see 4, Social Media) and is summed up by the following comments:

- *Option 2 would be better than option 1, but I believe there are many other spots to consider. Things like wind, sun and sand all need to be taken into account. Option 1 will be hurt by the strong southerly and south westerly breezes. Option 2 is good, but only provides 1 ring to play on. A group called Hoop Hopes provided a great option, just slightly west of Option 2, lower down the bank. This will provide wind and sand protection from the trees. It will also allow people to sit further up the bank and watch, which is important in creating a useable space for all.*
- *The half court is fine but a full court would be better nearer the cafe, if it can fit. 2 courts might be too much as it is a popular picnic area. A full court on the other side of the rail line would be better.*

Oppose

Participants opposed to the idea expressed various concerns, including concern about the potential loss of green space at South Beach, noise and impact on parking.

- *There can be very few Australian suburbs that have as little green open space, as a proportion of their over-all area, as does South Fremantle. Those proposing to further harden such space and to introduce noisy and turbulent activity, appear to lack understanding of the value of quiet green space to the mental and physical health of the community, and seem short of the vision to see that this will become commensurately more important with increasing population density. That is not to deny that basketball may contribute to the health of those few who actually play that game, but it can also detract from the health of others.*
- *A terrible idea. There are many venues for hard-court recreation. Leave South Beach green and natural. Please don't build this!*
- *Upsetting to see a beach being "revamped" when it is not needed. The idea and mindset is on track but in reality all that is being put in are loiterers, loud banging balls disrupting the peace and quiet. And most of all the destruction of open grass areas.*
- *Since purchasing my unit approximately 12 years ago I have seen an enormous increase in the number of people coming to South Beach. This is evidenced by the massive increase in parking both at the park and in the car parking bays across the road. During the weekends parking is at a premium and I find it unimaginable to think that City of Fremantle is considering another drawcard e.g. the proposed half basketball court which, in my opinion, will only add significantly to the volume of cars already utilising this small area.*

Participants also felt that the court would impose on other people's use and enjoyment of the beach.

- *I strongly oppose the proposal of establishing a basketball court at South Beach. Neither one of the proposals - full court on the north end or half court at the south end- is a sensible thing to do. South Beach has become very popular over the years with especially families with smaller children. A lot of sportive activity is happening exactly where the court would end up being. Yoga, cricket, juggling, boxing, running, bbqing, enjoying the sunset, picnicking and many more - it is very busy down here. A basketball court further down towards the power station where the youth prefers to go anyway would be a lot more sensible. The few hundred meters of South Beach are definitely exhausted by the extensive use as it is. I would suggest to finally drop the idea of basketball courts at South Beach. By the way the next court is only a few hundred meters away in Parmelia Park!*
- *No way! This beach should remain about kids and dogs... With basketballs flying around most dogs will be frightened and not enjoy their time at all... Leave south beach alone!!! There's enough development going on without this!*

Some participants said that a court was unnecessary as the previous one was not used. *I am not in favour of any basketball court being put anywhere at South Beach Reserve. When the basketball hoops were at the end of the parking bays at South Beach I never ever saw them being used.*

Location

Some participants whilst generally supportive of the court, expressed concern that locating it at South Beach would conflict with other valued community uses of South Beach and suggested other locations would be preferable.

- *I support the idea of a basketball court, but not at that location. South Beach is a calm, green place to take kids. A basketball court would be adverse in that it would 1. take up valuable green space; 2. Create noise and 3. further impact on parking at South Beach, which is already congested, especially in summer. My suggestion is that the basketball court be incorporated into the area adjacent to the skate park on the Esplanade, on the southern side, even if this means sacrificing part of the existing parking. This is already a busy noisy recreation zone, and is accessible by more public transport options than South Beach.*
- *It's a good idea but the placement of the court could be better. One of the courts will interrupt the view of the ocean on the open section of grass. Views of the ocean are surprisingly hard to find in Fremantle/ South Fremantle, particularly from any of the nearby roadways. Obscuring the view for a basketball court seems like a waste.*
- *The location is so wrong. Move Option 1 north 50 meters (see 1 & 2)... or to the burnt grass section 20 meters north-east of showers at dog beach (see 5 & 6) ...or across the tracks to use the shade of the fig trees (see 3 & 4) to create a dynamic 'place' with clear CPTED site lines. The location for CoF's Option 1 is heavily used for passive and active recreation already.*

Numerous participants in this category said Wilson Park would be their preferred location for the court.

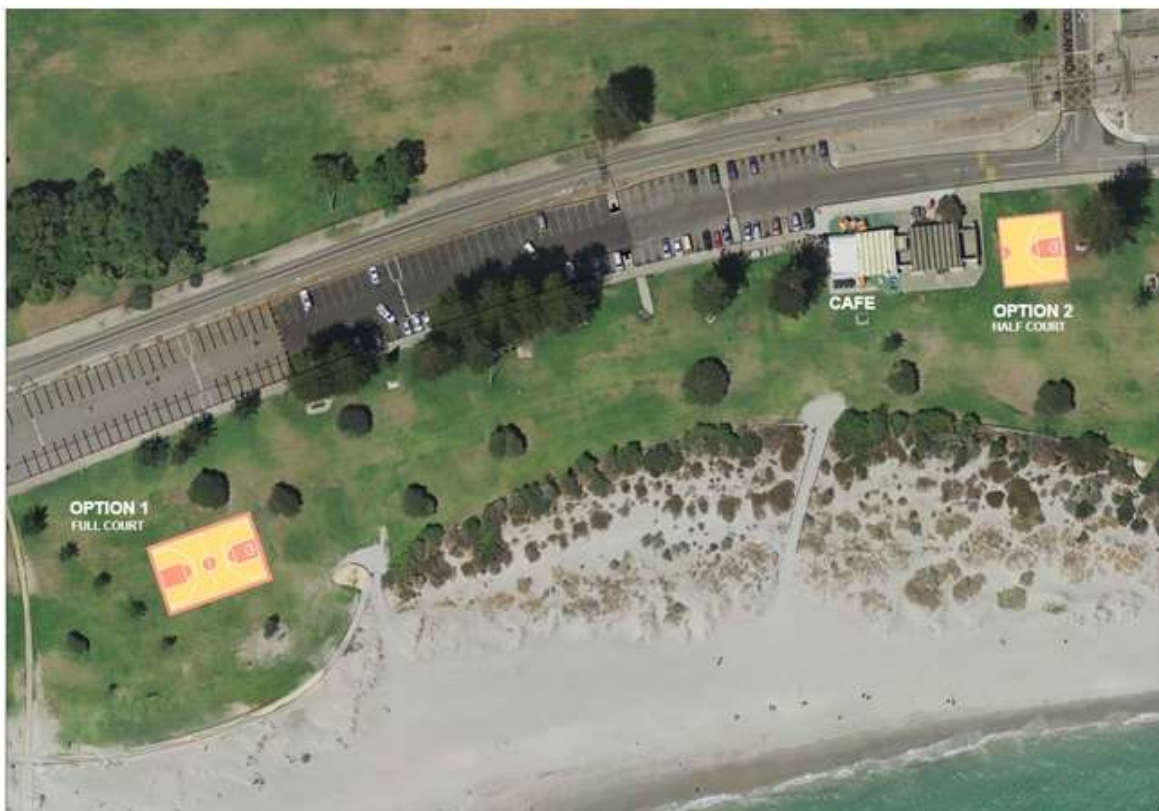
- *One of the best parts about South Beach is that you have grass and shade in such close proximity to the beach. Why take that away when you have the entire Wilson Park just over the tracks with ample space? I think a court is a great idea, but why concrete over lovely grass where people relax.*
- *Not a good idea for the proposed position, why not utilise the green park across the railway, never used for anything but parking, that never takes up the whole area anyway. The beach should be left as is. It is used for picnics, yoga and other activities, not to mention it would take away such a wonderful site!!!*

It was also suggested that court be reinstated at its original location in the car park.

- *A basketball court is good idea but I would prefer that a court was provided in the carpark area, as it was previously, rather than on the lawn area.*
- *I would revert back to something closer to the original basketball court, but spin it round 90 degrees. Hence have the court at the western most end of the current car park, but with the goals on the north and south side. Would require a higher fence on the northern railway line end. Might also require a slight extension on the southern end to get a full court. That would minimise the loss of car parking spots, ie, half the number required in the original set up; but shouldn't be such an issue now overflow parking is permitted on Wilson Pk. While doing it why not add a few extra trees that would provide some protection in years to come.*

3.3 Site options

Respondents were asked for their feedback on two possible options for the siting of the court, with one option being a full court located next to the dog beach and another being a half court located next to the café and public change rooms.



Approximately one third of people (29%, Table 1) said that neither of the proposed options would be suitable. Most were concerned about the impact a court in either location would have on their current use of the public space and facilities at South Beach.

Table 1: Preferred site option

Site option	%
Option 1	22
Option 2	19
Both	10
None	29
Other	20

A full court is too large an impost on the grassed area. The half court in the proposed position will use valuable space in what is a high demand area. SB is a VERY popular beach and certainly the most attractive beach with the best amenities close to and south of Fremantle. I have nothing against basketball. I know and see that many people get enjoyment from it. But that can easily be had AWAY from the beach.

Option 1 was preferred by 22% of respondents, who felt that it was better to put the court away from other already busy areas such as the café, road, and the playground so it wouldn't impact on people in these areas. Another common reason for preferring option 1 was because it proposed a full court, offering players the chance to conduct a game or two half-court games simultaneously.

- You need to keep it away from the cafe. I enjoy my coffee and meals at the cafe and I feel the court would be too close.*
- If you put one in make sure there are two hoops and close to full size. Putting in a small 1/4 or 1/2 court doesn't allow for maximum potential. A full court allows for comps, proper games, encourages teams to play as well as friends.*

Option 2 was preferred by 19% of respondents, who suggested a half court was sufficient and it was better to locate the court within an area that offers more amenities and is already busy, allowing the area where option 1 was proposed to remain a passive recreation area.

A further 20% of respondents suggested felt that other locations should be considered. Wilson Park and the car park were common suggestions.

Some people expressed reservations about the coastal conditions and suggested a wall would be necessary to provide a windbreak.

- With south westerly winds blowing sand up from the beach it will require daily maintenance to be used efficiently.*
- The sea breeze is going to cause havoc. Absolute havoc – unless the wind is blocked using a wall. If so, the other side of the wall could be used for tennis or similar.*

A number of people expressed support of an alternative location for a full court west of the cafe proposed by 'Hoop Hopes' (see 5: Submission) and suggested that there be further consultation on a suitable site for a full court.

- Option 2: Why can't there be a full size one by the cafe? From the drawings it looks like it would fit if it was oriented differently. Isn't that area better sheltered from winds? If it is near where the other amenities are I feel that is more suited*
Option 1. Strong objection to one sited here, the open space is much loved by the users of the area, it's quite peaceful, large groups gather to sit and picnic, play games and there is a great view out from this point. Having a court here would disturb the vibe. The risk of sand on the court surface causing an unsafe playing surface is very valid.
- Option, 'Hoop Hopes' for me is the most exciting. The other two feel too intrusive on the surrounding environment. Where as option Hoop Hopes has recognized a corner of the coast that is being under utilized, that feels empty. The amphitheater would also allow groups beyond the game of basketball to*

create their own urban theatre. Musicians, actors could put on shows in front of a small crowd. What is a void, could be full of life.

- *It would be great to see the City engage with all stakeholders on this one, maybe a consultation process that will ensure the best outcome for everyone involved to create a space that will definitely be used.*

3.4 Design

Respondents were asked if they thought there was anything that they thought should be considered in the design of the basketball court.

As shown in Figure 2, water and shade were the most highly regarded of all prompted design features. Around half of the respondents thought seating should be a consideration. Other design considerations suggested by the respondents included lighting, rubbish bins, low wall to contain the ball, wind protection, broom to sweep away sand, public art, a ball hire stand, two basketball hoops - one at normal level and then one a bit lower for little kids, and markings and possibly nets for other court sports such as tennis, volleyball and badminton.

Table 2: Design considerations

Design feature	%
Access path	27
Seating	49
Tree planting for shade	66
Drink fountain	71
Other	30

3.5 Final comments from respondents

The majority of respondents reflected the range of community views as identified in previous responses (support, oppose or appeal for other location) and re-stated their issues.

The majority of respondents opposed to the proposal indicated that the court would solely benefit the people who play basketball and not the broader community as indicated by the responses below:

- *I cannot understand why basketball has been favoured as a sport. That the council is considering providing facilities for when this reserve is used by all age groups as a picnic/recreation area.*
- *I would like for the court to cater for more sports. I don't believe that a full court is very useful as most basket games would be on one goal/half court anyway. Why not have netball goals? 5 a-side soccer court or even a footy goal for just kicking goals? Through my 12 years a youth worker in Denmark and Australia, I have seen many versions on these types of multi-purpose courts being built with some great advantages and better use.*
- *Not a good idea at all. Something for probably less than 5 % of the people (who play basketball) whilst the other 95 % will only suffer from it.*
- *Why can't there be something that everyone can enjoy?*
- *Just wondered what the local community profile is & whether a basketball court really does fit this need? The skatepark has been a great success, because there was a need for that sort of facility in central Freo. I don't see the same need here.*
- *Please don't spoil South Beach by building a basketball court where there isn't a logical need for one. The large grassed area provides many, many opportunities for creative play, relaxation and revelry. Yoga, tai chi, circus skills, fitness pursuits, family play space, cricket, soccer, volleyball . . . these are currently all pursued and enjoyed by many local and itinerant people in precisely the locations being proposed. Why largely restrict what is currently a multi-use area into what will be largely a single-use area for a much smaller cohort of people? PUT IT SOMEWHERE ELSE!! I say this as someone who uses South Beach 4-5 times every week for several months of the year and I am a Fremantle ratepayer!*
- *Hey, City of Freo, we know you have a crush on servicing young men and consider this group far more fascinating and important than the rest of the population but your obsession is getting really tired.*
- *Will only reiterate that I believe this proposal is not for the good of the many - just the few. Parking is a premium at this beach and to attract people other than beachgoers, picnickers and people just want to enjoy the beach and surrounds will only add to the problem. Do people relaxing with their families enjoying the sunset or the balmy days wish to hear the banging of balls and the jeering of spectators? Or watch that their little ones don't wander onto the court? I think not! Are there not other available areas eastside of town that would be suitable? Beachfront recreational land is a premium as industry has claimed most of it.*

Respondents who were supportive of the proposal welcomed the idea of a court being returned to South Beach and felt the growing popularity of basketball would mean the court would be used

and appreciated by a diverse range of people and for the game to be shared in a highly accessible and visible location.

- *Please make this go ahead, it's a great idea. All the basketballers miss the old courts that used to be there before the extra car parks. There's not enough around.*
- *I'm pleased to see that the Council is looking at a replacement for the old court. I think if serious consideration was given to the placement to the new court, like the skate park, it would be welcomed by the young while not attracting adverse criticism by adults due to the noise of ball bouncing and spectators.*
- *Really looking forward to this going ahead. There is a large basketball community developing in Fremantle and it will be appreciated by all.*
- *It would be nice that a full game could be played on one court and that the kids and others could shoot hoops and be actively inspired next to the 'action'. Keeping it in the open and vicinity of spectators can only inspire good things.*
- *This is a wonderful opportunity for South Freo to revitalise its commitment to sport and outdoor activities. Fremantle has a whole has unfortunately lost many of its public sporting facilities, including many basketball rings, over the years and it's getting more and more difficult to find an accessible place for everyone to enjoy.*
- *My friends and I would certainly use it. We would be respectful of the space and surroundings.*
- *Love South Beach and have used it intensely for years. Great idea continued development. Need more vitality in central Fremantle.*

Respondents were also concerned that there are other priorities for South Beach such as improving the public change rooms. They are also concerned that the proposed locations for a court will impact negatively on highly valued public space. A fair number of participants suggested Wilson Park or the car park would be more acceptable.

- *I am very surprised that the council proposes this. Good new toilets and showers that work at South Beach: yes! Recycle bins: yes! Scooter-parking: yes! There used to be a well used basketball court in the parking area. That is a better place for it, or Wilson Park.*
- *I like the concept however I would prefer money be spent on upgrading the shower/toilet block which are a disgrace. They should have been bulldozed a year or so ago instead of using money to so-call upgrade them. Outside paving is great but inside stinks literally.*
- *Why is the park on the other side of the rail line not being better utilised? Wouldn't any sports facilities be better placed further from the beach?*
- *Why not use Wilson Park which is barely used for any sport and only used for car parking. There is also a basketball court at Parmelia Park that is in bad condition that rarely gets used. Why not put up a beach-volleyball net on the beach?*
- *Thanks for thinking of cool new things...but please value the open grassed areas - they are a beautiful and rare resource, being so close to the beach. On a nice summer's evening, or on weekends, all of*

these spaces are taken up by families and other groups. These groups would not likely want to be picnicking next to a basketball court - there will end up being a buffer of non-used grass around the courts where people avoid sitting in case of being hit by a ball, and for the noise of games. This will mean that the remaining grassed areas will become more crowded. Please consider placing a court in the existing carpark area, or even in the grassed area on the other side of the railway line.

- *I have lived nearby for 23 years and there have been basketball courts located in the beach carpark area in the past and these had very little use by a very small number of people. The people who used these courts also all appeared to drive to the beach and park only to use the court - there is no reason why precious beach car parking should be monopolised by people wanting a square of asphalt and a pole to play basketball - these things do not require location on the limited amount of beachfront land available for beach/coastal activities that do have a relationship with the coast. The basket ballers do not admire the view while playing basketball.
I do not buy the youth argument as there are plenty of activities that the coast does provide available to all age groups including bike paths, kites, non specific grassed area ball games, pontoon and water activities, fishing walking, jogging. Basketball courts are good but don't require a prime beachfront location. Even Wilson Park immediately east of the rail line is preferable Option 1 especially and probably Option 2 also. I prefer the Wilson Park site that was previously advertised. In contrast to the beachfront Wilson Park has very little use at all and given the huge expanse of grass a court would be a very small commitment. It would also be quite a distance from the houses at the south end of South Terrace opposite Wilson Park so I don't believe that any impacts would result at all.*

4 Social Media

Many of the comments on the City's facebook (Appendix B) reiterated many of the community views also expressed by the survey respondents, and the various pros and cons of the site options proposed by the City.



Tony Mangano Basketball FTW!!!
January 30 at 9:52pm

Leeanne Thwaite I thought the lower end of the car park and the reason for blocking off that end of the road was for it to be used for courts all those years ago. Who knows what is going on down there now just people sleeping in their cars all night and drug deals. I'm not so sure it will be a good idea for such a family orientated area just more trouble.
January 30 at 3:32am

Penelope Rae Option 2 please. Option 1 will be too noisy for the beach combers (like me!) and we go there to enjoy the seaside not listen to balls bouncing and people squealing etc. Thanks for asking 😊😊😊
January 30 at 1:48am

Susan Margareta Allwood Another road for exit onto marine parade would help with the parking movement...
January 29 at 6:18pm

Julie Kelly May be option 1 should be further down the grass area. Option 2 seems dangerous to me as it is nearer the intersection and the all the people walking and riding past.
January 29 at 7:08am

Paul Broadhurst Lived there when the courts were in the old car park. Weren't used much then whereas the grassed area was always used. If there needs to be a court then option 2 is the way to go.
January 29 at 4:59am

José Wynn Rees So goooood!
January 29 at 3:32am

Sharon Bergmans Option 1 is a very busy spot for people and I don't think a great spot for basketball. Slightly further from picnicking and relaxing families would be best. It's a great idea, my kids would love it
January 29 at 12:34am

Andrew Green Basketball courts are a good start. Or visit your fellow seaside City of Geelong & make a place that will bring people from all over to South Beach.

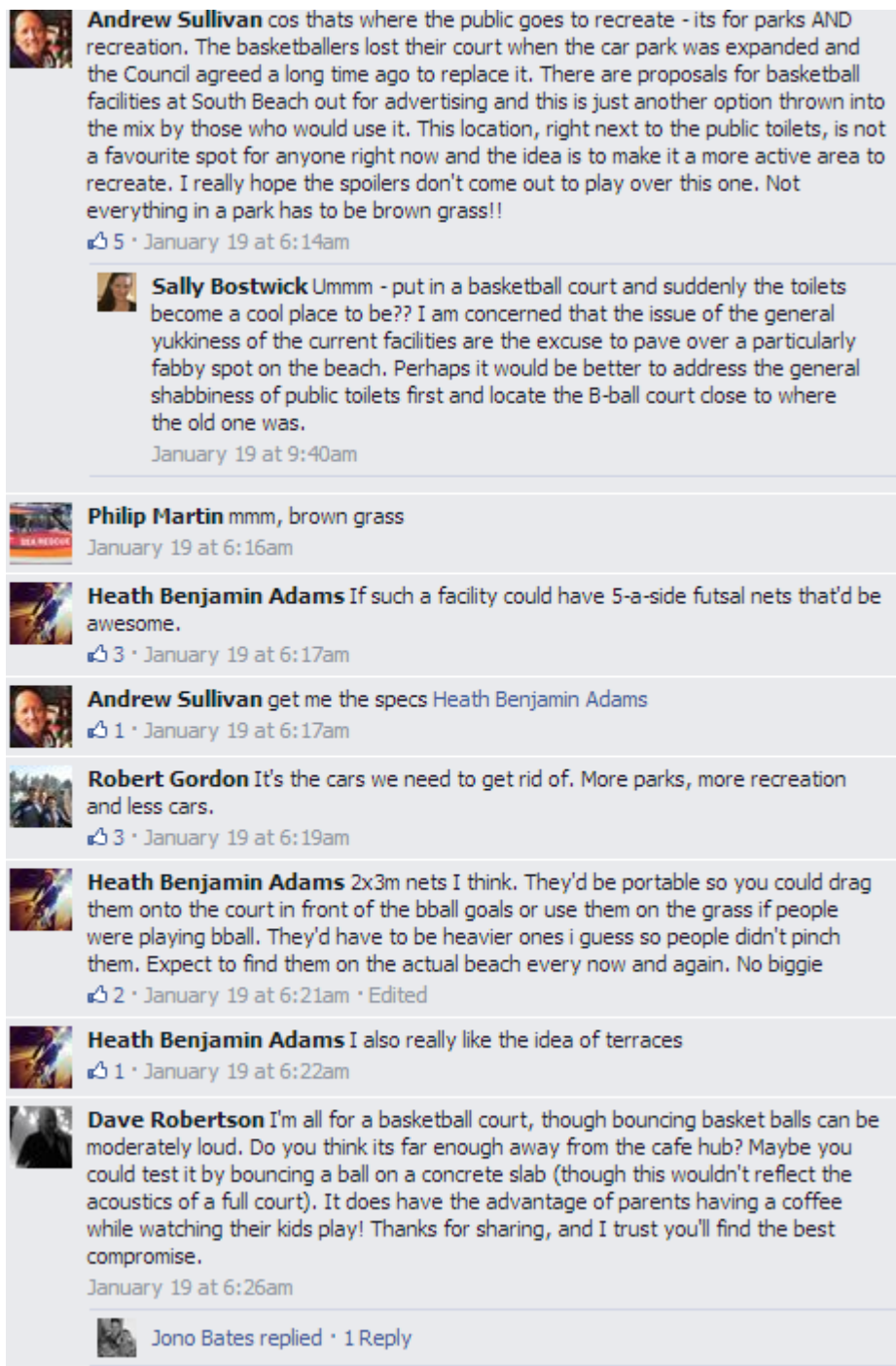


👍 1 • January 28 at 8:25pm

Cathy Hall Billy Amesz; Simone Van Hattem; Andrew Hazar; Paul Melville; Suz Hall; @Emma Jack; Heath Benjamin Adams; Jamie Van Egmond 😊
👍 1 • January 29 at 10:43pm

John Durey Option 1. Awesome. See the art courts Public Outdoor Ping Pong is doing too.
January 29 at 3:39pm

Other comments on Councillor Sullivan’s facebook page included reference to alternative location options within South Beach, including a proposal west of the toilets and an option for the north end of the car park. Some contributors to this discussion also suggested that the location should minimize impact on other users of South Beach, promote accessibility and social inclusion, and be able to accommodate a full size basketball court and other activities such as futsal.



The screenshot shows a series of Facebook comments on a post by Andrew Sullivan. The comments are as follows:

- Andrew Sullivan** (original post): cos thats where the public goes to recreate - its for parks AND recreation. The basketballers lost their court when the car park was expanded and the Council agreed a long time ago to replace it. There are proposals for basketball facilities at South Beach out for advertising and this is just another option thrown into the mix by those who would use it. This location, right next to the public toilets, is not a favourite spot for anyone right now and the idea is to make it a more active area to recreate. I really hope the spoilers don't come out to play over this one. Not everything in a park has to be brown grass!!
5 · January 19 at 6:14am
- Sally Bostwick**: Ummm - put in a basketball court and suddenly the toilets become a cool place to be?? I am concerned that the issue of the general yukkiness of the current facilities are the excuse to pave over a particularly fabby spot on the beach. Perhaps it would be better to address the general shabbiness of public toilets first and locate the B-ball court close to where the old one was.
January 19 at 9:40am
- Philip Martin**: mmm, brown grass
January 19 at 6:16am
- Heath Benjamin Adams**: If such a facility could have 5-a-side futsal nets that'd be awesome.
3 · January 19 at 6:17am
- Andrew Sullivan**: get me the specs Heath Benjamin Adams
1 · January 19 at 6:17am
- Robert Gordon**: It's the cars we need to get rid of. More parks, more recreation and less cars.
3 · January 19 at 6:19am
- Heath Benjamin Adams**: 2x3m nets I think. They'd be portable so you could drag them onto the court in front of the bball goals or use them on the grass if people were playing bball. They'd have to be heavier ones i guess so people didn't pinch them. Expect to find them on the actual beach every now and again. No biggie
2 · January 19 at 6:21am · Edited
- Heath Benjamin Adams**: I also really like the idea of terraces
1 · January 19 at 6:22am
- Dave Robertson**: I'm all for a basketball court, though bouncing basket balls can be moderately loud. Do you think its far enough away from the cafe hub? Maybe you could test it by bouncing a ball on a concrete slab (though this wouldn't reflect the acoustics of a full court). It does have the advantage of parents having a coffee while watching their kids play! Thanks for sharing, and I trust you'll find the best compromise.
January 19 at 6:26am

At the bottom, there is a reply from **Jono Bates** with 1 Reply.

Key thing to my mind is that there is a full court. No one would build a half tennis court. If you want people to play the game they need the court. Challenge with every site is going to be doing it in a way that doesn't detract from the amenity of non-ballers. Best case is a full court with lights for evening streetball that can become a community driven asset. No refs, no clubs, no uniforms, just people getting together and playing the game and making the community stronger and more vibrant.

5 Submission

A submission was received from Hoop Hopes (Appendix A). In summary the submission asserts:

- Street basketball is internationally popular and played by a broad demographic of people in Fremantle.
- There is not a suitable full sized public court in Fremantle.
- Hoop Hopes would like a full-sized FIBA-standard court to be built at South Beach to provide for greater and more flexible use by people who play basketball and a range of other informal sports such as futsal, volleyball, netball, roller derby and inline hockey.
- A new basketball court should take account of a range of design criteria – seventeen design principles are identified in the submission.
- After considering various site options and assessing against the design criteria, the location preferred by Hoop Hopes is the site located to the immediate west of the toilets in a sunken area of grass just east of the sand dunes.

6 Summary of consultation outcomes

Just over half (52%) of the survey respondents support a basketball court being located at South Beach. Many participants who support the idea said a full court is a better option as it could provide greater flexibility of use, be designed to accommodate a range of other sports, and deliver more social and community benefits.

Nearly one third of people (34%) indicated that they were opposed outright to the idea. Participants value the grassed open spaces of South Beach and see the area as prime beachfront within Fremantle. They value the range of recreational opportunities currently available to them at South Beach and are concerned about the potential loss of the space and the impact on current use of the space.

A fair number of people (12%) suggested that a location other than South Beach would be more suitable for a basketball court. Many participants felt that Wilson Park is currently under utilised or that a section of the carpark could be reclaimed or that locations other than South Beach should be considered.

There was no clear community preference for either of the site options proposed by the City, with 29% of people preferring none of the proposed options and the remaining majority of responses being almost equal in preference for Option 1 (22%), a other location (20%) or Option 2 (19%). A range of other locations, both within and away from South Beach were suggested.

Access to water and shade were the most highly regarded design considerations. Participants felt the court should be designed to support use by a range of people and for a range of purposes, including hoops at different heights, and other activities such as futsal, netball, volleyball and tennis. Taking account of the coastal conditions was also felt by some people to be an important design and site consideration.

Appendix A

SOUTH BEACH BASKETBALL - A submission by Hoop Hopes

BASKETBALL IN FREMANTLE

Most informal basketball played on outdoor courts in Fremantle ranges from a few people shooting some hoops to any number of variations of the international game known as “Streetball”.

Wikipedia defines “*Streetball or street basketball [as] a variation of the sport of basketball typically played on outdoor courts, featuring significantly less formal structure and enforcement of the game's rules. As such, its format is more conducive to allowing players to publicly showcase their own individual skills.*” Streetball can be played using both hoops of a full court or at one end of the court using just one hoop.

Streetball is best played with between 3 to 5 players on each side. International etiquettes exist and it is common for players to join a game even if they have not previously met the other ‘ballers’. Overseas visitors would be quite familiar with streetball etiquette. Tourists, backpackers and foreign students are part of the demographic who would use a well-located outdoor court.



Venice Beach, California – streetball is not just for players, it provides urban theatre.

Streetballers are well organized and in Fremantle a number of groups exist, principally networking via social media. Informal competitions are regularly organized and often expand to include a barbecue, music, and sometimes a DJ. Streetball attracts a mixed demographic that might not otherwise socialize together.

Streetball games are typically played after work/school and on weekends. In the hot summer, twilight games are popular and a sheltered shady environment is preferred. The previous basketball court at South Beach was much loved for its proximity to the ocean and the ability to have a swim straight after an intensive game.

EXISTING BASKETBALL FACILITIES

There are a few full sized outdoor courts located at public schools in the Fremantle region but there are limitations on how and when these courts can be used. The courts at local high schools are not typically available for informal public use. The nearest full court to South Beach is at Fremantle Primary School where the Principal has recently imposed some restrictions on its use. There are no public toilets or other facilities at such courts. Likewise, there is no lighting or power and the courts are often located quite close to houses. That said, basketball is regularly played at the available venues. Ballers often have to scout around to find an available court.



Fremantle Primary School - HoopFest competition, Feb 2015, 10 local streetball teams

There are a few public half courts located in and around Fremantle. There are also some smaller hoop-only facilities in local parks, including under the Stirling Bridge in North Fremantle, Horrie Long Reserve and Parmelia Reserve. These are good facilities suited to local use by smaller groups but they aren't well suited for larger groups or streetball competitions.

PREFERRED COURT SIZE & HOOP OPTIONS

Hoop Hopes wants a full-sized FIBA-standard court to be built at South Beach (i.e. a 28 x 15 metre court with 2 metre margins to all edges). Constructing a full court will not double the cost but will provide for much greater and more flexible usage by ballers. A half court essentially suits basketball only whereas a full court is usable by a range of other informal sports and community activities, including:

- Futsal (25 x 15 metre minimum ranging up to international size of 42 x 38);
- Volleyball (18 x 9 metre court with a 26 x 18 metre free zone);
- Netball (30.5 x 15.25 metres, but social games are playable on a small court);
- Hardcourt Bike Polo (played on any sized hardcourt)
- Roller Derby & Inline Hockey (played on an oval shape set in a full court)

The extent to which other sports can use a basketball facility depends on the type of finishing material used for the court. Each sport has unique needs and impacts and so the material selected may preclude some activities.



Having just one hoop at a regional destination like South Beach will not adequately serve demand at peak times (late afternoon and weekends). The provision of two or more hoops is preferred as it allows for use by different groups at one time. The preferred configuration is for two standard height hoops (3.05 metres) at each end of a full court. It is possible to install adjustable arms that allow the hoops to be lowered to suit younger players. Alternatively, some additional hoops set at varying heights can be installed nearby to allow younger players to play 1-on-1 or 3-on-3 games, or to just shoot. Given the coastal location and unsupervised nature of the court, it may be preferable to install fixed height backboards and provide a third hoop-tree, as shown to the left, in an adjacent location.

SOUTH BEACH v ESPLANADE

A full court located at either the Esplanade Youth Plaza (EYP) or South Beach is equally favoured by Hoop Hopes. However, it is noted that the original proposal for the EYP was for a half-court and there isn't the space available for a full court in the approved plans. While there may be another location in the Esplanade where a full court could be constructed, this scenario has not been tested and is clearly not part of the current thinking of Council. Hoop Hopes believes it is more pragmatic to construct the full court at South Beach and the approved half court at the EYP. Providing this full court is the highest priority for ballers and it should be constructed to a high standard so it is robust enough to serve the regional catchment.

PRINCIPLES FOR COURT DESIGN

Hoop Hopes believe a new basketball court should be designed to take into account the following design criteria and parameters:

1. Be a full court (28 x 15 metres) and have a reasonable play-space margin around the edges (2 metre minimum margin, hence 32 x 19 metres overall);
2. Be designed for a variety of active recreation uses and community events;
3. Be separated from pedestrian movement corridors to avoid conflicts with other users (5.0 metre min separation, or fenced, or separated by the landscape);
4. Be separated from moving vehicles including bicycles on dedicated pathways and from roads and car parks generally. In particular, the safety of young basketball players is of paramount importance so physical separation from moving vehicles is essential;
5. Be separated from dog exercise areas as some dogs just can't resist chasing and biting moving balls and even players;
6. Be designed to ensure stray balls don't encroach into nearby areas used for passive recreation or into sensitive landscapes. This is typically achieved through either fencing or through the inclusion of design features such as banks and robust landscaping. In a foreshore reserve, a tall fence is unlikely to be appropriate and so other design measures will need to be adopted;
7. Include viewing areas for participants and other members of the public to watch the activity or 'theatre' on the court. It has been demonstrated at the EYP that including areas for public seating around the active zone is integral to providing a safe and social space. While there may only be 10 or 20 players on the court at any given time, social sports can have many more people on the sidelines either waiting to play or just observing the spectacle;
8. Be universally accessible. The court should be available for wheelchair basketball that requires the space provided by a full court. In addition, access for the City's small street sweeper may be an important consideration;
9. Be free draining but without a noticeable slope;
10. Be located in close proximity to drinking water and toilets, and preferably in close proximity to other community facilities such as barbecues;
11. Be located near a café, shop or other staffed facility. A location nearby a staffed facility provides the opportunity for equipment to be hired or for the court to be reserved in peak periods. It also improves safety for younger players;
12. Be well protected from strong winds and in the case of South Beach, from wind-borne sand movements;

13. Include good shade protection, not necessarily over the court itself, but certainly for surrounding areas. The shade can mostly be created from new and/or existing large trees. Ideally, a shade structure would also be constructed to also provide a rain protected area for bags etc., noting that basketball is played in most conditions. Tree selection is important to ensure that leaf, fruit and/or nut fall does not make the court unplayable;
14. Include lighting as many games are played after school and work both in summer and winter. In addition, access to power would enable the court to be used for many other uses of interest to the general public. Streetball competitions often include music, a DJ and even commentary.
15. Be a reasonable distance from residences with a preference for sites located comparatively further away from houses and/or acoustically screened from them;
16. Be a reasonable distance from areas used extensively for passive recreation with a preference for a site that is comparatively underutilised and/or able to be separated from passive recreation areas through good landscape design;
17. Be co-located with other active or intensive uses where quiet enjoyment for other park users is already mitigated through existing separation and usage patterns;

Hoop Hopes believes that by adopting a comprehensive set of design criteria, all of the site options can be critically assessed making it easier to identify the solution or solutions that best fit the full range of stakeholder needs.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Hoop Hopes has considered the following site options for a basketball court to be located at either South Beach or Wilson Park precinct:

- Option 1 – South Beach central node: the full court advertised by the City;
- Option 2 – South Beach south of the café/toilets: the half-court advertised by the City;
- Options 2a & 2b – modified versions of Option 2 to provide for a full court;
- Option 3 – Hoop Hopes first option for a full court west of the toilets;
- Option 4 – Hoop Hopes second option for a full court at the northern end of the long car park;

- Option 5 – Wilson Park northern end: half court as previously proposed by the City;
- Option 6 – Wilson Park central location just north of the old central pedestrian rail crossing: half court as previously proposed by the City; and,
- Option 7 – Wilson Park south end: half court as previously proposed by the City.



Site Plan showing all assessed options

The following key comments are made in relation to each of the options considered:

Option 1 – while the City’s central node option meets the primary criteria of being a full court, it may be too exposed to the sea breeze and sand drifts. It is proposed as a court surrounded by a flat and unimaginative landscape and attempts to improve its surroundings to meet the criteria would involve considerably more area and changes to the topography/landscape. It is a reasonable distance from existing residences but further away from public facilities. The adjacent area to the south, currently used extensively for passive recreation, is highly valued by the community. Also, being one of the few open areas without tall trees, it is already used for some active recreation and so adding a basketball court here may compete for space with existing users. Option 1 could be improved to meet more of the criteria.

Option 2 – does not meet the fundamental criteria as it is proposed as a half court only. However it is worth noting that the site is not currently heavily used because of its close proximity both the toilets and the road. The site is well served by public facilities including lighting and barbecues. In addition, the site enjoys reasonable separation from existing residences and there is scope to plant new trees between them. The general location associated with option 2 has been further explored in new options 2a and 2b to ascertain whether a full court is possible in this area.

Option 2a – is essentially a proposal to extend Option 2 southwards to create a full court. This would require the removal of a single but large Norfolk Pine, noting that new landscaping would be needed as compensation. The option 2 court is too close to the road/DUP and so option 2a is located slightly to the west. A landscaped strip would be established between the DUP and the court. This would need to take the form of a mound that would help contain stray balls. It would also provide seating shaded by new trees along the eastern flank of the court. The court would end up quite close to the existing barbecue facilities although these could be integrated through good design.

Option 2b – is essentially Option 2a but with the court cranked in plan to avoid removing the existing Norfolk Pine. While this option avoids the tree, it pushes the court further into the grass areas and may interfere with the flow of pedestrians between the southern park areas and the café/toilets.

Option 3 – this option grew out of investigating Options 2a and 2b. The site is located to the immediate west of the toilets in a sunken area of grass just east of the sand dunes. Within the linear park that runs behind the dunes, this particular location appears to be the least used portion because it is so close to the toilets. The site is more physically dislocated from the beach and ocean further explaining its lower usage. It offers many of the same positive attributes associated with options 2, 2a & 2b. In addition, this new sunken location offers the potential for the court to incorporate terraced or banked flanks on both sides. This lowering of the court lessens the potential for conflicts with surrounding activities. Also, the court is set well away from residences in all directions. The lowered elevation, combined with the location of the café/toilets to its east, means that any noise or visual impacts will be greatly reduced for residents living on South Terrace. This proposal has been chosen as Hoop Hopes preferred option.

Option 4 – this option grew out of a review of the City’s Option 1 proposal for the central node. In part, there was a desire to address the community concern that Option 1 would destroy a grassed area already well used by the community. From the ballers’ perspective there was a desire to increase the wind protection by shifting it eastwards. To a lesser degree, there was also a nostalgic desire to consider an option for a court located somewhere in the northern end of the car park. Obviously, significantly reducing the number of car bays would be a problem and so simply reinstating the old court is not an option. It is also acknowledged that the pedestrian rail-crossing must not be blocked by a court. With these fundamental parameters in mind, the option proposed is for a full court that utilises the 12 car bays north of the rail crossing and some grass to the north. Initial investigations indicate a number of significant design issues that would need to be resolved to make this option work. Firstly, many users of the DUP prefer to ride through the car park rather than continue along the heavily pedestrianized DUP that runs along the edge of the car park. Indeed, a complete redesign of the pedestrian and bicycle movements would be required to accommodate a court in this location. In addition, to achieve a good design, the requirement for surrounding fencing, terracing, landscaping etc. would need to be carefully considered. However, a fundamental flaw may prove to be the comparatively close juxtaposition between this site and the residential flats on the other side of Marine Terrace. Given all of the above difficulties, Hoop Hopes’ Option 4 proposal was not worked up to the same degree as Option 3.

Options 5, 6 and 7 – from a basketball perspective, all of the City’s previous half-court options for Wilson Park were inadequate but each is capable of being re-presented as full sized courts. With additional improvements to the surrounding landscapes, each option could achieve many of the desired characteristics listed above. However, all of the options in Wilson Park have previously been the subject of negative feedback principally from residents living nearby on South Terrace and Marine Terrace. The perceived concerns about noise seem largely unfounded given the number of basketball courts that already exists in close proximity to residents. It also seemed unreasonable for residents to object to basketball facilities being developed in a reserve that is ostensibly set aside for active recreation. Likewise, objecting to the planting of shade trees around the proposed courts seemed to be purely driven by the selfish desire to retain ocean views. That said, Hoop Hopes maintains that the general location associated with options 2 and 3 offers a better solution than any of the Wilson Park options and so hopefully the previous drama associated with Wilson Park can be avoided. However, Hoop Hopes would want to revisit the Wilson Park options if our preferred Option 3 is not selected.

ASSESSMENT MATRIX

Hoop Hopes provides the following assessment of the options measured against the criteria listed above. We have assessed the Wilson Park options as if each of them could be upgraded to a full court option. We have not included the fatally flawed option 2 half-court, only options 2a & 2b as they provide for full courts.

Criteria	Issue	Opt 1	Opt 2a	Opt 2b	Opt 3	Opt 4	Opt 5	Opt 6	Opt 7
1	Size	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	★	★	★
2	Usage	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	Pedestrians	✓	✓	★	✓	★	✓	✓	✓
4	Vehicles	✓✓	★	✓	✓✓	★	✓✓	✓✓	★
5	Dogs	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✗	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓
6	Stray balls	★	★	★	✓	★	★	★	★
7	Theatre	★	★	★	✓	★	★	★	★
8	All access	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
9	Drain	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
10	Toilets	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓
11	Café	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✗	✗	✓
12	Wind	★	✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓
13	Shade	★	★	★	✓	✗	✓	★	★
14	Lighting	★	✓	✓	✓	★	★	★	★
15	Houses	✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✗	✗	✓	✓
16	Passive	★	✓	★	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
17	Active	★	✓	✓	✓	✓	★	✗	★

✓	positive	10	15	14	22	8	12	11	11
✗	negative	1	0	0	0	4	3	3	0
★	fixable	7	4	5	0	5	5	5	3

Rank		=4	2	3	1	8	6	7	=4
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Note: ✓ = passes criteria ✓✓ = excels in meeting criteria ✗ = fails criteria ★ = fails criteria but design could create a pass

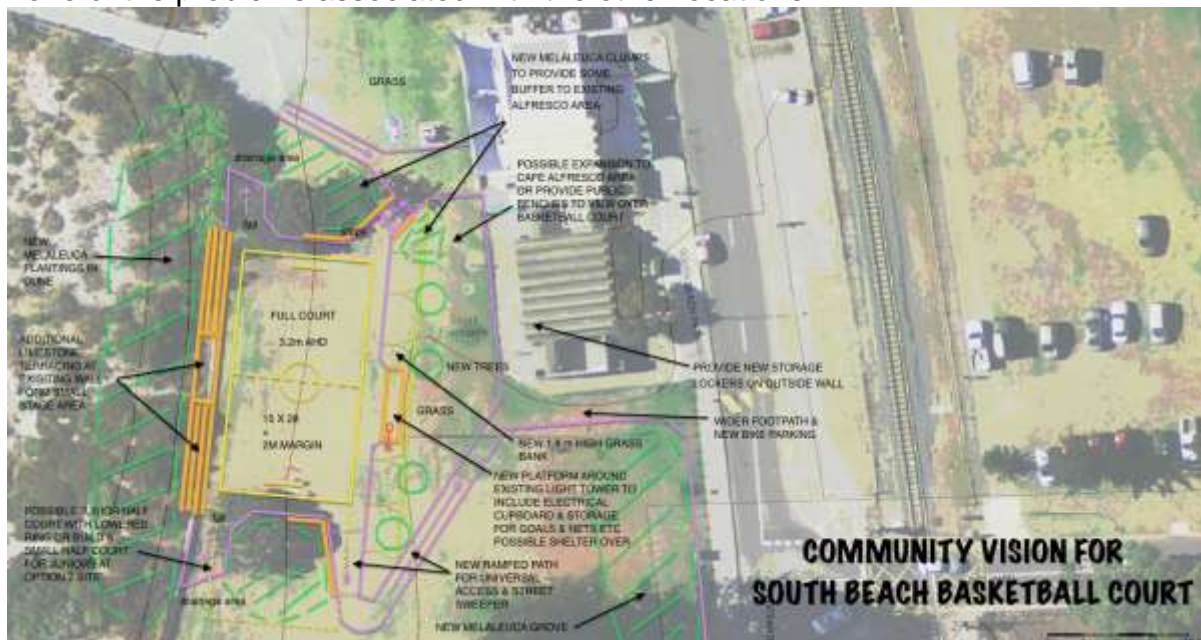
To rank the options, each positive (tick) gained one point, each negative (cross) subtracted one point and each fixable problem (star) gained half a point.

The fact that option 4 ended up at the bottom of the rankings is somewhat surprising however it goes to show that this is an inherently difficult site to make work.

Elevating the ranking of option 4 would most likely necessitate a full landscape redesign of the area and hence, a larger budget than the other options.

HOOP HOPES' PREFERRED OPTION 3

Hoop Hopes submits that the Option 3 site is the preferred location for a basketball facility at South Beach. It achieves all of the desired criteria for a new court but has none of the problems associated with the other locations.



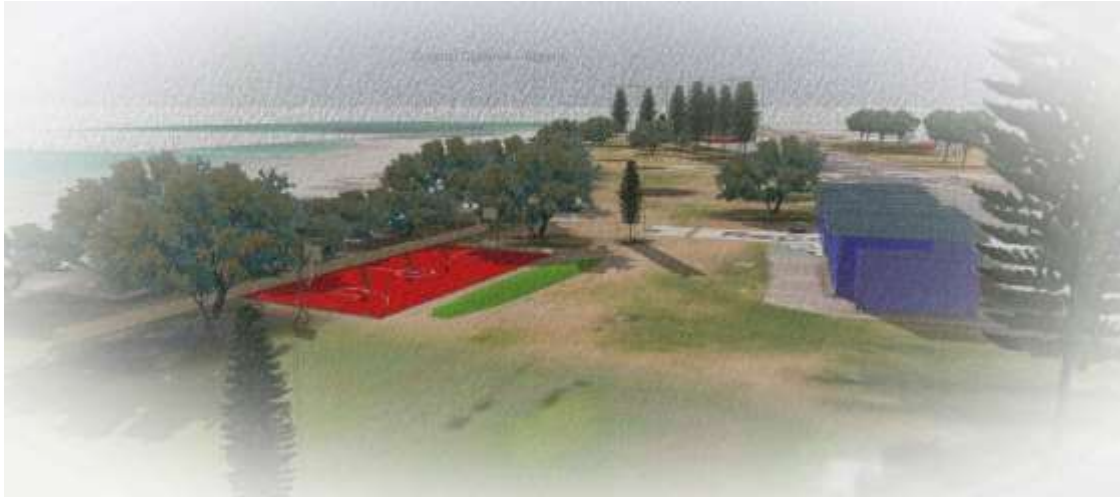
Option 3

As noted above, the inspiration for the option 3 evolved from an onsite meeting of Hoop Hoppers to explore how option 2 could be expanded to provide for a full court. The exploration led to options 2a and 2b and discussions about how the landform could be altered to provide mounds and banks that assisted in separating the court from the road and providing a terrace or bank adjacent to the court as a place to view a game from. This in turn led to discussion about the 'theatre of basketball' and the opportunity that a court might also be used for other forms of street theatre and events. The site of option 2 is flat, as are all of the other sites investigated and so the thought of an amphitheatre-like setting for the court seemed difficult. That's when the gently sloping lawn area west of the public toilets revealed itself to the Hoop Hopes team.

In addition to being able to satisfy all of Hoop Hopes criteria for a great court, it must be emphasised that this site is probably the least used section of grass behind the dune at South Beach. On any given day, the sections of lawns to the north and south of the café/toilets fill up with all manner of people for a range of activities. What is abundantly clear is that people who want to use the protected lawn areas for both passive and active recreation tend to first gravitate to areas further away from the café and in particular, well away from the toilets.

It's not particularly surprising that few people would choose to set up camp close to the public toilets. However, it also seems that the area between the toilets and the sand dune is also not highly favoured. This may in part be because the ground

slopes down to a hollow that feels far more isolated from the beach and ocean than almost anywhere else on the lawned areas. On a very hot day, this particular area can feel almost over-protected from the elements, even lifeless, but it's that lack of wind that is actually quite desirable for basketball.



Option 3 - aerial view from south of the toilets

In exploring ideas for the option 3 site, there was much speculation whether the close juxtaposition to the café was desirable, or perhaps problematic. The café is a much-loved community asset. No doubt there are a variety of characteristics that make this a special place for so many individuals and groups. The café primarily presents itself to the north and as such is well protected from the sea breezes. As such, most of the alfresco would also be isolated from the proposed court. However, to a lesser degree, the café also presents itself to the west where glimpses of the ocean are afforded through the gap in the dunes and a view over the proposed court will be gained.

The west facing alfresco area has recently been expanded and upgraded. However, a strong sea breeze still tends to hammer this southwest terrace. Part of this alfresco area is in comparatively close proximity to the proposed court. No doubt many people will love watching the new activity, whether they be ballers watching their mates, parents watching their kids, or just people interested in the theatre of basketball. The court is located 16 metres from the alfresco area but more importantly is set two metres lower. In this sense, any spectators in the alfresco area will feel safely above the field of play and there won't be any physical disturbance from escaping balls.

The relationship between the café and the proposed court can be positively exploited to the benefit of both functions. It may be desirable to develop some new alfresco space that directly overlooks the court. On the flipside, additional landscaping and tree planting around the court will provide a more protected microclimate for the west facing alfresco areas. The design development phase should include some further exploration of these possibilities with all stakeholders, including the café operator.

Hoop Hopes believes playing basketball in the foreshore strip is a perfectly appropriate and compatible use for this regional Parks and Recreation Reserve. Noise generated by streetball games is actually not that loud and would almost certainly blend in with the background noises already generated in and around the café and by the seaside environment itself. In any case, our court option is the one that best mitigates concerns about the closeness of the court to existing houses. Option 3 effectively includes a five metre high sound barrier between the court and the nearest houses that are more than 125 metres away. Streetballers ideally want to play games into the early evening in summer and this site will enable that to happen without adverse impacts for residents.

BUDGETS AND OTHER OPTIONS

It is understood that Council has previously agreed to fund courts at both South Beach and the Esplanade and that at least one of the courts is budgeted as a full court. It is unclear what the budgets have allowed for in terms of the quality of the materials, finishes and surrounding landscapes. The two options presented during the consultation process appear to have little or no landscaping around them let alone any suggestion of earthworks, terracing, seating, or storage for goals, nets and the like. Indeed the original project in Wilson Park was for a court set within a larger landscaping project. When the court was deferred, it is assumed that only construction cost for a half court was deferred with it. Hence, unless the budget was re-scoped for the 2014/15 year, the available budgets are presumably quite limited. Consequently, there is concern that the current budget for South Beach will inevitably prove to be insufficient in terms of both completing a full court and to provide for all the required landscaping and infrastructure around it.

Hoop Hopes asks that Council give priority to the building of high quality and well serviced multi-use court at South Beach. It is our preference that this full court and the surrounding landscape be completed in a single stage. If the available funds don't allow for this, we ask that Council use the funds allocated for the Esplanade court to make up any immediate budget shortfall, even if that means delaying the Esplanade court for a year or so. In a nutshell, Hoop Hopes would rather see one exceptionally well finished multi-use court completed at South Beach in time for next summer rather than two half-baked and/or half-sized courts that collectively fall well short of expectations and usage demands.

Hoop Hopes also requests that Council explore options for adding a third hoop to the project, one that is suitable for use by younger ballers. The ability to provide basketball facilities for all ages in the one location is considered highly desirable. It would make the new facility broadly available to all users and provides the foundation for an intergenerational community of streetballers. This approach has been highly successful in the development of the Esplanade Youth Plaza and the same approach can work well for basketball at South Beach. One option is to install a "hoop tree" like the one pictured above (on page 3).

Finally, there is currently no information available about the proposed materials to be used to construct the court. Obviously Hoop Hopes would prefer Council use one of the many high-tech surfaces that are available for such courts. The specification for the finishing material also needs to take into account the desire for the court to be used for other types of active recreation, some of which may not be mutually compatible. Hoop Hopes believes that basketball, netball and volleyball would all have similar needs and that the next most important sport is the rapidly growing Futsal game. The needs of Futsal should be further explored to ascertain whether the same surface also suits this sport. Obviously wheel based sports such as roller derby, inline hockey and hardcourt bike polo may have other requirements and it needs to be determined whether any of them can be played on the same surface.

CONCLUSION

The basketball facility at South Beach was removed more than half a decade ago and a new facility was promised by the Council of the day. The planning for this facility has been frustratingly slow as individual proposals are put forward and then rejected due to the concerns of nearby residents. Council has said it is committed to building a full court at South Beach. Obviously it needs to go somewhere that best meets the collective needs of the stakeholders – Option 3 achieves just that!

Hoop Hopes have presented a holistic assessment of what is needed. We have provided a well-considered assessment of each option measured against comprehensive design criteria. The assessment clearly points to our Option 3 as the best fit for the whole community. With respect, it is time for Council to move to the construction phase of this project so that this court will be in operation next summer.



Appendix B

Social media site links

City of Fremantle

<https://www.facebook.com/87064712375/photos/a.10150893079332376.436360.87064712375/10153079803987376/?type=1&theater>

South Ward Councillor

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=935714313120402&set=a.103373936354448.6906.100000455265466&type=1&theater>

South Ward Councillor

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=936618093030024&set=a.103373936354448.6906.100000455265466&type=1&theater>