



FORREST WALK UPGRADE

OCTOBER 2024



Overview

The Forrest Walk Public Realm Upgrade enhances the pedestrian space to create a vibrant, sustainable retreat for the community. The new space has the ability to host events and community activities, and enhances connection and walkability between Rokeby Road and Rowland Street.

New lighting and improved amenities make Forrest Walk a safer and more accessible space, especially after dark.

The expanded garden beds and new raingardens enhance the environmental value of the space, while the inclusion of new public seating, alfresco dining space, and improved amenities create opportunities for people to come together.

Upgrade features

- » Enhanced public seating opportunities.
- » Enhanced alfresco dining opportunities.
- » Renewed pavement and pathways.
- » Improved levels and drainage.
- » Conserved and retained treescapes.
- » Expanded garden beds.
- » Improved amenity and accessibility.
- » New lighting and electrical treatments.
- » Opportunities for events and community activities.
- » Installation of new artwork.



CONCEPT
DESIGN AND
FUNDING



COMMUNITY
CONSULTATION



DETAILED
DESIGN



PROCUREMENT



CONSTRUCTION
KICK-OFF



CONSTRUCTION
COMPLETED





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Frequently asked questions

When was construction completed?

Construction commenced 20 May 2024, and was completed 2 September 2024.

What public art is included in the upgrade?

Three raised concrete garden walls showcase *Digging Deep*, the works of Western Australian Artist Jahne Rees.

Digging Deep pays homage to Subiaco's history through the inclusion of materials found in the area. The artwork presents as three distinct themes of *Fire, Earth, and Water*. A common flowing form follows through all three garden beds, meandering across various surfaces. The introduced materials create an aesthetic based on irregular natural forms, intersecting with and complimenting the more structured lines of the oval shaped concrete structures.

What plants were chosen for the garden beds, and why?

The species were chosen for their suitability to Perth's current and future climate and tolerance of heat and drought conditions. Of the species included, *Anigozanthos manglesii*, *Conostylis candicans*, *Ficinia nodosa*, *Lomandra longifolia*, *Patersonia occidentalis* and *Dichondra repens* are Australian native species. The only non-native species included is the advanced tree within the central garden bed. This is a *Liquidambar formosana*, chosen for its similar appearance to the existing *London platanus* species and to enhance species diversity, promoting resilience of the urban canopy to pests.

Of the raingarden species selected, *Ficinia nodosa* and *Lomandra longifolia* in particular have value; *Ficinia nodosa* has an adaptive trait which allows it to act as a biofilter, effectively stripping pollutants and excess nitrogen from stormwater. *Lomandra longifolia* has adapted to handle high nutrient loads and periodic water inundation, as well as providing habitat for small animals and insects.

Is bike parking included in the upgraded Forrest Walk?

Yes. Four new bike racks have been installed at the eastern end of Forrest Walk, along Rokeby Road. These bike racks also act as a traffic barrier to ensure vehicles do not improperly enter the pedestrian space.

Is the upgrade accessible?

Yes. New paving has improved accessibility throughout walkways, and new lighting extends accessibility of the space into the evenings.

The Forrest Walk upgrade includes a variety of seating options, with varying degrees of accessibility.

The benches within the garden beds create a secluded respite amongst the new plantings and provide a diversity in seating options. These benches were not able to be made accessible for all, as the garden beds in the space are raised to address (and make use of) the natural elevation change on site. The garden beds, complete with stormwater inlets on each of their south eastern boundaries, function as raingardens, capturing stormwater run-off, and retaining it within the concrete walls to increase the amount of water infiltrating into the ground.

The raising of the garden beds provides a large increase in accessible seating options, with the northern side of each garden wall acting as bench seating at varying heights to accommodate different user groups. This seating is fully accessible from paved areas of the site. In addition to this, bench seats accessible from the paved areas at the eastern end of the site (close to Rokeby Road) provide accessible seating.

Can I still dine alfresco at Forrest Walk?

Yes. You can dine alfresco in Forrest Walk. The increased existing seating opportunities provide additional resting spaces that extend options to sit and enjoy a beverage or a bite to eat.

For enquiries, contact the
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