

Nannup Trail Town Project

Kearney Block Native Forest Shared-Use Trails

Concept Plan

March 2024



World Trail acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters in and around Nannup, the Wardandi and Bibbulmun people, and pay respect to their elders, past and present.

We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the local and regional communities.



Disclaimer

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Prepared for

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1 INTRODUCTION

World Trail was engaged by the Shire of Nannup to develop a concept plan for the Native Forest Mountain Bike Park. The project supports the Shire's broader Trail Town initiative.

The location for the new trail network was nominated within the Kearney Block of the native forest, offering an area of approximately 493 hectares, with a total elevation change of 60m from its highest point at 150m above sea level to its lowest point at 90m above sea level.

A key component of the project was to include two shared-use trails—one short loop and one longer loop—suitable for walking, trail running, and off-road cycling (including adaptive mountain biking).

The design intent of the shorter shared-trail loop is to appeal to families and younger children, with scope to become a “pathway for play”. Pathways for Play is a creative concept that can be applied to shared-use trails, typically no longer than three kilometres in length. These trails incorporate a range of “play pockets” at regular intervals along the trail that appeal to children's sense of adventure and encourage them to slow down, play and explore. Set back from the main trail, play pockets provide a sense of discovery and intrigue, and can include any type of educational or artistic installation. Situated in the old Gussies Mill there are a range of themes that might be developed. An added benefit of the play pockets will be the opportunity for community participation in the design and creation, which will foster local interest and a sense of identity.

The longer shared trail loop is intended to provide a more adventurous loop, appealing to those wanting a longer and more immersive experience in nature or a suitably long loop for exercise and training. Combined with the shorter loop this loop should be approximately 10km.

1.1 Background

The original project scope included delivering approximately 40km of new mountain bike trails, including single-track and adaptive trails, as well as multi-use trails to accommodate walkers and runners. Ideally there was to be a range of trail difficulties at a ratio of approximately 30 percent Easy, 50 percent Intermediate, and 20 percent Difficult.

In addition to providing recreational opportunities for the local community, the project aspired to attract visiting families and recreational riders ranging from beginners to experienced riders.

The primary goals of the project were to:

- create a second regionally significant mountain bike park as a complementary riding experience to the existing Tank 7 Mountain Bike Park.
- develop a high-quality sustainable and accessible single-track MTB trail network suitable for a diverse range of users.
- incorporate a short and long shared-use trail loop suitable for walkers, runners and off-road cyclists (including adaptive mountain biking).
- host and attract events from local to international.
- support and stimulate local business activation and private sector investment.

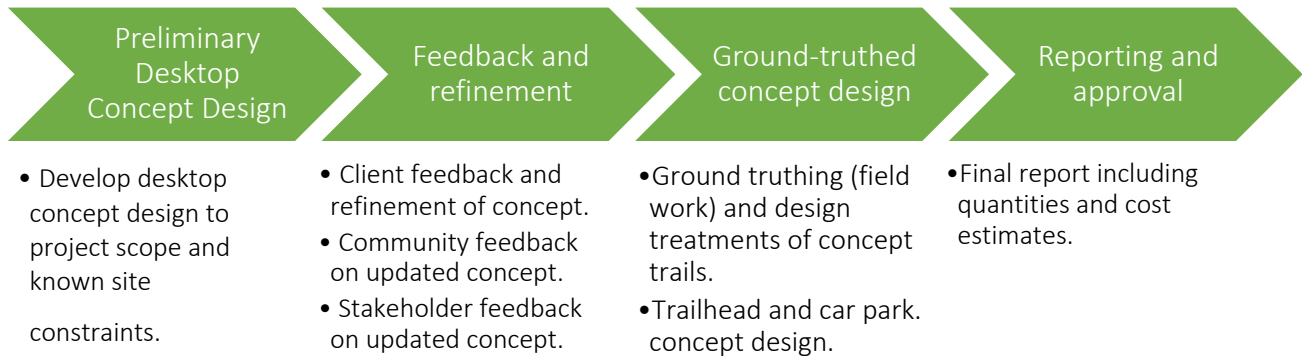
A concept design was developed and refined following feedback by the residents of the Cockatoo Valley and The Valley residential estates who had concerns for their privacy. A 100m privacy buffer was subsequently put in place, and any trails that were within this zone were realigned to be outside this area.

Part way through field work and ground-truthing of the concept trail alignments it was assessed that the Kearney Block project area did not have the necessary qualities and attributes for a sustainable and viable network of mountain bike trails as requested by the project brief. It was however decided an

appropriate trail development in the area would be the two shared-use trails, which could be both an asset for the community as well as different trail product for visitors seeking an Easy trail option in a different forest environment to Tank 7.

1.2 Methodology

The methodology for the MTB Park project that has informed this project is summarised below and has been touched on in the background section.



The focus during ground-truthing was to find the most suitable and appealing trail alignments to satisfy the intent of the concept trails. For the two shared-use trails, maintaining the desired difficulty rating of Easy was not challenging, as the terrain was largely flat or gently sloping at best. More emphasis was therefore put on finding the most interesting environments, while meeting the distance requirements for the two trails of three and seven (approximate) kilometres.

In developing the alignment for the shorter three kilometre shared-use trail loop, efforts were made to incorporate a diversity of natural and modified environments to provide variety and interest. The alignment will need to be assessed further as the play pocket concept is developed.

In developing the alignment of the longer seven kilometre (10km when combined with the shorter loop) shared-use trail alignment, every effort was made to incorporate the most interesting sections of forest and prevent the spread of phytophthora by avoiding the areas forest that were mapped as uninfected.

2 SITE OBSERVATIONS



In general, the site is relatively flat and gently sloping with an overall elevation change of less than 65m from the highest to lowest point. The soils across the site were generally sandy and gravelly, lending themselves to a light, or minimal trail construction.

The north-western section area of the park surrounding the shorter shared-trail alignment included areas disturbed from gravel mining, harvesting, and hardwood plantation. While highly modified, these areas of the forest provided diversity to the shorter loop, and enhanced opportunities for interpretation. The area was also intersected with many old management vehicle tracks, some which were conveniently incorporated into the trail alignment. There were also several incidences of dumped rubbish, which is somewhat typical in areas of abandoned forest with minimal management and visitor surveillance.

Moving further south the forest became more in-tact, with significant stands of large grass trees and subtle changes in vegetation. Minimal wildflowers were observed due to the time of the year, however winter flowering species including Wattyl and Hardenbergia added small amounts of colour to the landscape.

Figure 1. Flat open forest



Figure 2. Coffee rock



Figure 3. Native Hardenbergia



Figure 4. Rubbish dumping



Figure 5. Winter flowering Wattyl



Figure 6. Rusted car on short loop



3 SHARED-TRAIL CONCEPT DESIGN



3.1 SHARED-USE TRAIL MAP



3.2 TRAIL SUMMARY

The table below contains information of the shared-use trails that were walked and mapped during the ground-truthing process. Each trail incorporated sections of exiting vehicle track, at which point the trail is recorded as a new section of trail to assist with trail construction quantities and estimated costs.

Trail Name	Section ID	Type	Length
Shared-use 1	A	Access Track 4WD Only	1555
Shared-use 1	B	Walking and MTB Trail	1337
Shared-use 1	C	Access Track 4WD Only	105
		Subtotal	2997
Shared-use 2	A	Walking and MTB Trail	1759
Shared-use 2	B	Access Track 4WD Only	66
Shared-use 2	C	Walking and MTB Trail	513
Shared-use 2	D	Access Track 4WD Only	186
Shared-use 2	E	Walking and MTB Trail	4988
		Subtotal	7510
		Total	10,507

4 CONCLUSION

Development of the two proposed shared-use trails is considered the most appropriate trail development within the Kearney block. The two trails will provide great recreational value to visitors and the community, as well as improve the general condition of the area, which is currently underutilised and has suffered from misuse and rubbish dumping.

It is hoped that the trails will help create an attractive an accessible public park that will enhance community participation and custodianship.



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