

FORREST MOUNTAIN BIKE REVITALISATION PROJECT UPDATE (STAGE ONE)

14/06/23

The Forrest Mountain Bike (MTB) Revitalisation Project (Stage One) is funded by \$250,000 from Colac Otway Shire Council and \$2.07 million from the Victorian State Government through the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DECCA) and Regional Development Victoria (RDV).

Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMvic) and Colac Otway Shire Council are delivering the project, which is revitalising the network with new trail experiences and upgrades.

Trails Construction

The trails are currently open to the public again during a 'soft launch' period. During this period, 'wheels on the tracks' allow the surface to bed in, while creating an opportunity to understand and test whether the tracks perform as expected and / or what components of the trail needs adjusting prior to the full launch.

After reviewing and considering user feedback, further works will occur on Roller Coaster (Trail 1) to improve rider experience by creating two downhill options (reverse current uphill). Once a contractor is engaged to undertake the works, we will confirm the closure period for Trail 1 via the Forrest Mountain Bike Club Facebook page.

We continue to encourage mountain bikers to ride the new trails with caution over the first year as the surface beds in.



The Forrest MTB Southern Trailhead Precinct

Works on the trailhead have continued over recent months with the following new facilities and civil works being added:

- Two new picnic shelters
- Water at the trailhead for both drinking and handwashing
- Landscaping and DDA compliant path access.



Upcoming works include carpark gravelling near the MTB club buildings and line marking works near the new skills park facility.

Please note, areas of the trailhead will be closed during periods of construction works.

Signage



The installation of permanent directional signage around the network has started.

Signage will feature the new branding and clearer wayfinding to improve safety for all user groups.

Whilst signs are being installed, some rolling trail closures will need to occur.

The network map and other trailhead signage is close to being finalised, however upcoming works on Roller Coaster (Trail 1) may impact the final designs so installation of the trailhead signs will be delayed.

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New emergency markers have been installed within both the Forrest and Yaugher networks. These markers will assist riders to pinpoint their location in an emergency.

New *phytophthora* interpretation and wash stations will be installed over the next month. This infrastructure and signage is a key tool to maintain our pristine environment and we would appreciate if all riders would incorporate using this infrastructure into riding routines.

Adaptive Rider Friendly Trails

Eight of the new/ redeveloped trails at Forrest and one of the new pump tracks within the skills park were constructed using 'Break the Boundaries' Adaptive Rider Friendly Guidelines.

Creating product for people living with a disability has been a key objective for everyone involved in the project. The following recent infrastructure improvement (within the southern network) have been made by the team at DECCA:

- Installation of a 1.5 meter bridge on the Roller Coaster (Trail 1) for adaptive rider compliance
- A lockable bollard has been installed on the Forrest Loop (Trail 6) /Titches Track fence, to enable Adaptive rider access.



As a next step and so we can communicate the suitability of our network, the project team are planning to conduct an Adaptive Rider Friendly audit of the southern networks trails and facilities.



Entry Arch

Work on an entry arch for the trailhead precinct is continuing with the design now finalised.

The design has been guided by the Forrest Mountain Bike branding project undertaken in consultation with the community in 2021. A stylised concept can be seen below:



Stay in Touch

We want to thank the community and riders for their patience throughout trails construction and remind everyone to observe and comply with any and all closure notices in the future.

To stay up to date with progress on the Forrest MTB Revitalisation Project, please complete the **+SUBSCRIBE** section on the project website to receive regular updates.

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W: www.colacotway.vic.gov.au/Works-Projects/Forrest-MTB