

FORREST MOUNTAIN BIKE REVITALISATION PROJECT UPDATE (STAGE ONE)

17 SEPTEMBER 2021

FORREST MOUNTAIN BIKE REVITALISATION PROJECT

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 Government through DELWP and Regional Development Victoria.

This project involves multiple agencies (DELWP, Regional Development Victoria, Colac Otway Shire, Barwon Water, Parks Victoria) as well as Eastern Maar, the Forrest Mountain Bike Club and the Forrest Community Group.

The project will deliver new trail products and upgrade existing trails within the southern trail network. Additionally the Forrest MTB Southern Trailhead will receive a significant upgrade.

RED CARPET UPGRADE

As discussed previously, the Red Carpet Trail is currently being resurfaced and weather-proofed to make it accessible all year-round.

The very wet Otways winter has made it difficult to finalise the works, however, the project team is thrilled about what we've seen.

The resurfacing works have been carried out and as the alignment dries out, the crew from 'Living Trails' will finalise the build by adding more new A and B lines to the trail.

For now the trail remains open, however, alignment closures are in place where works are occurring. For contractor and rider safety, please adhere to the redirection that are in place. We're expecting the upgrade to be finalised by the end of September 21.

FORREST MTB SOUTHERN TRAILHEAD PROJECTS

Project One – Detailed Design of the Forrest Southern Trail Head precinct:

Mike Smith and Associates are delivering a staged precinct plan for the trailhead and former DELWP camp facility. This project is mainly looking at creating a visitor precinct with better facilities; i.e. services, signage, car parking and landscaping.

To inform the precinct plan, DELWP facilitated an [Engage Vic](#) process. This involved surveying the Victorian public about their facility and infrastructure preferences for the site. The consultation process has now closed and the engagement summary and next steps will be published at the end of September 21.

Project Two - Detailed Design and Construction of the Forrest Southern Trailhead Skills Park and Pump Track

The tender process for the design and construction contract for the skills/ jumps park and pump track is winding up and soon we'll have some very exciting news to share about the facility.



PLANNING STUDIES

To build new mountain bike trails, planning studies need to be completed and all regulatory approvals need to be in place. The following studies have been completed for both the Southern and the Yaugher (northern) networks:

- Geotechnical Study
- Biodiversity Studies and Threat Abatement Plans
- Cultural Heritage Management Plan

These studies have allowed us to look at all the environmental and cultural risks for the new trail alignments, as well as, formulate solutions to protect Forrest's pristine environment and install long term sustainable trails management processes.

The regulatory permit applications for the Southern network will be lodged in the coming days. While the planning application is being assessed the project team will be going to tender for the remaining trails in the Forrest MTB Revitalisation Project (Stage One). Construction will commence once planning approvals are received.

The new jump flow trail circuit named the Barwon Flow Trails will be the first priority for construction.

FORREST MTB LOGO AND STYLE GUIDE PROJECT

A consultant will soon be appointed to manage the creative process to design a new logo and style guide for the MTB trails. This work will inform the look and feel of the networks signage and the revitalised Forrest MTB trails brand. An External Reference Group involving Council, DELWP, the Forrest community and Forrest Mountain Bike Club will oversee this project.

STAY IN TOUCH

Further updates will be provided about each project, timelines, engagement opportunities and the opening of new mountain bike trails, as information becomes available.

To keep up to date with progress of the Forrest MTB Revitalisation Project please contact Adrian Healey on the contact details below, or complete the **+SUBSCRIBE** section on the project website to sign-up for regular updates.

Adrian Healey

P: 03 5232 9466

E: adrian.healey@colacotway.vic.gov.au

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