

FORREST MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS PROJECT UPDATES



30 JUNE 2021

FORREST MOUNTAIN BIKE (MTB) DETAILED DESIGN PROJECT

In 2020, Colac Otway Shire Council, the Forrest Mountain Bike Club, community members, and project partners including; the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), Barwon Water and Parks Victoria, worked together to deliver a Detailed Design Plan for the Forrest MTB Revitalisation Project.

The Detailed Design Plan was funded by the Australian Government which contributed \$100K through the Building Better Regions Fund with matched funding from Colac Otway Shire Council.

This project has enabled the inter-agency and community project team to deliver:

- The completed Forrest MTB Detailed Design Plan which can be viewed [HERE](#)
- A Biodiversity Study for all new trails and infrastructure in the Detailed Design Plan
- A Geotechnical Study for the new trails and infrastructure in the Detailed Design Plan.

To alleviate risks to flora and fauna, DELWP has also commissioned:

- A trail decommissioning study that allows it to measure the existing and non-gazetted trails so the project team can commence a native vegetation accounting process.
- Management Plans for both Phytophthora spread and small mammal incursions to assist with research, management and to reduce the long-term impacts on native species and ecological communities.

The project team, in partnership with traditional owners, Eastern Maar, is working on a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) for the proposed new trails and infrastructure. Subject to regulatory approvals, the CHMP is expected to be finalised in July 2021.

FORREST MOUNTAIN BIKE REVITALISATION PROJECT

As communicated last year, Council successfully applied for a State Government Regional Infrastructure Fund grant of \$500K and contributed a further \$250k to the project.

In December 2020 the Victorian Government announced a further \$1.57M commitment to this project from the Victorian Public Land Economic Stimulus package, which means collectively there is \$2.32M to deliver new trail and infrastructure at Forrest. These funds will assist to deliver most of the Southern Trail Network improvements in the Detailed Design Plan.

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. A governance structure has been created to manage the project and funding. In summary, DELWP is responsible for managing the project and Council will assist with community engagement.

WHEN ARE TRAIL WORKS GOING TO BEGIN?

To build new mountain bike trails, planning, studies and all regulatory approvals need to be in place. The project team is expecting that these approvals will be finalised by September 2021 and is hoping to appoint the consultants to start work on the southern trail network in the summer of 2021/22.

Red Carpet, one of Forrest's signature trails, does not require realignment or planning studies, so the project team will fast track this component. A Request for Quote process for this work closed on 28 May and it's anticipated that work will commence in July, dependent on contractor availability and weather. Red Carpet will be weather-proofed and upgraded to give the mountain biking community a taste of the Forrest Mountain Bike Trails new world class product.

FORREST MOUNTAIN BIKE SOUTHERN TRAIL HEAD PRECINCT

This project will be broken into three processes and the project team will be using the Engage Vic platform for community input.

- Project One – Detailed Design of the Forrest Southern Trail Head precinct including a skills park/pump track. The aim of this engagement and design is to gain a better understanding of infrastructure and service requirements for the site, and to create a better connection between the existing trailhead precinct and the Forrest Camp site.
- Project Two - Detailed Design and Construction of the Forrest Southern Trailhead Skills Park and Pump Track.
- Project Three - Construction of the remaining Forrest Southern Trailhead as per the design.

The Forrest Mountain Bike Revitalisation project is incredibly exciting for the project team, the Forrest community, mountain bike riders, recreational trail users, the region and all the project partners. 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.

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