

Recreation Trails Advisory Committee Minutes



Date: Thursday 22 November 2018
Time 6.30pm – 9.00pm
Venue: Manna Gum 1 & 2, Civic Centre – Greensborough
Chair: Cr John Dumaresq
Minute taker: Nathan Roberts

Acronyms:

AT – Aqueduct Trail
DCT – Diamond Creek Trail
GWT – Green Wedge Trail
HSAT – Heidelberg School Artists Trail
MW – Melbourne Water
NRT – Northern Regional Trails
PGMTB - Plenty Gorge Mountain Bike Club
PHBRS - Panton Hill Bushland Reserve System
PMP – Pick My Project
PV – Parks Victoria
RTAC – Recreation Trails Advisory Committee
VCAT – Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal

Order of business

1. Welcome

Attendance – Cr John Dumaresq (chair), Cr Jane Ashton , Nathan Roberts, Andrew Bakos, Cath Giles, Vince Bagusauskas, Stephen Hadley, Jan Davies, Rex Niven, Finn Westerman and Louise Barry

Apologies – Kay Cruse, Jamie Sharp, Neil Hordern and Joanne Massoud

Chair welcomed new members:

- Finn Westerman – walking position;

- Louise Barry – position representing those with a disability;
- Cr Jane Ashton and Cr Bruce Rankin (apology)
- All other members introduced themselves, their community connections and history of involvement in trails and the Committee

2. Conflict of interest and Assembly of Councillor form

Completed following meeting by Nathan Roberts.

3. Minutes of previous meeting

- These minutes were presented at the December Council meeting for ratification. All Committee meeting minutes need to be ratified at Ordinary Council meeting before they are circulated to the Committee.
- Moved: Andrew Bakos
- Seconded: Rex Niven

4. Business arising

- Rural position – currently being advertised and due to close Friday 14 December. The position has been promoted via Council website, social media, circulated to local community groups and will be published in the following:

Warrandyte Diary: 14 November and 11 December

Whittlesea Town Crier: 3 December

Hurstbridge Roundabout: 3 December

- Heidelberg School Artists Trail (HSAT) signs – we are currently in discussions with Banyule City Council who are sourcing quotes for the cleaning & restoration of their existing signs. This will inform estimate cost and capacity for us to plan to undertake similar works in the future. Further update to be provided at next meeting.

ACTION: Cr Jane Ashton to follow up with Arts Committee regarding original artwork for sign

- Rodger Road Sealing: The Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) appeals period has concluded and no appeals were received to the declaration of the scheme. Works are still to be formally awarded, however the early indication is that construction works will commence in January. With regards to the trail, advertising for the planning permit is completed and I am yet to be informed of Planning's decision, but will expect an answer in the coming weeks. Subject to the permit being granted, the trail and road works would occur concurrently.

ACTION: Nathan to circulate to group copy of final trail alignment

- Trail Strategy Review: Recreation Strategy will be reviewed between March 2019 and March 2020. This will have the higher order Trails objectives listed

and the current Trails Strategy will be broken into framework/guidelines and an implementation plan. Resource wise we expected this will be completed by June 2019.

ACTION: Cr Jane Ashton requested Yasmin Green to attend next meeting to explain where the Trail Strategy fits into Councils strategic documents.

- Widening of DCT through Barak Bushland: Officers are currently working on a list of all trail safety and maintenance priorities for 2018/19 which Barak Bushland has been added to. Further update on what will be completed will be provided at the next RTAC meeting.

5. Northern Regional Trails Strategy (NRT)

- Still In advocacy phase to secure as much funding for the region
- Labour Election Commitment
 - Plenty River Trail, 17 kilometres of walking and cycling trail stretching from Mernda to the Western Ring Road at Greensborough. Jamie mentioned land State government are looking to acquire to expand this proposal.

ACTION: Officers follow up with Parks Victoria (PV) to confirm scope.

- To invest in new bike and walking trails across Nillumbik, Moreland, Banyule, Darebin, Hume and Whittlesea council areas. Extent unknown

6. Regional Trails Update

a) Diamond Creek Trail (DCT)

- Land Acquisition process continues. Survey work is complete and subdivision plans are being finalised. These plans will inform the Valuations and offers that will go to landowners Q1 2019.
- Trail corridor assessments are underway with Cultural Heritage assessments commencing in December. Spring ecological assessments are now complete. Further seasonal studies will commence Q2 2019.
- Council has lodged a Building Better Regions Fund application for the project shortfall.
- Ongoing advocacy in partnership with community for additional funding from Government.

b) Aqueduct Trail (AT)

- No further work has been undertaken on Aqueduct Trail due to resourcing.
- Another meeting with Yarra Ranges schedule for 5 December to see if there is anything we can piggy back on from their work on alignments.
- Committee discussed options to complete the Aqueduct trail and create connection to Yarra Glen trail. Need for onsite inspection was raised

OUTSTANDING ACTION: Officers to seek further information and confirmation of boundaries through DELWP, MW and titles office. Investigate tenancy arrangements for any land that may become available.

ACTION: Committee members requested officers organise onsite meeting along key sections of the Aqueduct trail (historical alignment) in Christmas Hills in early 2019.

ACTION: Committee members requested inviting a guest speaker from another bordering Council to attend an upcoming advisory committee meeting to explain their role, projects and priorities for the region.

c) Green Wedge Trail (GWT)

- At this stage there is no further planning work being completed for this Trail.

7. Panton Hill Bushland Reserve User update (PHBRS)

- Rex provided update including possum boxes being installed into dead trees, signage for the reserve and unsuccessful PMP submission.
- Review of Terms of Reference for Advisory Committee identified that the committee term will expire in February so we will need to advertise for nominations for new committee.
- Extensive discussion regarding sign design details. Expect the final design before Christmas.
- Next meeting Thursday 6th December

8. Local Links

- Cherry Tree Road has been completed and acquitted with all Road Safety Audit actions addressed or noted
- In relation to the next local link project, with just over 50% response rate from committee the top 3 priorities identified as:
 - Alma Road Trail - This 3km natural surface trail links Panton Hill to Watsons Creek. This trail is along the roadside of the sealed Alma Rd and forms part of the regional Green Wedge Trail.
 - Couties Road Trail - This 1km natural surface trail along Couties Rd links from Kangaroo Ground – St Andrews Rd to the Green Wedge Trail.
 - Ridge Road Trail - This 3km roadside trail will connect Yarra Glen Rd Trail with the Aqueduct Trail.
- These were shown on the mapping system, photos of the trails and other proposed trails.
- Given low response rate and new members who have joined the Committee have requested to extend the response period for local links. Submission is only open to those who have previously not sent in their preferences. Previous members who have made submission are unable to submit again.

ACTION: Officers to extend Local links priority submissions by two weeks.

ACTION: Officers will advise via email the outcome of the submissions and will carry out further investigation to determine if any or all of these are possible and approximate budget required.

9. Workshop– Trail Mapping and Classification

- Nathan introduced mapping resource to new members of the Committee.
- Since our last RTAC meeting on 13 September:
 - Meeting was held open to all Committee members to attend on 4th October to discuss and confirm trails listed and alignments
 - RTAC members were provided until the end of October to make comment on trail alignments and those listed as existing and proposed
 - The trails alignments have now been confirmed and we are internally developing distance calculations and ownership layers to overlay
- The purpose of this workshop is review and confirm trail classifications (as per the Trail Strategy 2011) against our existing identified network. Classifications were drafted through working previous working group meetings and ready to be confirmed.
- Committee agreed on trail classifications – below:

Existing trails	Trail classification
Aqueduct trail (Kangaroo Ground)	Off-road Shared Trail
Aqueduct trail (Research)	
Diamond Hills Trail	
Diamond Creek Trail	
Eltham Copper Butterfly Trail Loop	
Greensborough Bypass Trail	
Lennister Farm trail	
Plenty River Trail	
Research trail	
Wingrove Park Trail	
Woodbridge Linear Park Trail	
Clintons Road Trail	Roadside trail
Cherry Tree Rd Trail	

Couties Rd Trail	
Eltham Yarra Glen Rd trail	
Flat Rock Rd Trail	
One Tree Hill Trail	Rural road trail
Garden Hill Trail	Bridle Trail
Kings Road Trail	Roadside trail / Rural Road trail
Kangaroo Ground Cemetery trail	Off-road Shared Trail/ Bridle Trail
Green Wedge trail	Rural road trail/ Roadside trail / Off-road Shared Trail
Long Gully Loop	
Graham Rd Trail	Roadside trail / Off-road Shared Trail

Proposed trails	Trail classification
Aqueduct Link Trail	Off road shared trail
Hurstbridge creek trail	
Ness Lane Trail	
Woodridge to Research Trail	
Alma Road Trail	Roadside trail
Ridge Road Trail	
Simpsons Road Trail	
Rob Roy Road Trail	Roadside trail / Rural Road trail

- Council can now apply this classifications model to agreed network alignment and use this to progress service level and promotional work.

ACTION: Cr Jane Ashton raised that the classification of our trails using the Australian Walking grading system was not suitable from a risk assessment perspective. Officers to investigate suitable with Council risk advisor. Meeting set to discuss 12th December with Trails Management Committee.

ACTION: Officer to investigate alternative means of conducting site inspection of trails including e-bikes.

10. Any other business

- Volunteer Induction: It is anticipated that this will occur in conjunction with February 2019 committee meeting as a full committee will be appointed. Committee members will still need to complete their pre reading. The following committee members are outstanding; Stephen Hadley and Damian Barber. New members who have joined the Committee will also need to complete this process.
- Trail service request – please continue to lodge maintenance or safety issues along trails via Snap Send and Solve app (<https://www.snapsendsolve.com/>). Action from past meeting; officers to work with IT to develop system for RTAC members to log in to lodge service request similar to current system which allows clubs to lodge service requests. Update: Investigations through discussion with IT have identified that official naming of our trails needs to be undertaken prior to inclusion on the website. Further update at next meeting.
- Pick My Project update:
 - PMP are running a workshop on 20th November where they will detail the documentation and planning required for funding release.
 - Plenty Gorge MTB trails (update from Jamie committee member for the Plenty Gorge Mountain Bike Club Inc. (PGMTB):
 - PGMTB met with Parks Vic and Friends of Plenty Gorge to discuss the proposed plan and there was support for the project.
 - PV provided PGMTB the documentation and process required for the Cultural, Heritage and Environmental assessments, and quotes have been requested from relevant parties.
 - The top level plan is to formalise (not create any new), based on the above assessments, 20 kilometres of existing trails near the water tank on Goldsworthy Lane.
 - The existing trails are essentially three independent loops of green to blue grade, suitable for beginners to advanced riders.
 - PGMTB in collaboration with Parks Vic will install trail signage and develop a trail head.
 - Widening Diamond Creek Trail
 - Wait until PMP session to discuss how to proceed

11. Next Meeting

- TBA February 2019 – pending finalisation of Councillor appointments for 2019