

FORREST MOUNTAIN BIKE DETAILED DESIGN PROJECT



Community Consultation

The first open house sessions for the Forrest MTB Detailed Design Project were held in mid-May 2019. 67 community members registered at the sessions with a considerable amount of positive feedback received. Community members had the opportunity to submit project ideas via an online forum (339 submissions received overall), partake in an interagency trail walk through, forward written submissions and/or attend a one-on-one consultation session.

All forums provided Council staff and the project consultants a valuable insight on the work required to continue to provide a nationally significant mountain bike facility in Forrest. The next open house session is planned for 20 June 2019 (2pm - 6pm) where a draft design for the Barwon Flow Trail and the Forrest Trailhead Precinct will be presented.

Project One: Detailed Design of the Boundary Road Traffic Treatment

A preliminary report on the crossing has been presented with four possible crossing point options investigated. Different options include: utilisation of a different crossing point closer to the township; creation of an underpass; creation of an overpass; or other opportunities at the existing site. Due to the estimated costs associated with the first three options, a traffic treatment at the current crossing point is the preferred option.

In conjunction with the Colac Otway Tourism Parking and Traffic Strategy, the design looks at reducing the speed limits on both Boundary Road and the Forrest-Birregurra Road, vegetation removal to improve sightlines and signage to make the existing crossing safer for all users.

Project Two: Schematic Drawing and Detailed Design for the Forrest MTB Trails

After the first stage of consultation, the following amendments have been made to the project plan:

- As the Southern Network contains some of Forrest's best offerings, redesigning the trails for year-round accessibility via sustainable techniques is key. This includes resurfacing works and adding technical B Line features. Trail 6 will also be redesigned to become a clear black run experience.
- The Rollercoaster Trail will undergo a significant redesign to become suitable for beginner and adaptive mountain bikers, making Forrest the first facility in Victoria to cater for adaptive riders.
- The Barwon Flow Trail will be moved so as to be further from residential properties and Barwon Water infrastructure. Two shorter/punchier flow trails (intermediate and expert) will be added on a closed circuit.

Preliminary audits show that network structure, functionality and navigability is an issue in Forrest. To address these issues the following additional work will be actioned:

- A comprehensive audit of the entire Forrest Trail Network including assessment of trail/road interfaces, driveways and other access points.
- A comprehensive signage audit including signage location, content and visibility.
- Development of a master plan for the restructuring, landscaping, improved functionality and visual appeal of the Yaugher Trailhead.
- Re-purposing and realignment of numerous trails to improve network function, consistency, technical features and quality.
- Explorative study into greater elevation opportunities in and around Forrest.
- Design of two off-road trails from the Boundary Road crossing to the Yaugher Trailhead and State Forest recreational tracks.
- Design of a safe riding trail near Boundary Road for horse riders and walkers.
- Modernisation and redesign of trails to become more environmentally sustainable and cost efficient in terms of management.

Project Three: Forrest Trailhead Precinct Masterplan

Feedback regarding the Forrest Trailhead Precinct and architectural design by Dirt Art has been overwhelmingly positive with an initial draft plan for the site currently in development. Key themes from the community consultation include:

- Creating a precinct that celebrates mountain biking and that can be used by visitors and the community.
- The need for more MTB infrastructure i.e. drinking water, wash downs and coin operated showers.
- Creating a skills park and pump track for intermediate and expert riders.
- Better and safer connections to the town and trails.

To keep up to date with the progression of the Forrest MTB Detailed Design Project please contact Adrian Healey via phone or email.

Adrian Healey
Forrest MTB Detailed Design Project Manager
W: 03 5232 9466 | M: 0448 006 556
E: adrian.healey@colacotway.vic.gov.au