

FORREST MOUNTAIN BIKE REVITALISATION PROJECT UPDATE (STAGE ONE)

9/08/22

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 the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and Regional Development Victoria.

Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic) and the Colac Otway Shire Council are delivering the project, that's revitalising the network with new trail experiences and upgrades.

TRAILS CONSTRUCTION

The main component of the Forrest MTB Revitalisation Project (Stage One) is the upgrade of existing trails and the building of new trails within the southern trails network.

The new Barwon Flow & Jump Trails:

The 5 new trails, (1 ascending and 4 descending), have all be cut and benched by Dirt Art. The next stage of the project will involve trail surfacing. Once surfaced, the trail will need to bed-in before they can be opened.

The new Red Carpet extension and the Forrest Loop upgrade:

The Red Carpet Extension alignment has been finalised and when weather conditions improve, the trail will be cut.

This trail was originally planned as a Blue Jump Flow Trail, however, in exciting news, because of the elevation and a recommendation from Dirt Art, this trail will now be made in to a black diamond trail.

The minor upgrades to the Forrest Loop have not begun.

The remaining upgrades & new trails within the southern network:

Trails 5 and 6 are still closed as wet conditions have made it difficult for Distinctive Trail Developments to finalise the trails .

Dirt Art have cut the new Roller-coaster extension and 40% of this alignment has been benched.

Works on the Roller-coaster commenced on the 3rd of August.

Cultural Heritage Inspections:

Eastern Maar Aboriginal Cooperation (EMAC) have been conducting bi weekly inspections of the new trail alignments with the project team.



This is an important process to make sure any cultural artefacts are identified and recorded as new site cuts are completed. Four new artefacts and one scar tree have been recorded during construction so far.

When will the new trails open?

The project team understands there's a lot of anticipation around the opening date of the trails, however, at this stage an opening date has not been set. The challenging weather has made it difficult for contractors to progress and while we all want to see the trails reopen soon; the project team and contractors want to make sure the trails are delivered to the highest standard possible.

TRAIL CLOSURES

To this stage trail, closures have been limited with only trail 5 and 6 being full closed. As works have started on the Roller-coaster (trail 4), this trail has now been closed too.

Contractors will soon being carting in materials to other areas of the southern network, however, the decision has been made to only apply rolling closures when safety issues arise.

When the works begin on the Forrest Loop and the Southern Trail Head additional closures will be required.

We want to thank the community and riders for their patience while trails construction is occurring and remind everyone to observe and compile with all closure notices. This is especially the case for the new trails, as walking on, or, attempting to ride new trails will cause significant damage and impact when the trails can be opened.

FORREST MTB SOUTHERN TRAILHEAD PROJECT

The contract to design and construct the Skills Park was awarded to Velosolutions Australia, the park will include three exciting elements:

- A large asphalt pump track
- Two jumps lines catering for both advanced and novice riders
- A set of skills courses with three levels of difficulty

As well as upgrading the skills park the Forrest MTB Southern Trailhead precinct will get a significant upgrade.

The trailhead will be closed for 10 to 12 weeks while work occur at the trailhead, as far as possible, alternative parking solutions will be provided. The project team is aiming to deliver this project by December 2022.

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NAME THAT TRAIL

Earlier on in the year the community, the Forrest MTB Club and EMAC were invited to name the 8 new trails at Forrest. 65 name suggestions were submitted and a community panel chose the new trail names.

We're not releasing the new names just yet, however, the trail name themes include; indigenous language, logging culture, flora & fauna and some are a tribute to local identities.

FORREST MTB LOGO AND STYLE GUIDE PROJECT

Frank Lane, a Geelong based design and branding agency, has completed the Forrest MTB Logo and Style guide project. Special thanks goes to the dedicated community reference group that assisted Council and FFMVic with the design process. The new logo concepts will be shared soon.

SIGNAGE PROJECT

With the assistance of a community working group, a new signage plan is being developing and delivering within the southern network. Signage will include the trails new branding, clearer wayfinding and make the system much safer for all user groups.

STAY IN TOUCH

Further updates will be provided about projects, 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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