



***Review of the
Chittering
Trails
Network
Master Plan
2013-2023***

*Plan endorsed by Council 19 December 2012
Review presented to Council 21 May 2014*

The original draft “Chittering Trails Master Plan March 2008”* was prepared in line with a Council brief by;

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*Referred to in this document as “original draft”, with quotes in italic.

The “Chittering Trails Network Master Plan 2013-2023” is an audit of the original draft, reviewed with the permission of Mike Maher (Transplan) by;

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*Referred to in this document as “this Plan”.

This review of the “Chittering Trails Network Master Plan 2013-2023” is being undertaken by the Shire of Chittering.

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Original Recommendations to Council

The following recommendations were made to Council as a result of the Chittering Trails Network Master Plan;

- Resolve to endorse the Chittering Trails Network Master Plan.
 - ✓ Complete.
- Refer the endorsed Chittering Trails Network Master Plan to the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) in order to seek their continued support with respect to the development of trails within the Avon Valley National Park; as well as the potential for a trail in the Udamung Nature Reserve.
 - ✓ Complete.
- Consider the inclusion of an annual budget allocation for the implementation of the projects contained within the Chittering Trails Network Master Plan.
 - ✓ Complete.
- Research and seek funds from other sources and funding programs for the projects contained within the Chittering Trails Network Master Plan.
 - ✓ Ongoing.
- Ensure that this Chittering Trails Network Master Plan becomes an integral part of the proposed Chittering Tourism Action Plan.
 - ✓ It is proposed that the Tourism Action Plan, which will be initiated following the endorsement of the Chittering Economic Development Strategy, will be undertaken later this year. Existing Plans and Strategies will be referenced in the Tourism Action Plan.

Project Implementation Schedule

Year	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	2013/ 14	2014/ 15	2015/ 16	2016/ 17	2017/ 18	2018/ 19	2019/ 20	2020/ 21	2021/ 22	2022/ 23
Bindoon Heritage Walk		The Official Opening of the “Bindoon Tale Trail” will be 22 June 2014. The cash portion of this project was fully funded through the “Your Community Heritage” program. This project, scheduled to commence in 2014, has been completed ahead of schedule.								
Blackboy Ridge Enhancement				This project is scheduled to commence in 2016.						
Carty Reserve Walk Trail		The Official Opening of the “Carty Reserve Walk Trail” will be later in 2014 once the signage aspect of the project is complete. The cash portion of this project was fully funded through the “Lotterywest-DSR Trails” program. This project will be completed on schedule.								
Mountain Bike Trail/Park Plan						It is proposed that this project be undertaken utilising “Lotterywest-DSR Trails” funding in 2014/15. See below for further discussion.				
Wannamal Trail Enhancement			This project is scheduled to commence in 2015.							

Proposed Projects - Update

Bindoon Townsite Heritage Trail

- (Design, Development and Link Project – estimated \$22,540): a proposed new trail within the Bindoon townsite emanating from Clune Park, utilising existing footpaths where available with the addition of historical interpretive signage. With Clune Park as the trail head it will link with the existing Lake Needoonga and Stonehouse Trails.
 - ✓ This project is complete at a total project cost of \$22,540. Materials were funded through the “Your Community Heritage” program (\$14,750) with an in-kind contribution by Council of approximately \$7,790 covering Staff wages and overheads.

Blackboy Ridge Walk Trail

- (Enhancement Project, with the capacity to Design and Develop – estimated \$33,695): addition of signage and interpretive materials at the trail head, maintenance of the existing walk trail, enhancement of the existing northern lookout with the possibility of developing a new trail looping back to the trail head. There would also be an opportunity to create an additional trail from the trail head to an existing southern lookout (currently partially in place as a walking opportunity along a fire access track).
 - This project is scheduled to be undertaken in 2016/17.

Carty Reserve Walk Trail

- (Completion Partnership Project – estimated \$13,280, recalculated to \$16,400): assistance with the completion of a project currently underway; parking, signage and trail construction is required to build upon the existing planning and interpretation work.
 - ✓ This project is well underway, with the natural surface walk trail with creek crossing having been completed. Currently the signage design is being undertaken. The trail design and construction, along with signage has been funded through the DSR-Lotterywest Trails Program (\$15,000), with Council's in-kind contribution totalling approximately \$1,400 for installation and promotion.

Mountain Bike Trail

- (Feasibility Project – original estimate \$22,000, recalculated to \$27,000): consideration of the construction of a long distance mountain bike trail, possibly passing through the Shire of Toodyay and City of Swan. This project would entail an investigation of land tenures, stakeholder views and other practical issues.
 - This project was scheduled to be undertaken in 2016/17, however it is suggested that with the following factors in mind the project be brought forward to 2014/15;
 - early commencement and completion of the Bindoon Tale Trail leaving no trails project to be undertaken in 2014/15;
 - ongoing increase in the popularity of mountain biking;
 - merit in the addition of a trail and / or park within the Shire of Chittering as a means of attracting visitors to the area;
 - the land which has recently become available in Lower Chittering; and
 - the completion of the Carty Reserve Trail which has been identified as suitable for the beginning of a mountain bike trail.

Paul Neve of Neve Construction / Three Chilies Trail Design has verbally advised that he could undertake the creation of a Shire Mountain Bike Trail Plan, incorporating basic design ideas for initial trails at a cost of \$25,000. This amount could be covered under the DSR-Lotterywest Trail Program (\$25,000) with in-kind support from Council to cover community consultation and marketing.

In the Plan it is noted that Paul is a Life Member of the Perth Mountain Bike Club and a Recreational Trailbike Riders Association Committee Member and that as a ballpark figure the design and construction of a metre wide trail could be about \$2,500 per 100 metres. A Mountain Bike Trail Park with a 4km trail, skills ride area, two dirt jump lines and a pump track could cost in the vicinity of \$190,000.

During the initial consultation Paul advised;

- there are no formal mountain bike or motorbike trails within the Shire of Chittering;
- the Shire is a perfect location for trails of all kinds due to its proximity to Perth, the rural nature of the area, its expansion through land releases and range of perfect terrains;
- trails could / should be included in new developments, even if they are just as part of the road verge;
- the development of a State Mountain Bike Strategy is currently underway which will represent a good reference tool;
- suggested: 150km loop guided 'event', Bullsbrook (needs area for parking) – Julimar – Bindoon – Bullsbrook for registered off-road two-wheeled vehicles;
- suggested: Bindoon as the Trail Head of an Off Road Motor Cycle Trail Network, leaving and returning to Bindoon. Supply a number of 100km mapped trails of varying difficulties from Green Circle (easy) to Black Diamond (hard).

Wannamal Heritage Trail

- (Enhancement Partnership Project – estimated \$25,275): enhancement of the existing heritage trail in partnership with the local community, by designing, producing and installing interpretive panels along with ‘standard’ trail directional markers.
 - This project is scheduled to be undertaken in 2016/17.

Linked Project

ChitChat Trail Notes

This project, undertaken in consultation with the Chittering Visitor Centre, is complete. A series of twelve Trail Notes have been designed and printed. At the time of this review the carry bag and stand have been ordered, awaiting delivery. Promotion will be undertaken once all items have been received.

- Trails List and Map
 1. Bindoon Tale Trail
 2. Blackboy Ridge
 3. Camino Salvado Pilgrim Trail
 4. Carty Reserve
 5. Needoonga Walk
 6. Peace Be Still
 7. Sculpture Trail (Drive)
 8. Spoonbill Lake
 9. Stonehouse Walk
 10. Valley Vine (Drive)
 11. Wannamal Walk
 12. Wildflower Trail (Drive)
- Branded Blank Sheet (for event / accommodation information as necessary)

The cost of this project was met through a Council Budget allocation under “Area Promotion”.

Proposed Additional Projects

Lower Chittering Walk Trail

A bush reserve (A11230) has been identified as a possible location for a recognised walk trail, along existing firebreaks in the Lower Chittering area. It is proposed that this be further investigated during the 2014/15 year with the necessary works / signage to become part of this Plan as identified.

Bridle Trails

With the Plan’s reference to the WA Equestrian Tracks and Trails Study 2006, the Shire’s current involvement with the WA Horse Trail Strategy – Trails Audit and the apparent requirement by the local community for a more formal Bridle Trail network it is proposed that horse riding trails be further investigated during the 2014/15 year with the necessary works / signage to become part of this Plan as identified.

Other Identified Projects

These projects were to be considered should external funding become available and / or in partnership with other parties and / or revisited once the current Plan is reviewed or complete;

Country Club Estate

- (Enhancement Project): signage update, naming and mapping of the series of 15 existing open space corridors throughout the Country Club Estate area for the purposes of local user safety. These are identified as “Public Open Space Walking Opportunities” as the area is not

suitable for promotion to the public. If two directional style signs per walking opportunity were proposed, along with minimal map production this could be a \$16,000 project.

Lake Needoonga Project

- (Completion and Link Project, as per existing Development Plan): linking the existing Lake Needoonga Trail to the existing Stonehouse Trail by way of a Boardwalk across the lake, including interpretive signage for all three trails. The development plan also highlights the opportunity to extend the trail along the Brockman River, north from Clune Park along both sides of the river and south to the Brockman Centre. Additionally a Bird Hide could be constructed on a Boardwalk Spur. The existing development plan also highlights the opportunity to extend the trail along the Brockman River, north from Clune Park along both sides of the river and south to the Brockman Centre. Additionally a Bird Hide could be constructed on a Boardwalk Spur. Estimates indicate that this could be a \$377,000 project.

Udumung Reserve

- (Design and Development Project): formalisation of a walk trail within the Reserve, encompassing the rehabilitated areas, the 'historic well' and 'original kerb-stoned road remnants', with interpretive material for the wide range of interesting vegetation. It might be preferable to DEC for a designated walk trail to be developed (utilising the existing tracks), enabling the existing vehicle tracks to be closed to motor vehicles. The establishment of a formalised walk trail would confine and direct reserve users to appropriate places and routes, with the capability of informing and educating users through messages on appropriately placed signs. There have been no cost estimates for this project.
 - ✓ This project is currently being researched by local resident Ruth Loudon (Wannamal). Ruth is aware that assistance will be made available through Shire resources where possible and appropriate.

Yozzi Road "Kyotmunga" Walk Trail

- (Enhancement and Development Project): enhancements to the Lower Chittering located trail which traverses the most westerly section of the National Park affording stunning views. This trail forms part of the "Peace Be Still" suite of trails, there have been no cost estimates for this project.
 - ✓ This project is currently being researched by local resident Wendy Gellard (Peace be Still). Wendy is aware that assistance will be made available through Shire resources where possible and appropriate.

Main Drive Trail

- It is suggested that a main Drive Trail is marketed that links the Chittering Valley Tourist Way, with the Chittering Valley Wine Trail, the 'expanded' Sculpture Trail as well as linking with Flora Roads – Maddern, Spillman and Reserve – and other attractions.
 - ✓ This has been addressed through the creation of the Wildflower (Drive) Trail which forms part of the ChitChat Trail Notes project.

Trail Maintenance

Trail maintenance will be budgeted for annually with checks scheduled to be undertaken prior to the Spring visitor influx (August).