

# DRAFT

FOR PUBLIC COMMENT



SHIRE OF YORK  
**TRAILS**  
**MASTER PLAN**  
VISION 2019 - 2028

View from Mount Brown. Image credit visit.york.wa.gov.au



 COMMON GROUND

# INTRODUCTION

Common Ground Trails have been engaged by the Shire of York to develop a 10 year Trails Master Plan. The Master Plan encompasses the entire Shire of York Local Government Area. The intent of the plan is to assist in identifying trail opportunities and priority projects to be implemented by the Shire over the next 10 years. Research, community consultation and on ground investigations have led to the projects outlined in this Vision document.

Extensive community consultation has been carried out including a public survey, interviews with trail related groups and stakeholders, and an open public workshop. This Vision document is intended to complete the public consultation process and ensure there is public and Shire support to deliver the recommendations.

There have been two previous Trails Master Plans developed for previous Shire of York Councils, that were not adopted. These have been reviewed in the development of the current master plan. There are many previous sensible recommendations, and these will be carried forward in to the current document.

## VISION

The preliminary vision for trails in York is to:

**ESTABLISH YORK AS A TRAILS TOWN, OFFERING VISITORS AND LOCALS ACCESSIBLE AND IMMERSIVE TRAIL EXPERIENCES, WHICH CAPITALISE ON THE SIGNIFICANT OPPORTUNITIES ON MOUNT BROWN, MOUNT BAKEWELL AND ALONG THE AVON RIVER. TRAILS WILL PROVIDE RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCALS AND ENTICE VISITORS TO THE REGION.**

## PLANNING CONTEXT

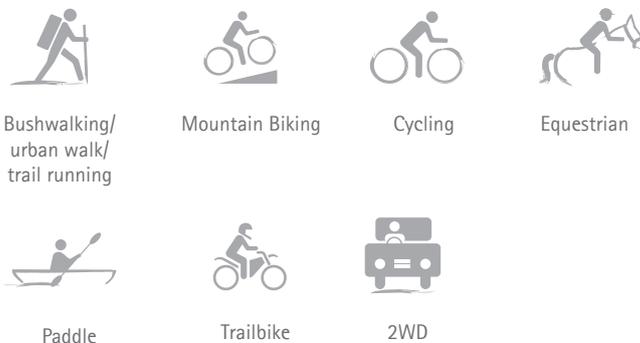
The Western Australia Strategic Trails Blueprint outlined a planning structure for trails state-wide with regional trails master plans referencing all trail types falling under state-wide activity based strategies, refer to figure 1. The Shire of York Trails Master Plan falls under regional trails master plans and localised trail master plans.



Figure 1. Statewide trails planning structure

## ACTIVITIES

Trails considered in the Shire of York Trails Master Plan include:



## COMMUNITY & VISITOR STATISTICS

The Shire of York is in the Wheatbelt region of Western Australia, covering an area of 2,133 square kilometres just beyond the eastern fringe of Perth's metropolitan area. York's population was recorded as 3,606 in the 2016 census, with a male female ratio of 50:50.

In the recent York Trail User Survey 84% of respondents identified they did not live in the Shire of York. Over 73% of respondents identified they would travel over 50km to take part in recreational trail activities, and 49% said they would travel over 100km. There are already ~175,505 visitor on average to York annually, with 79% of visitors being day trippers. York's proximity to Perth makes it an ideal destination for day trips, and the survey results indicate that people are willing to travel for trail experiences.

## BENEFITS OF TRAILS

The Western Australian Strategic Trails Blueprint 2017-2021 sets the hierarchy for trail planning, with state-wide activity based strategies informing the development of regional trails master plans and localised trails plans. The purpose of a master plan is to ensure residents and visitors to York have access to a range of recreational trail activities, enriching lifestyles and enhancing the visitors experience.

Trails bring many benefits to communities, including health and social, environmental and economic benefits. York has several landscapes that conducive of enjoyable trail experiences.

HEALTH & SOCIAL	ENVIRONMENTAL	ECONOMIC
Physical health	Creates environmental stewards/ advocates	Local community revenue
Mental health	Greater outdoor awareness and education	Regional revenue
Positive family relationships	Conservation of land for recreation	Opportunities for jobs
Connection to nature	Well planned and designed trails reduce impacts from unsanctioned trail creation	Opportunities for commercial operators
Time away from technology	Passive surveillance in nature can deter unwanted behaviours	Can attract a tourism market and encourage people to stay longer
Provides connection to country and increase awareness of Aboriginal heritage	Creates commuting options reducing vehicles on the roads	Increase property value
Reduces negative social impacts	Well designed trails can prevent soil erosion along rivers and prevent run off in to waterways.	Alleviate pressure on health care system
Education through interpretation and knowledge sharing, building informed communities	Can provide access to environmentally sensitive areas in a sustainable manner, creating corridors from people and wildlife	Charity fundraising opportunities through sponsorship for events

# TRAIL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Successful and sustainable trails require strategic location planning, which involves understanding trail hierarchies, types, users and classifications, these are outlined in the following pages.

## TRAIL HIERARCHY

A number of strategies are employed to ensure the appropriate trail models and trail types are developed in the appropriate locations. Factors for consideration include location significance, spatial distribution, event requirements and trail model detail. Table 1 below provides an overview of the significance hierarchy for trails.

Table 1. Significance Hierarchy

NATIONAL	REGIONAL	LOCAL
A trail facility for a large population centre and/or a tourism resource that caters for at least a week of unique trail based opportunities	A trail facility for a small population centre or large community and/or a tourism resource that caters for short breaks or weekend trips	A trail facility for a small community and/or a tourism resource that caters for day trips

### LOCATION SIGNIFICANCE

Location significance defines the scale, reach and connectedness for trail development in a given location. It also identifies the supporting services and infrastructure that is required to meet the significance rating. The location significance indicates a population centre or area's opportunity, including the desired recreation and tourism outcomes.

Priority locations for trail development in the project area have been categorised as being nationally, regionally or locally significant. All locations, when being developed, should be consistent with the relevant development procedures and standards (refer to page 36 Trail Development).

Locally Significant locations cater for community based trail use with tourism demand limited to day visits. Facilities are developed within a 10-15km zone from population centres unless servicing existing recreation and camp sites, or significant population centres where alternate opportunities do not exist. Locally significant locations can develop around the trail town and trail centre models, but can also be stand-alone individual and networked trail systems. They contain limited services and infrastructure but may host events if suitable. Locations of local significance may develop limited trail types and classifications and can expect demand from surrounding regional and national locations.

Regionally Significant locations cater for small population centres or large communities and/or tourism resources that cater for short breaks or weekend trips. Facilities should be developed within a 15-20km zone, and be focused around a primary trail centre or trail town model. They provide a minimum level of services and infrastructure and can host national and regional events. Locations of regional significance should encompass broad trail types and classifications. Regional locations will see demand for trails from surrounding nationally significant locations.

Nationally Significant locations capture the tourism market for at least a week of unique trail experiences and can provide a large recreation resource for a major population centre. They are developed to cater for international, interstate and intrastate tourism as a priority and facilities fall within a 20-25km zone, or 30 minutes driving. Trail development is focused around a primary trail town model and can include trail centres, networks or individual trails as part of the hub. Locations of national significance should develop all trail types and classifications where appropriate. These locations will experience very high demand and should provide a high level of services and infrastructure for trail users and also have the ability to cater for major international and/or national events.

Key requirements for National, Regional and Local significance have been outlined for each trail type in the following pages.

## TRAIL MODELS

Recognising that trail opportunities for local communities and visitors are enhanced by the development of clusters of linked trails in different localities/ environments this strategy looks at identifying Trail Towns, Trail Centres and Trail Networks as defined in the WA Trails Blueprint.

A trail model defines the extent of development for a trail facility. Depending on a number of factors, the scale of trail model can vary significantly from individual trails up to trail centres and trail towns. The type of trail model should be appropriate to the significance rating of the trail facility and where possible, allow for opportunities to generate revenue that can sustain the development. Refer Table 2 for a summary of trail models relating to significance level.

Development of a trail facility based on a trail model does not preclude other types of trails from being developed within or nearby the location. The potential integration and conflict management associated with user groups in the area would be managed through further stages of planning.

### INDIVIDUAL TRAILS

Trails come in a variety of types and configurations and are defined by their model, system, use, direction and classification. They can accommodate a range of user types.

Individual linear or looped trails are generally not considered as a development model for a destination. Long distance trails can link individual trails and can also be the precursor to developing a destination. Small individual trails typically form part of a trail town, centre or network model.

#### Short Linear Trails

These are linear, marked routes which can be completed in under a day and are of varying lengths. They are generally marked in two directions as they need to be used as a return journey. Short linear trails are often associated with key visitor attractions such as summits, vistas, headlands and beaches, and may include campgrounds or huts.

#### Long Distance Linear Trails

Long distance trails often connect towns or locations. These are long multi-day routes which start and finish in different locations and may be broken up into smaller sections. They can be iconic tourism products however the market for end to end use is relatively limited and often specialised.

#### Loop Trails

Generally the same attributes as linear trails except they start and finish in the same location.

## TRAIL NETWORK

A trail network is a single site with multiple signed and mapped trails of varying type and classification, with no visitor centre and limited user facilities. A trail network may be standalone within a population centre or individual location, or form part of a trail centre or trail town. If not part of a trail town, trail networks are often located away from population centres, or in a location that does not provide essential visitor services.

Trail networks suit locations where demand does not exist for significant development and there is no supporting population centre. They also suit locations close to residential population centres as passive recreation facilities for community use.

With careful planning, trail networks can be designed to accommodate staged development with a view to becoming a trail centre as demand increases.

### TRAIL CENTRE

A trail centre is a single site with dedicated visitor services and trail facilities, provided by a single trail provider. It includes multiple signed and mapped trails of varying type and classification. A trail centre can be part of a trail town and incorporates a trail network. They are typically located close to major population centres or iconic locations.

### TRAIL TOWN

A trail town is a population centre or popular recreation destination that offers a wide range of high quality trails as well as related services, facilities, businesses, strong branding and supportive governance. They can incorporate trail centres and typically have multiple trail networks. A trail town may consist of a number of sites, hosting several signed and mapped trails of varying type and classification.

Trail facilities such as car parking and visitor services are available within the vicinity, typically provided by independent businesses. In order to appeal to the market majority, it is important trail towns are user friendly and have high quality directional signage and maps.

Trail towns benefit from having a single central information and service centre to promote and provide access to trails. Although different, these can act similarly to a trail centre. Trail towns should have at least one cohesive trail network offering multiple classifications and trail types within a single uninterrupted area (for example, with no major road crossings).

To be classed as a Trail Town a location/town needs to be assessed and accredited as per the Blueprint.

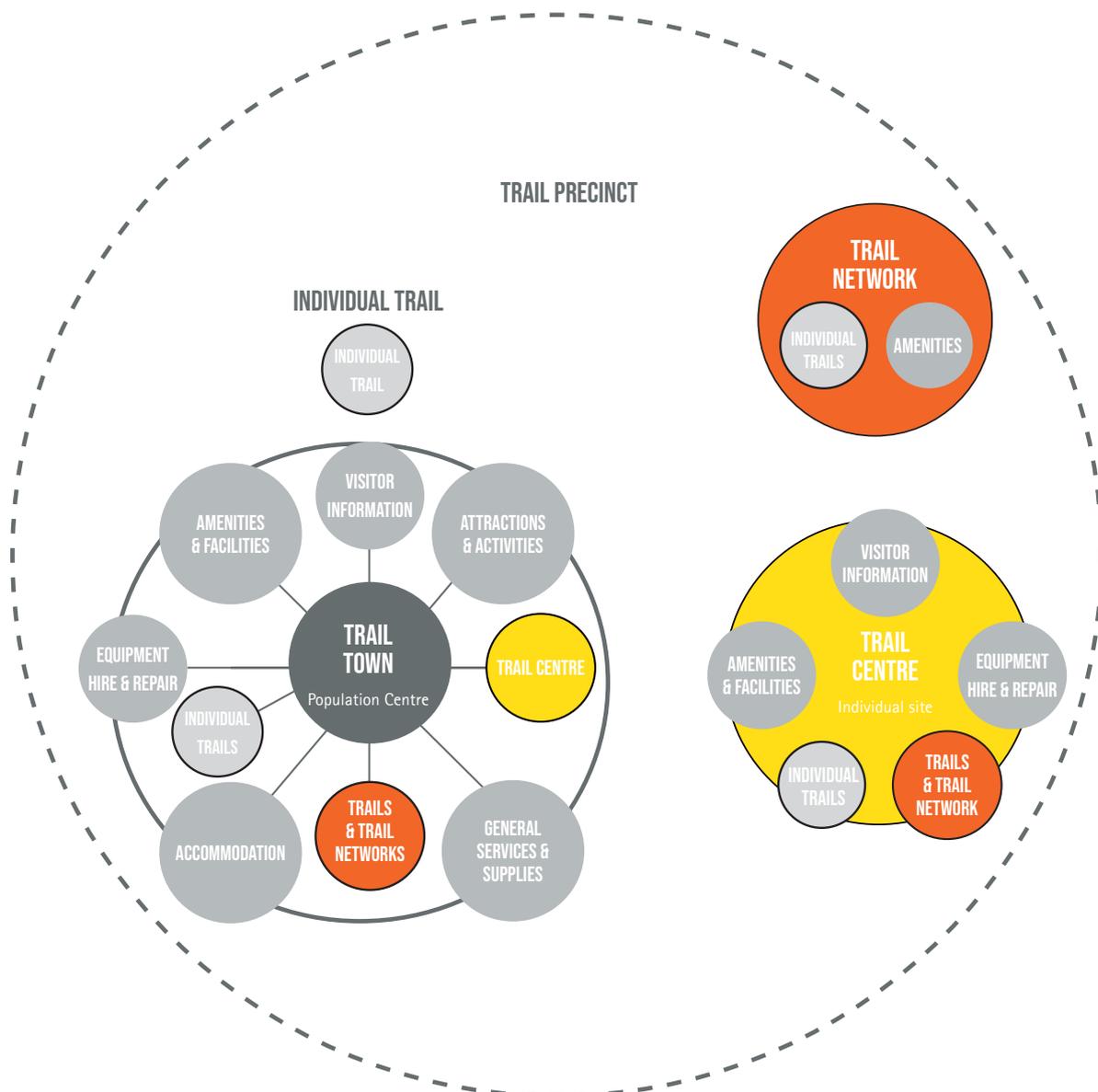
### TRAIL PRECINCT

A precinct may be designated where there are a number of major opportunities within close proximity to each other and a major population centre. Models can be linked strategically through physical infrastructure or promotion and marketing to create a large and diverse trail destination.

Due to its scale, a precinct has the capacity to serve a variety of different trail user types through the provision of user-infrastructure at individual sites.

Table 2. Trail models, significance, scope and extent

	INDIVIDUAL TRAILS	TRAIL NETWORK	TRAIL CENTRE	TRAIL TOWN	TRAIL PRECINCT
National Significance	Only if part of trail town	Only if part of trail town	✓	✓	✓
Regional Significance	Only if part of trail town	✓	✓	✓	✗
Local Significance	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Population centre based user services & facilities	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓
Site-based user services & facilities	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
Associated infrastructure	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Multiple trail models	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓
Multiple trails	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
Single trail	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓



## TRAILS IN YORK

There are limited existing formal trail experiences within the town of York and the surrounding landscapes. There is a suite of Heritage urban walks, numerous self-drive trails, and many informal walking opportunities across the Shire, including off-trail walking in the Mundaring State forest in the west of the Shire. Mt. Brown has a network of unsanctioned mountain bike trails and is a popular walking spot for local residents. The Avon River trail is gradually coming to fruition, with recent upgrades to the fire management trails on the east and west of the Avon River around the townsite.

This Vision document will list additional trail opportunities that have been identified through stakeholder and community consultation, past trails master plans and Common Ground Trails. The York Trails Master Plan 2019-2028 will be an easily digestible document, that will allow for recreational capital investment planning in the Shire of York in to the future.

## SURROUNDING FACILITIES

Outdoor recreational experiences can grow business opportunities, profitability of existing businesses, and employment. There are a range of existing facilities in York, and several identified opportunities.

- 35 existing accommodation options
- 16 existing dining options in town, and an additional 3 in the surrounding area
- 34 existing off-trail experiences including shops, galleries, sights, museums and sky diving
- Daily public transport to and from Perth
- New opportunities for bike hire, horse riding, guided walks and Aboriginal cultural heritage tours

All trail facilities in the Shire of York should be uploaded on to the Trails WA website. The website provides clear information on the trail, including maps and imagery. Additionally, Trails WA will provide content and links to the above mentioned surrounding facilities.

# CONSTRAINTS

All areas with the potential for trail development were considered in the project area, with constraints being part of the assessment process. Some potential constraints to trail development include:

- conflicting land uses and zoning, reservoir protection zones and public drinking water source areas
- environmental constraints, such as disease risk areas, the presence of threatened species or ecological communities, topography and hydrography
- Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage registered sites and sites of known significance
- tenure constraints, where potential trails traverse differing tenure types
- conflicts between trail users

## PUBLIC DRINKING WATER SOURCE AREAS (PDWSA) AND RESERVOIR PROTECTION ZONES (RPZ)

Operational Policy 13, 2012 implements the Government's response to the 2010 parliamentary committee report on recreation within public drinking water source areas. It is aimed at ensuring recreational activity in Public Drinking Water Source Areas (PDWSAs) is conducted in ways which maximise water quality to protect public health. It identifies that:

- Existing approved recreation (i.e. events and facilities) should be maintained at September 2012 approved levels. New or enhanced recreation (i.e. events and facilities) needs to be located outside proclaimed PDWSAs
- Individuals undertaking passive land based recreation activities (not part of organised events) in PDWSAs (such as trail based activities) are:
  - Not supported in Reservoir Protection Zones (RPZ) – public access in reservoir protection zones is prohibited except along public roads
  - Supported in PDWSA outer catchments, subject to recreation compatibility requirements noting that recreation cannot exceed 2012 approved levels and new or enhanced recreation needs to be located outside proclaimed PDWSAs.
  - Supported in the wellhead protection zones and outer catchments of groundwater source areas.

The 2018 review of Policy 13 is currently being reviewed following a public consultation period.. Restrictions outlined above are still in place. The Draft update does however outline that special consideration will be provided for proposals consistent with strategic – level recreation planning documents prepared by governments or within a government endorsed report. As outlined in figure 2 the western area of the Shire falls in the PDWSA Area which restricts trail development in this area.

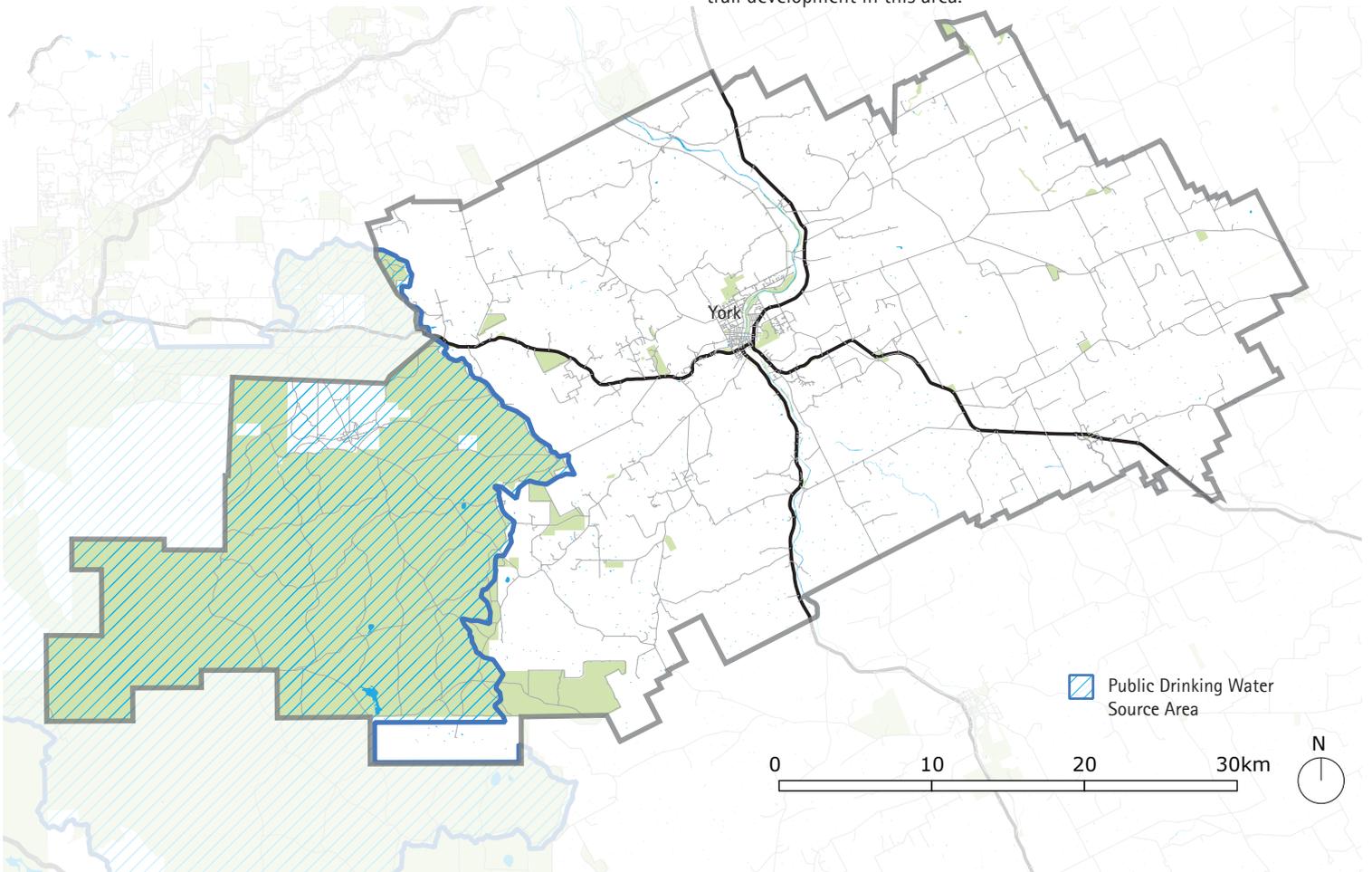


Figure 2. Project area constraints



View over York townsite. Image credit: Tourism WA.

## EXISTING TRAILS

Existing sanctioned trails within the Shire of York are limited to a series of urban walk trails with a focus on the heritage of the York township a series of 2WD trails that showcase destinations within the Shire and connect to surrounding regions and an Off Road Vehicle Area for trailbikes.

## UNSANCTIONED TRAILS

There are currently areas within the Shire of York that contain unsanctioned or informal trails. These comprise fire management access tracks and informal user-created trails. These trails have not been formally planned or designed nor has their construction necessarily been in accordance with best practice. In preparation of this master plan none of the unsanctioned trails have been formally assessed for their sustainability or suitability for use, however the areas where they are found have been reviewed.

TRAIL NAME	TRAIL SIGNIFICANCE	LENGTH (KM)	CLASSIFICATION	VISITOR SERVICES QUALITY	TRAIL QUALITY	TRAIL MANAGER
<b>URBAN WALK</b>						
01 Heritage Trail 1	Local	1.2	Grade 1	Average	Average	Shire of York
02 Heritage Trail 2	Local	1.4	Grade 1	Average	Average	Shire of York
03 Heritage Trail 3	Local	1.8	Grade 1	Average	Average	Shire of York
04 Heritage Trail 4	Local	5.1	Grade 1	Average	Average	Shire of York
05 York Cemetery Heritage Trail	Local	0.5	Grade 2	Average	Average	Shire of York
06 Avon Walk Trail	Local	16	Grade 1	Average	Average	Shire of York
<b>2WD TRAILS</b>						
07 Self Drive Trail 1 - Gwambygine	Local	24	Easy	Average	Average	Shire of York
08 Self Drive Trail 2 - Railway Road	Local	5.6	Easy	Average	Average	Shire of York
09 Self Drive Trail 3 - Spencers Brook/ Mokine	Local	73	Easy	Average	Average	Shire of York
10 Self Drive Trail 4 - Sandgate Road	Local	32	Easy	Average	Average	Shire of York
11 Self Drive Trail 5 - Helena Road	Local	58	Easy	Average	Average	Shire of York
12 Self Drive Trail 6 - York to York via Talbot	Local	66	Easy	Average	Average	Shire of York
13 Self Drive Trail 7 - Ghost Towns Tour	Local	87	Easy	Average	Average	Shire of York
<b>TRAILBIKE</b>						
14 York Off Road Vehicle Area	Regional	4Ha	Varies	Average	Average	Shire of York

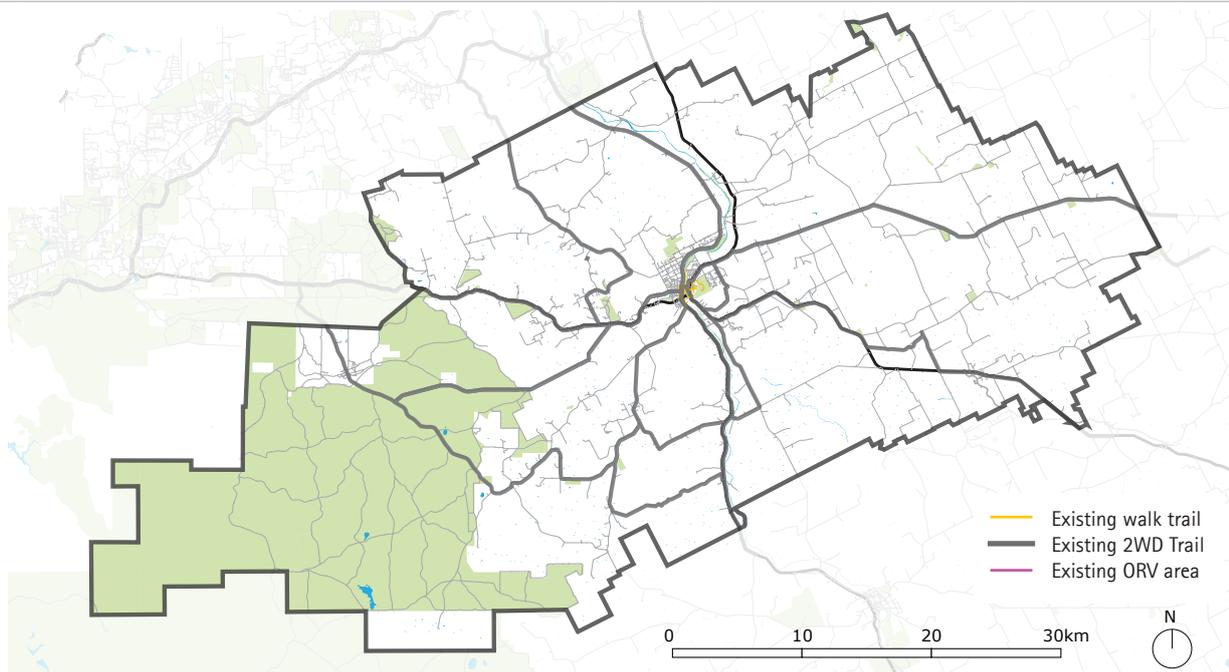


Figure 3. Existing Self Drive Trails

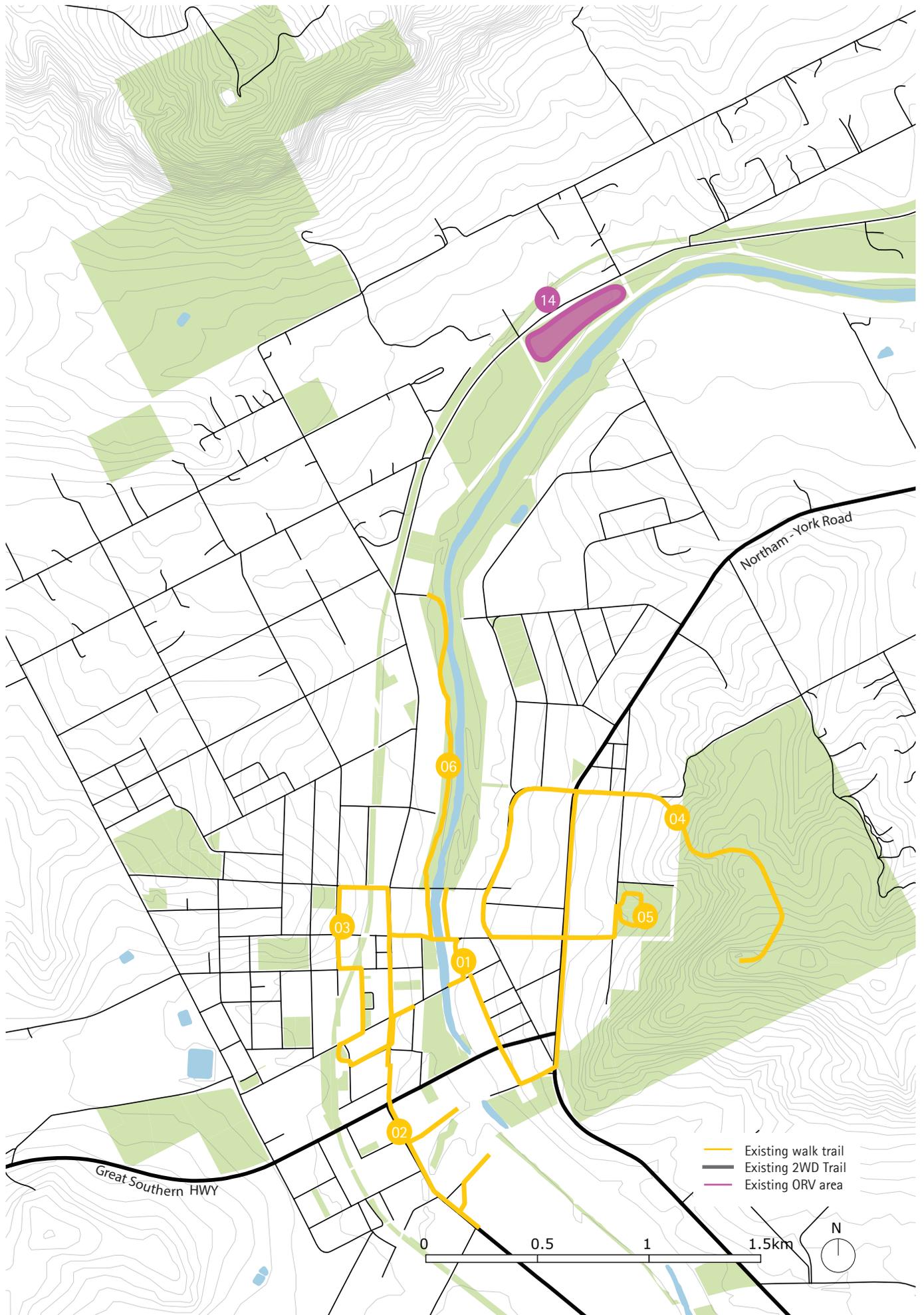


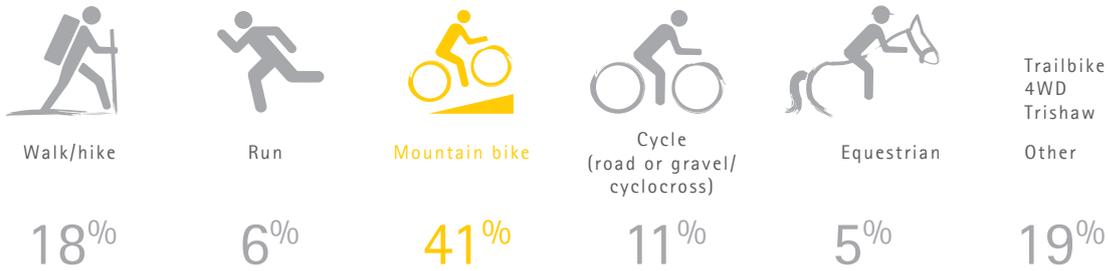
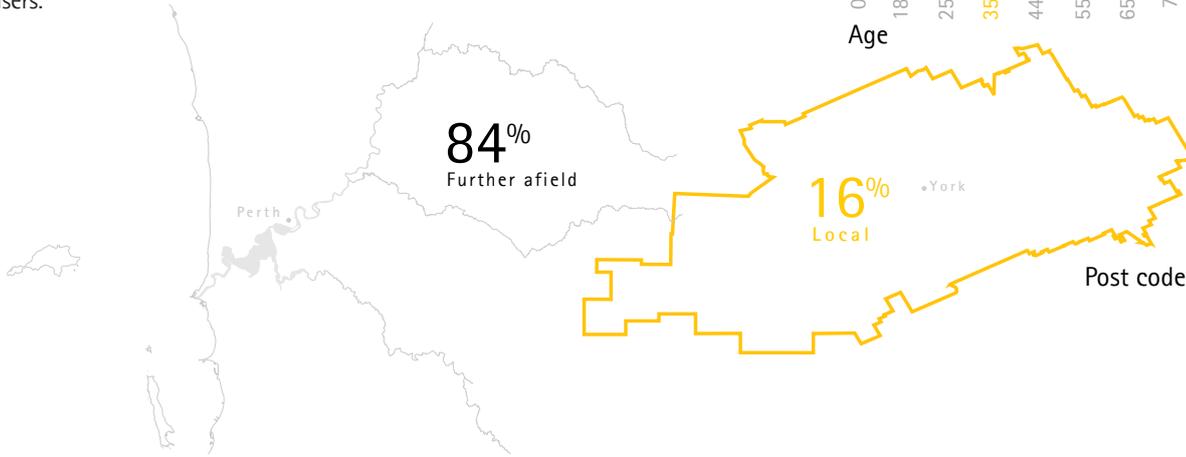
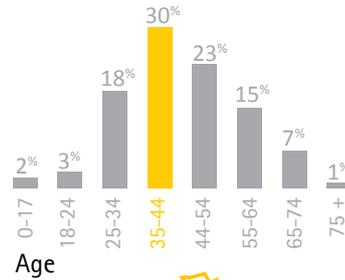
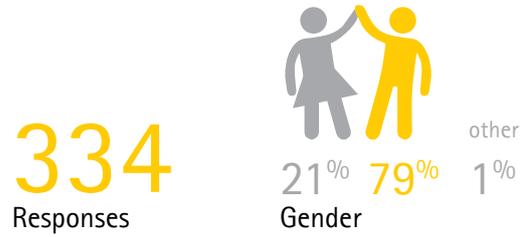
Figure 4. Existing Urban Walk trails and ORV area

# CONSULTATION

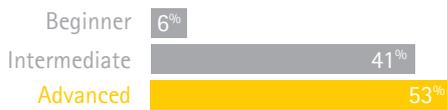
## TRAIL USER SURVEY

In an effort to understand the existing trends in trail use across the Shire of York a trail user survey was conducted. The online survey consisted of a survey and an interactive map where users could drop pins locating existing trails or potential new trail opportunities. The survey was distributed widely through Shire of York networks, trail user clubs (RTRA, ATHRA, WA 4WD association, Bushwalking WA, Perth and Peel MTB), and social media.

In using the data gathered from the survey it is important to note potential for survey bias where trail enthusiasts are likely to fill out such surveys but those new to trails are less likely to participate. This results in results skewed towards intermediate and advanced trail users.



Preferred method of exploring trails



the majority of trail users rated their ability for their preferred recreation type as advanced

53% spend half the day on the trail

35% visit trails in the York Region several times a year

32% of trail users visit trails in a small group

28% of trail users prefer defined basic campsites if staying overnight



Top 3 sources of information about trails

EXPERIENCE THE OUTDOORS  
**FITNESS**  
**SOCIALISING**

top three reasons for using trails

## WORKSHOPS

Supplementing the trail user survey a series of meetings and workshops were conducted to work collaboratively with key stakeholders and the community in developing a vision for trails in the York Region. A full list of those involved is provided in Appendix C.

Results of the community workshop held on Thursday 11th April at the York Community Resource Centre are outlined below (note there were 26 attendees, with 8 community groups represented):

Participants were invited to discuss topics in groups and then highlight their top topics/items. Individual responses were collated and pooled to display the top responses to each item. The top 5 responses to each topic were as follows.

### What is your vision for trails in the Shire of York?

1. Trail that attract visitation
2. Utilise existing trail network and locally maintain
3. Indigenous links and involvement
4. Safe trails
5. Trail Hub facilities

### Are there any trails or destinations that you consider a benchmark?

1. Rail trails Victoria
2. Bibbulmun Track
3. Flinders Range National Park - excellent signage
4. Kep Track
5. Munda Biddi

### What do you consider to be the top 5 barriers to trails in the Shire of York?

1. Private land preventing trail connections
2. Cost and funding
3. The Shire lack of action and prolonged timelines
4. Resourcing (including volunteers)
5. Red tape

### Do you have any specific projects or new ideas you would like to share?

1. Grants - lots of missed opportunities
2. Mt Bakewell - an natural asset to the Shire
3. Mt Observation - under utilised area
4. The River - currently under utilised
5. Celebrating rich indigenous heritage and culture



# TRAIL RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for new trails focus on delivering the trail experiences that showcase the best of the York Shire and fill the identified gaps in the existing trail offer. The landscape features within York that have potential to provide iconic trail experiences are outlined in figure 5. Recommendations for new trails in the region seek to make the most of these landscapes. All trail development should follow the trail development process (refer to Appendix B).

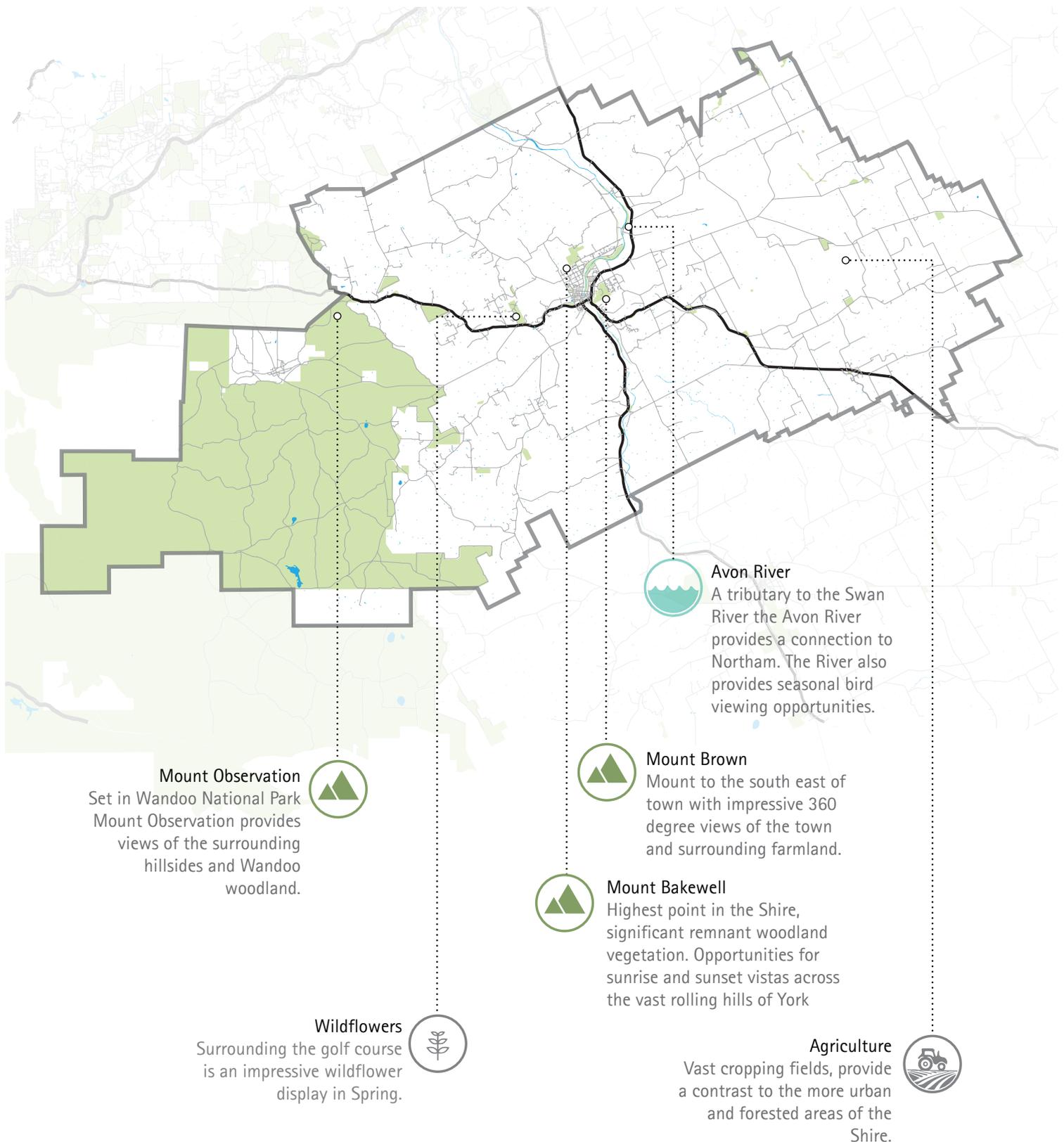


Figure 5. Shire of York landscape features

## OVERVIEW

Trail recommendations for the Shire of York focus on opportunities surrounding the York township and broader connections to surrounding towns and Wandoo National Park. Within York the most significant opportunities are on Mt Brown, Mount Bakewell and along the Avon River, refer to figure 6.

Broadly the vision for trails is centralised trailhead in Pioneer Park with shared use trails connecting along the Avon River out to Mount Brown and Mount Bakewell. Small trail networks including walk and mountain bike trails are proposed for Mount Brown and Mount Bakewell. The following pages outline specific trail recommendations.

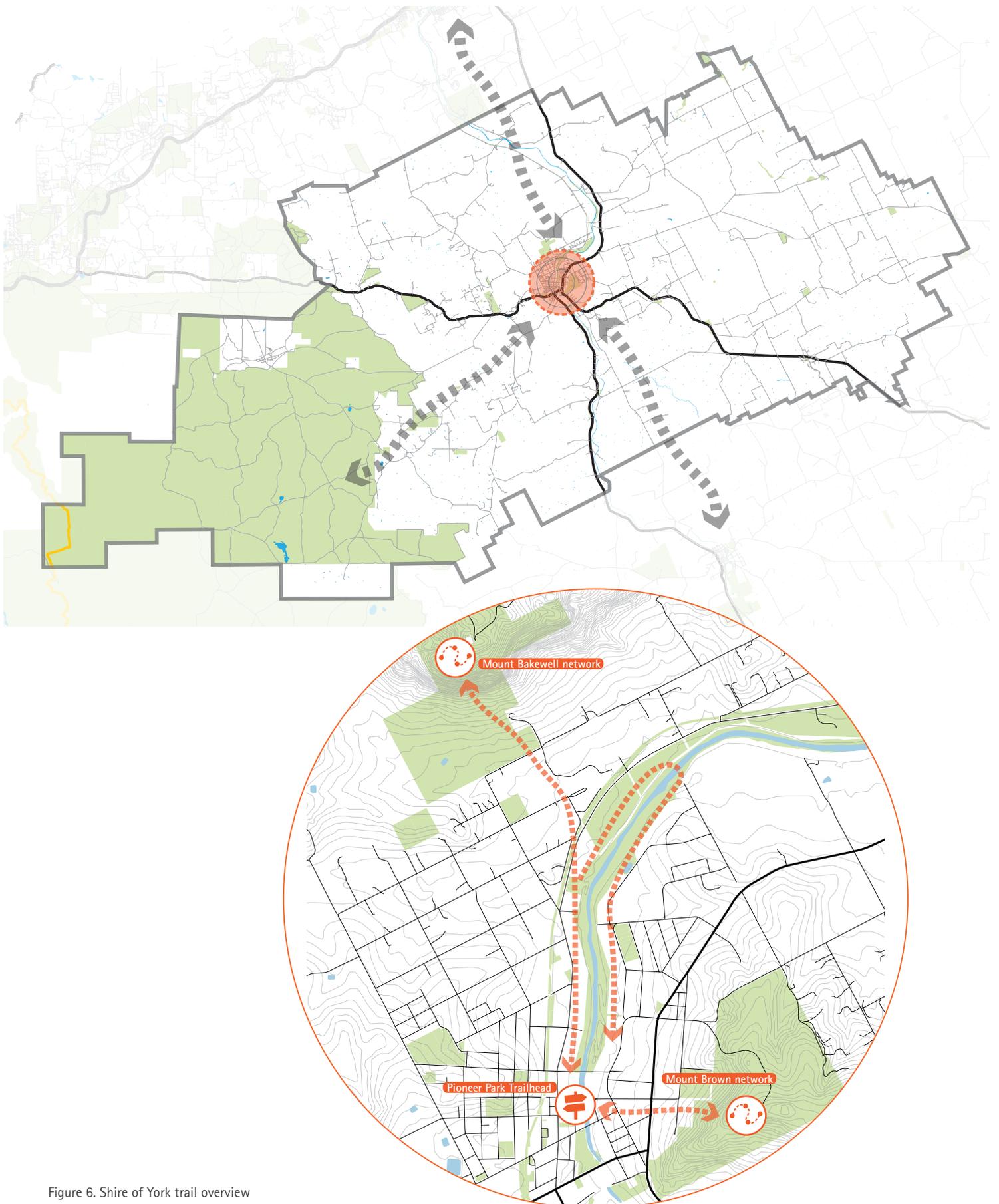


Figure 6. Shire of York trail overview

# PROPOSED TRAILS - HIGH PRIORITY

The following trail recommendations are considered high priority for development, please note trail alignments are indicative only. Refer to Appendix A for more detail on each trail.



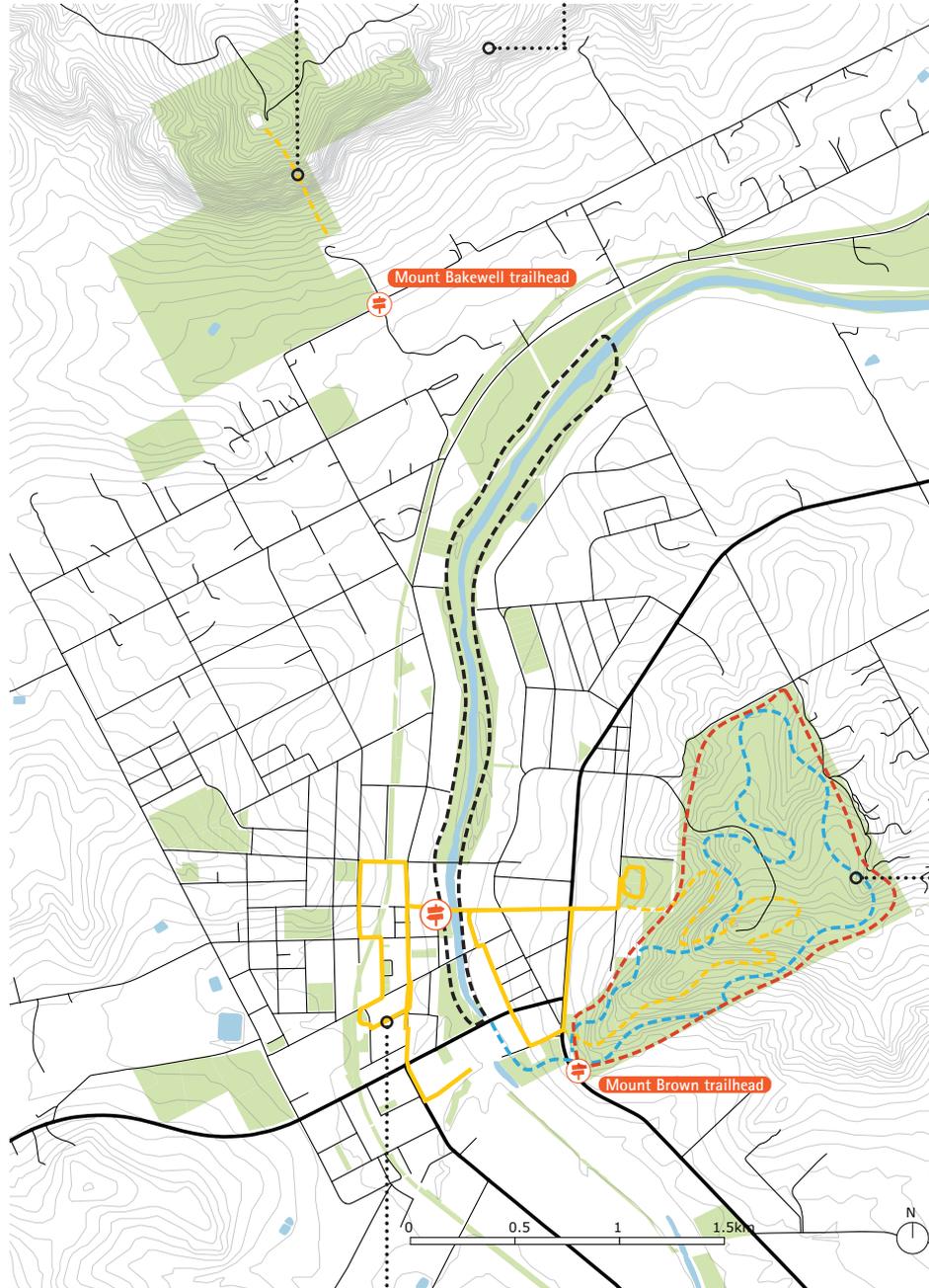
## Mt Bakewell Summit Trail

A steep climbing walk trail up the southern face of Mt Bakewell on Shire land will provide excellent views over the town and surrounds. The experience will be of recreational value to York residents and a tourist attraction for visitors.



## Mt Bakewell Private MTB

Mount Bakewell has terrain which presents significant opportunity for mountain bike trails. Much of this opportunity is on freehold land, it is recommended that the Shire of York support development of trails in this area as long as their development follows recommended trail development processes and major constraints and barriers are considered appropriately. Trails should aim to protect the environmental values of the area and create a trail network that is sustainable for future generations.



## Heritage Trails

Rationalise existing heritage trails in York town to 2-3 loops.



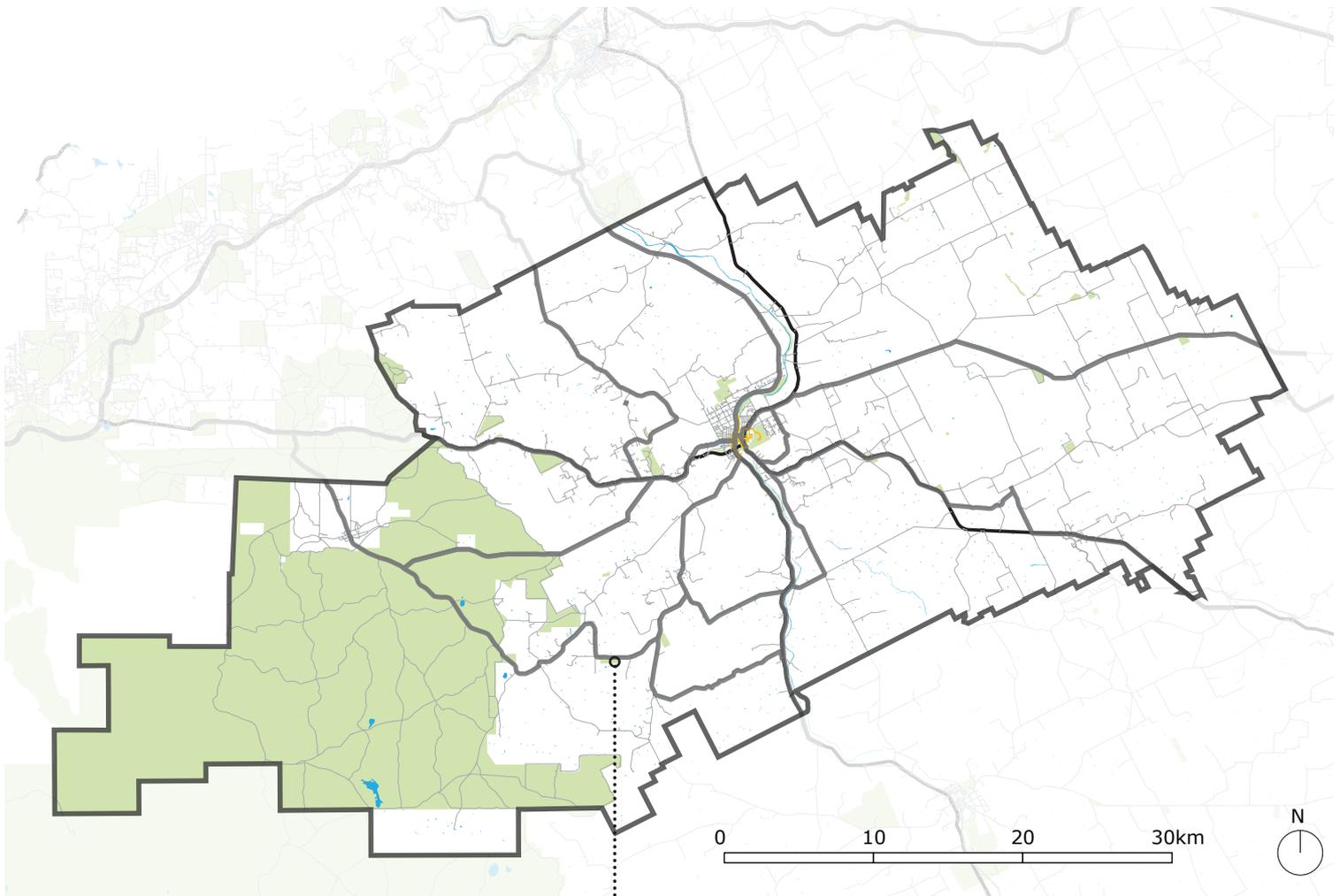
## Mount Brown Network

Mount Brown has numerous existing trails throughout the reserve. The network requires rationalisation and a concept plan to represent all user groups. There are many existing MTB trails that should be considered as part of the concept plan.

- Existing walk trail
- Existing ORV area
- - - Proposed walk trail
- - - Proposed mountain bike trail
- - - Proposed cycle trail
- - - Proposed equestrian trail
- - - Proposed shared use trail
- - - Proposed paddle trail

## PROPOSED TRAILS - HIGH PRIORITY

The following trail recommendations are considered high priority for development, please note trail alignments are indicative only. Refer to Appendix A for more detail on each trail.



### Self Drive Trails

Rationalise existing self drive trails and upgrade trail information platform to digital.

# PROPOSED TRAILS - MEDIUM PRIORITY

The following trail recommendations are considered medium priority for development, please note trail alignments are indicative only. Refer to Appendix A for more detail on each trail.



## Mount Bakewell MTB

A descending trail off of the top of Mt Bakewell (blue classification maximum), creating a connection to private MTB precinct on the top, and creating a loop MTB experience from the base of Mt Bakewell.



## Mt Bakewell

### Shared Use

A shared use trail creating a walk/run loop. Single direction travel for MTB (Climb), and dual directional travel for walk/run. Trail to be constructed to green MTB classification.



## Mount Bakewell Equestrian Trail

Establish an equestrian trail in reserves surrounding the racecourse.



## Avon River Trail

The Avon River Trail is gradually extending and there is potential to create a link between Mt Brown and Mt Bakewell.



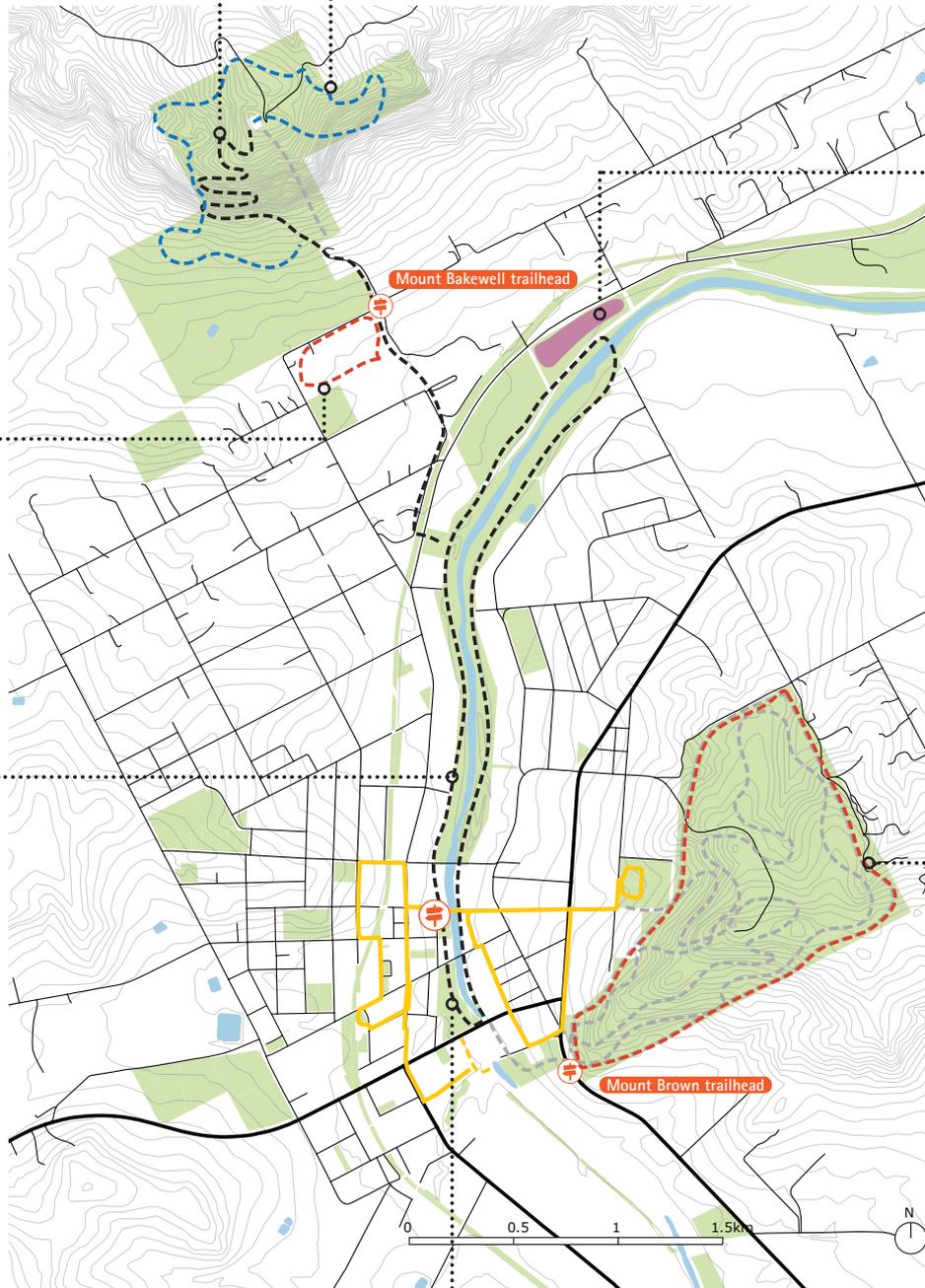
## York ORV Area

Expand and upgrade to cater for beginner trails and consider upgrading delineation of the site for river protection. Noise barriers such as tree, vegetation bund and or noise walls should also be considered. Add to Trails WA website, erect signage in town directing users to facility,



## Mount Brown Equestrian Trail

Establish an equestrian trail on existing fire roads around Mount Brown



## Avon River Trail

Access for All – Class 1 trail proposed from Pioneer Park to Red Mile Road, connecting the over 55's village to the river. There is an opportunity for a nature walk through remnant vegetation between Balladong Road and Red Mile Road. Seasonal birdlife congregating on the Avon River merits a bird hide with ramped access to allow for access for all and should be accompanied by interpretation.

- Existing walk trail
- Existing ORV area
- - - Proposed walk trail
- - - Proposed mountain bike trail
- - - Proposed cycle trail
- - - Proposed equestrian trail
- - - Proposed shared use trail
- - - Proposed paddle trail
- - - Proposed trail higher priority

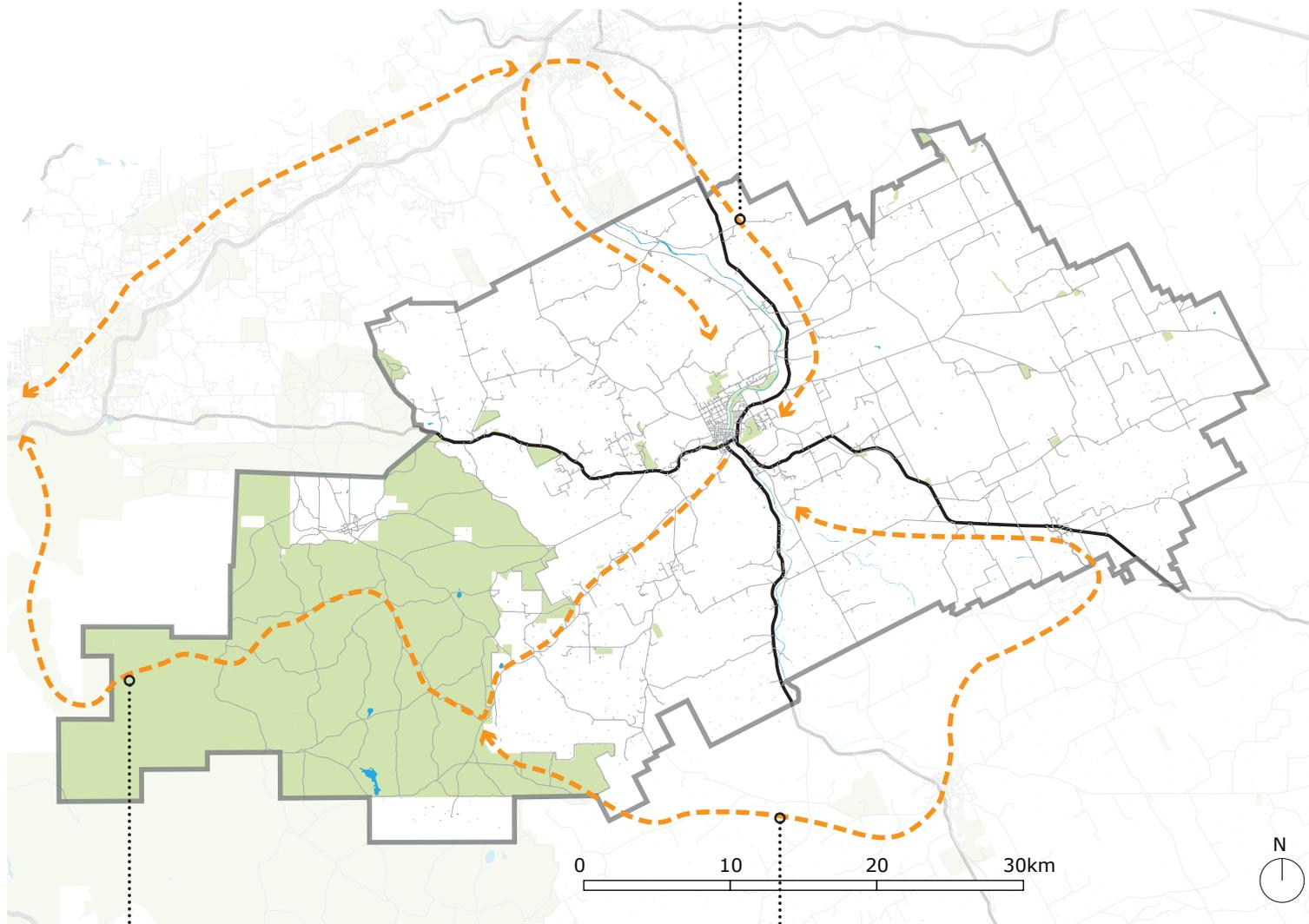
# PROPOSED TRAILS - MEDIUM PRIORITY

The following trail recommendations are considered medium priority for development, please note trail alignments are indicative only. Refer to Appendix A for more detail on each trail.



## Road Cycle Routes

York to Northam – York to Beverley – Proposed road loops of varying distance will be detailed in the master plan. Online platforms show high cycle use presently, mapping and outlining designated routes will offer visitors additional cycling activities.



## Touring Route

Mundaring, Northam (via Kep Track), York, Pickering Brook, Mundaring. York is the perfect half way point for a 2-3 day cycle. Riders can travel on the Kep track from Mundaring to Northam, then travel Northam to York (via river trail in the future), and then back via gravel roads and through existing roads within the Mundaring State Forest to Pickering Brook. The trail will then connect to the proposed Perth Hills Trail Loop, connection on to the Munda Biddi to return to Mundaring.



## Gravel Cycle Route

York, Talbot, Beverley, Greenhills, York – full day cycle opportunities from town, seasonally taking in the canola fields and wildflowers. If a rail trail comes to fruition in the future the trail can link it at Greenhills Inn.

# PROPOSED TRAILS - LOW PRIORITY

The following trail recommendations are considered low priority for development, please note trail alignments are indicative only. Refer to Appendix A for more detail on each trail.



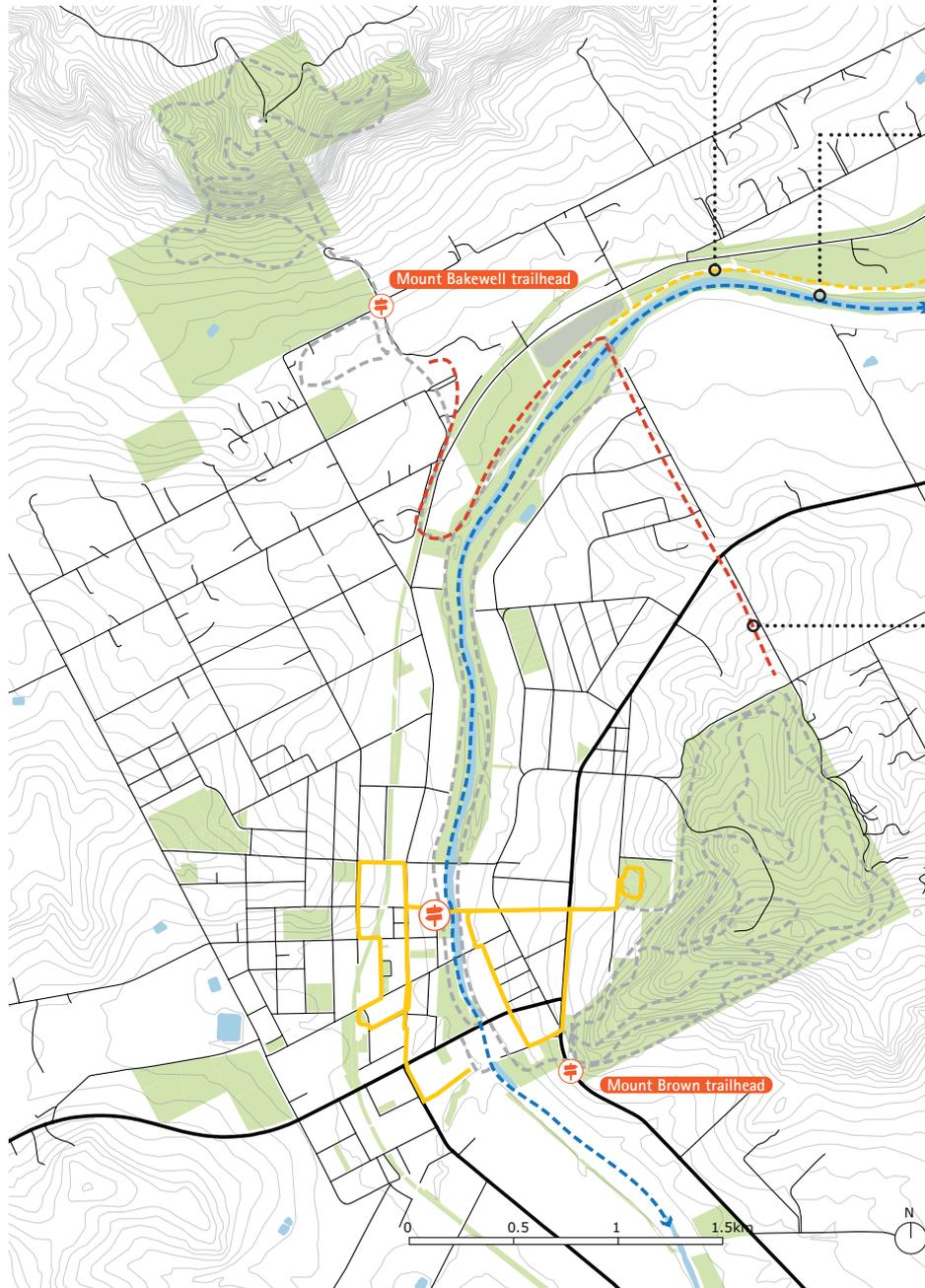
**York to Northam River Trail**  
 Long term planning for Shire to re-claim foreshore and eventually connect York and Northam via trail. Currently restricted by land tenure.



**Paddle Trail**  
 Gwambygine to York, York to Northam – Seasonal opportunity to paddle from York to Northam, and Gwambygine to York. These routes could be mapped and measured and added to Trails WA.



**Equestrian Trail**  
 Long term plans for a river crossing at the bottom of Red Swamp Place will allow for long loop along the river, and an equestrian connection from Mt Brown to the racecourse and Mount Bakewell



- Existing walk trail
- Existing ORV area
- - - Proposed walk trail
- - - Proposed mountain bike trail
- - - Proposed cycle trail
- - - Proposed equestrian trail
- - - Proposed shared use trail
- - - Proposed paddle trail
- - - Proposed trail higher priority

# PROPOSED TRAILS - LOW PRIORITY

The following trail recommendations are considered low priority for development, please note trail alignments are indicative only. Refer to Appendix A for more detail on each trail.



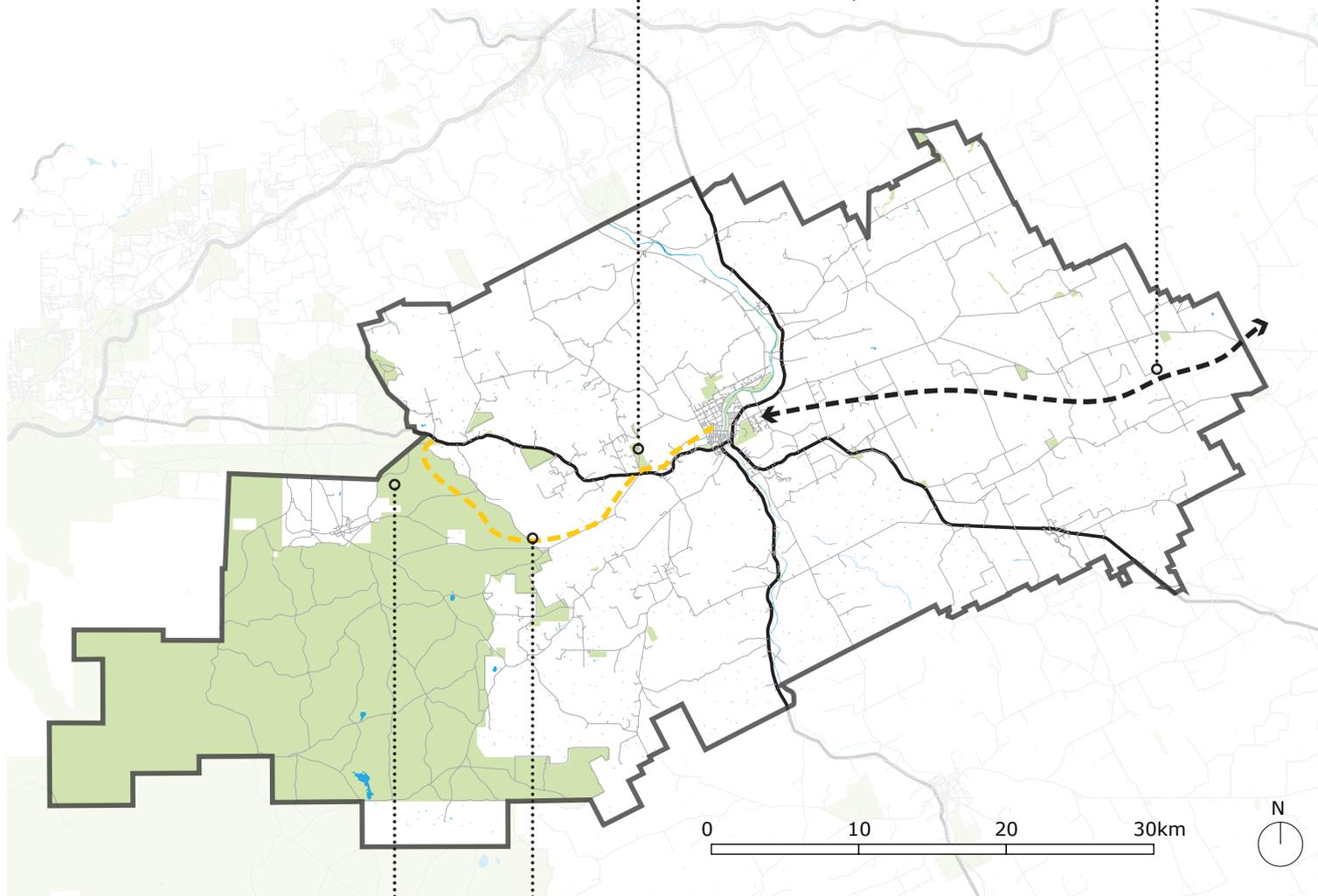
## Golf Course wildflower walk

Seasonal wild flower walk. Terrain is good for a simple class 2, low maintenance walk trail. A loop walk, with interpretation and views out towards Mt Bakewell.



## York to Bruce Rock Rail trail

Review if tracks are removed off of the alignment. Investigate use of service roads adjacent to tracks. Seasonal inundation with water will require infrastructure investment.



## Walk to York

Subject to changes in the PDWSA policy 13 investigate potential for walk trail connecting Mount Observation to York.



## Mount Observation trail network

Subject to changes in the PDWSA policy 13 investigate potential for walk trail loops and a mountain bike loop.

## NEXT STEPS

York has many trail opportunities that will enhance the lifestyle of local residents and make York a more attractive Shire to visit and stay a while. The vision identifies walk, run, cycle, equestrian, self-drive and off-road vehicle opportunities, including the need for access for all, Aboriginal engagement and involvement, and using existing landscapes to create great experiences. There is currently a lot of support from the Shire of York, York residents, land owners, stakeholders and members of the public from outside and within the Shire boundaries to progress a trails master plan.

Feedback from the public will confirm support for the proposed projects documented within this vision document. Following collation of public feedback, and incorporation of merited amendments, a final Shire of York Trails Master Plan will be presented to the Council for endorsement in June.



# APPENDIX A

The following tables provide more detail regarding each trail proposal. Proposed trails focus on delivering the trail experiences that showcase the best of the Shire of York and fill the identified gaps in the existing trail offer. The proposed trails outlined are not intended to preclude any other trails from development, should there be opportunity, stakeholder support, available funding and a sustainable management model. All trail development should follow appropriate trail development process as outlined in Appendix B.

This planning process has identified priority trails, future development processes may lead to additional opportunities or constraints being identified. Private development can supplement provision of trails from government and should be supported where they meet the objectives of the final master plan.

For each existing trail and recommended new trail the following have been identified:

## Economic Impact

Economic Impact refers to the potential for the trail to have an economic impact for the region. It also assess the potential for the trail to generate revenue for ongoing management. The higher the rating the more economic value the trail potentially has.

## Community > Tourism

Community > Tourism rating refers to the nature of the trail opportunity being primarily related to community recreation value or tourism value. The higher the rating the more potential for tourism value the trail has.

## Opportunity

The opportunity rating refers to the potential value of the trail experience, taking into consideration the landscape features, scope and scale of trail, accessibility and support infrastructure.

## Redevelopment need / deliverability

For existing trails - the need for redevelopment to bring the quality of the trail in line with the opportunity. The higher the rating the less need for redevelopment.

For proposed trails - the deliverability rating refers to the general location of the trail considering trail supply, management, planning and land use. The higher the rating the more easily delivered the trail improvements/development is.

Proposed trail recommendations have been categorised into the following planning horizons:

Short term – planned works to be developed within 1-5years

Medium term – planned works to be developed with 5-10 years

Long term – planned works to be completed after 2028 (beyond the scope of this strategy)

## EXISTING TRAILS

TRAIL NAME	TRAIL SIGNIFICANCE	LENGTH (KM)	CLASSIFICATION	VISITOR SERVICES QUALITY	TRAIL QUALITY	TRAIL MANAGER	
TRAIL MODEL	TRAIL PRIORITY		ECONOMIC IMPACT	COMMUNITY > TOURISM	OPPORTUNITY	REDEVELOPMENT NEED	
URBAN WALK							
01	Heritage Trail 1	Local	1.2	Grade 1	Average	Average	Shire of York
	Individual Trail	Medium	● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ●	
<p>Previous master plans suggest rationalising heritage trails to create 2-3 loops. Common Ground trails support amalgamation and rationalising to create 2-3 loops, upgrade app and upload routes on to Trails WA website. The existing app is very informative and easy to use. It was released in 2014, and updated in 2017. There have been significant advances in app capability in the past 5 years, and this app could be slightly more attractive to a larger audience.</p>							
02	Heritage Trail 2	Local	1.4	Grade 1	Average	Average	Shire of York
	Individual Trail	Medium	● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ●	
03	Heritage Trail 3	Local	1.8	Grade 1	Average	Average	Shire of York
	Individual Trail	Medium	● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ●	
04	Heritage Trail 4	Local	5.1	Grade 1	Average	Average	Shire of York
	Individual Trail	Medium	● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ●	
05	York Cemetery Heritage Trail	Local	0.5	Grade 2	Average	Average	Shire of York
	Individual Trail	Medium	● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ●	
06	Avon Walk Trail	Local	16	Grade 1	Average	Average	Shire of York
	Individual Trail	Medium	● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ●	
Self Drive Trails							
07	Self Drive Trail 1 - Gwambygine	Local	24	Easy	Average	Average	Shire of York
	Individual Trail - Loop	Medium	● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ●	
<p>Common Ground suggest a rationalisation of the existing drive trail suite. Amalgamate in to one map displaying points of interest, similar to the Margaret River Region map, and accompany with suggested routes. Ideally Avon Tourism update the map on their website - very poor detail presently. A drive trail map, with a similar level of information to the Heritage Trail app.</p>							
08	Self Drive Trail 2 - Railway Road	Local	5.6	Easy	Average	Average	Shire of York
	Individual Trail - one way	Medium	● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ●	
09	Self Drive Trail 3 - Spencers Brook/ Mokine	Local	73	Easy	Average	Average	Shire of York
	Individual Trail - Loop	Medium	● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ●	
10	Self Drive Trail 4 - Sandgate Road	Local	32	Easy	Average	Average	Shire of York
	Individual Trail - Loop	Medium	● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ●	
11	Self Drive Trail 5 - Helena Road	Local	58	Easy	Average	Average	Shire of York
	Individual Trail - Loop	Medium	● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ●	
12	Self Drive Trail 6 - York to York via Talbot	Local	66	Easy	Average	Average	Shire of York
	Individual Trail - Loop	Medium	● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ●	
13	Self Drive Trail 7 - Ghost Towns Tour	Local	87	Grade 1	Average	Average	Shire of York
	Individual Trail	Medium	● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ●	
TRAILBIKE							
14	York Off Road Vehicle Area	Regional	4Ha	Varies	Average	Average	Shire of York
	Trail network	Medium	● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ●	
<p>Expand and upgrade to cater for beginner trails and consider upgrading delineation of the site for river protection. Noise barriers such as tree, vegetation bund and or noise walls should also be considered. Add to Trails WA website, erect signage in town directing users to facility,</p>							

## PROPOSED TRAILS

RECOMMENDATION	TRAIL PRIORITY	LENGTH (KM)	TRAIL SIGNIFICANCE	PROJECT LEAD	PROJECT PARTNERS	TIMEFRAME
<b>TRAIL MODEL</b>						
			ECONOMIC IMPACT	COMMUNITY > TOURISM	OPPORTUNITY	DELIVERABILITY
<b>SHARED USE</b>						
Avon River Trail	Medium		Local	Shire of York	River Cons. Society	Medium
Individual Trail			● ● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ●
Multi-use trail providing a loop trail around the Avon River. Class 1 on the western side of the river from Balladong over 55's community in to town. Surface to remain as is along fire access. Long term planned river crossing at the base of Red Swamp Place. Crossing to be built to accommodate walk, bike and equestrian. Link Avon River Trail up to the existing fire trails on either side of the river, creating a full loop experience for walkers, runners and cyclists, and a linking trail for equestrian from Mt.Brown to the base of Mt.Bakewell.						
Mt. Bakewell Shared Use	Low	3-4	Regional	Shire of York	AVTAT	Medium
Individual Trail			● ● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ●
A meandering trail to compliment the proposed climbing walk trail. This trail will be an easy (green) mountain bike ascent trail, linking riders to the top of Mt Bakewell, and offering walkers an alternative ascent or descent, creating a loop walk. Common Gorund suggest this trail be considered if a private mountain bike facility is constructed on the top of Mt Bakewell.						
<b>WALK TRAIL</b>						
Mt Bakewell - Summit Trail	High	1	Regional	Shire of York	AVTAT	Short
Individual Trail			● ● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ●
Mt Bakewell is the highest point in the Shire of York, with an elevation of 417m. The summit of Mt Bakewell is the perfect vantage point to view the town of York and surrounding Shire. The sunrise and sunset can both be viewed from the summit of Mt Bakewell. A steep, steady, climbing trail on Shire land to the summit of Mt Bakewell with provide the community and visitors with a recreational opportunity that is challenging and rewarding. An opportunity such as a challenging climb will attract a number of people, as there are no other opportunities like this in the surrounding area. A complimentary meandering trail is also promoted should a private mountain biking facility be developed on Mt. Bakewell. The meandering trail will also create a loop with the challenging climb trail, which enthusiasts may come and use for incline training.						
Mt Brown	High	5	Local	Shire of York	AVTAT	Short
Individual Trail			● ● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ●
A walk starting at the trail hub in Pioneer Park. Heading east over the Swing Bridge and up past the cemetery, the trail will lead up to Mt Brown look out. The lignment will then follow the existing stone descent to the carpark area, passing the ablutions, then cross over the road and round the top of Mt Brown, opening up views to the south. The trail will return to the base of the hill, crossing the road and joining the Avon River Trail via the Residency Museum and Clifford St. The distance from the Trail Hub in Pioneer Park to Mt Brown lookout is 1.5km. This can also be walked as a linear trail, with a 3km return.						
Avon River Trail - Access for all	Medium	0.9	Local	Shire of York	AVTAT, River Cons. Society	Medium
Section of Trail			● ● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ●
Access for all trail from the trail head in Pioneer Park up past Balladong Road bridge. Trail to continue under the Balladong Road bridge for short bush-walk experience, with ramped access to a birdhide on the river. A ramp to be installed to link the Balladong over 55's community, from Balladong road, down on to the Avon River Trail.						
Golf Course wild flower walk	Low	0.9	Local	Shire of York	Wild Flower Society, AVTAT	Medium
Individual Trail			● ● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ●
Seasonal wildflower walk at the Golf Course. Relatively low cost class 2 trail. Good material for easy graded walk trail, and relatively low maintenance if constructed well. Interpretation requirement with imagery of plants and seasonal flowers.						
<b>PADDLE</b>						
Avon River Paddle Trail	Low	10 -35	Regional	Shire of York	AVTAT, River Cons. Society	Medium
Individual Trail (Seasonal)			● ● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ●
Seasonally there is an opportunity to paddle from Gwambyngine to York, and York to Northam.						

PROPOSED TRAILS – CONTINUED

RECOMMENDATION	TRAIL PRIORITY	LENGTH (KM)	TRAIL SIGNIFICANCE	PROJECT LEAD	PROJECT PARTNERS	TIMEFRAME
TRAIL MODEL			ECONOMIC IMPACT	COMMUNITY > TOURISM	OPPORTUNITY	DELIVERABILITY
<b>MOUNTAIN BIKE (MTB)</b>						
Mt. Brown – XC	High	15	Regional	Shire of York	SOY MTB Community	Short
Trail Network			● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ●
There are a number of existing MTB trails on Mt. Brown. Common Ground recommend that the Shire work with the local MTB community to rationalise existing trails, and begin sanctioning the trails.						
Mt. Bakewell MTB	Medium	7	Regional	Shire of York	Land owners & York MTB Community	Medium
Trail Network			● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ●
A descending trail off of the top of Mt Bakewell (blue classification maximum), creating a connection to private MTB precinct on the top, and creating a loop MTB experience from the base of Mt Bakewell.						
Mt. Bakewell Private MTB	Medium	7	Regional	Land owners & York MTB Community	Shire of York	Medium
Trail Network			● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ●
Mount Bakewell has terrain which presents significant opportunity for mountain bike trails. Much of this opportunity is on freehold land, it is recommended that the Shire of York support development of trails in this area as long as their development follows recommended trail development processes and major constraints and barriers are considered appropriately. Trails should aim to protect the environmental values of the area and create a trail network that is sustainable for future generations.						
<b>CYCLE</b>						
Road Loop – York to Northam	Medium	70	Local	Shire of York		Medium
Individual Trail			● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ●
Online platforms indicate high use road riding between York and Northam.						
Gravel Route TBD – York Talbot Beverly	Medium	90	Local	Shire of York	DOT	Medium
Individual Trail			● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ●
Gravel trail loop, taking in the York landscapes, passing Talbot Hall, Beverly and out past Greenhills pub and Heritage Trail. Ideally cycling back along the York to Greenhills rail trail, but in the meantime designing a route along existing roads						
Touring Loop – Mundaring/ Kep Track/ Northam/ York / Pickering Brook	Medium	>200	Local	Shire of York	DOT	Medium
Trail network			● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ●
Mundaring, Northam (via Kep), York, Pickering Brook, Mundaring. York is the perfect half way point for a 2-3 day cycle. Riders can travel on the Kep track from Mundaring to Northam, then travel Northam to York (via river trail in the future), and then back via gravel roads and through existing roads within the Mundaring State Forest to Pickering Brook. The trail will then connect to the proposed Perth Hills Trail Loop, connection on to the Munda Biddi to return to Mundaring.						

## PROPOSED TRAILS - CONTINUED

RECOMMENDATION	TRAIL PRIORITY	LENGTH (KM)	TRAIL SIGNIFICANCE	PROJECT LEAD	PROJECT PARTNERS	TIMEFRAME
TRAIL MODEL			ECONOMIC IMPACT	COMMUNITY > TOURISM	OPPORTUNITY	DELIVERABILITY
<b>EQUESTRIAN</b>						
Mount Bakewell Equestrian Trail	Medium	5	Local	Shire of York		Medium
			● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ●
Establish an equestrian trail in reserves surrounding the racecourse.						
Mount Brown Equestrian Trail	Medium	10	Local	Shire of York		Medium
			● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ●
Establish an equestrian trail on existing fire roads around Mount Brown						
Equestrian Link	Low		Local	Shire of York		Long
			● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ●
Long term plans for a river crossing at the bottom of Red Swamp Place will allow for long loop along the river, and an equestrian connection from Mt Brown to the racecourse and Mt Bakewell						

## PROPOSED OPPORTUNITIES WITH CURRENT CONSTRAINTS

RECOMMENDATION	TRAIL PRIORITY	LENGTH (KM)	TRAIL SIGNIFICANCE	PROJECT LEAD	PROJECT PARTNERS	TIMEFRAME
TRAIL MODEL			ECONOMIC IMPACT	COMMUNITY > TOURISM	OPPORTUNITY	DELIVERABILITY
<b>MOUNTAIN BIKE (MTB)</b>						
Mt. Observation	Low	15	Local	Shire of York	SOY MTB Community	Short
Individual Trail			● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ●
Area within Public Drinking Water Source Area and protected under Recreational Policy 13						
<b>WALK TRAIL</b>						
Walk to York	Low	70	Local	Shire of York		Long
Individual Trail			● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ●
Area within Public Drinking Water Source Area and protected under Recreational Policy 13						
Mt. Observation	Low	90	Local	Shire of York		Long
Trail Network			● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ●
Area within Public Drinking Water Source Area and protected under Recreational Policy 13						
York to Northam River Trail	Low	30	Local	Shire of York		Long
Individual Trail			● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ●
Property boundaries are to the middle of the Avon River or to the high water mark. Shire should consider re-claiming the river edges when properties are sold for conservation and recreation.						
<b>SHARED USE</b>						
York to Bruce Rock Rail Trail	Low	30	Local	Shire of York		Long
Individual Trail			● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ●
Railway not accessible. There are still train tracks on the railway line between York and Greenhills. In the future, should these tracks be removed, the Shire should consider a rail trail from York to Bruce Rock. The Greenhills pub is a good distance for a cycle, or horse ride.						

# APPENDIX B

## TRAIL DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

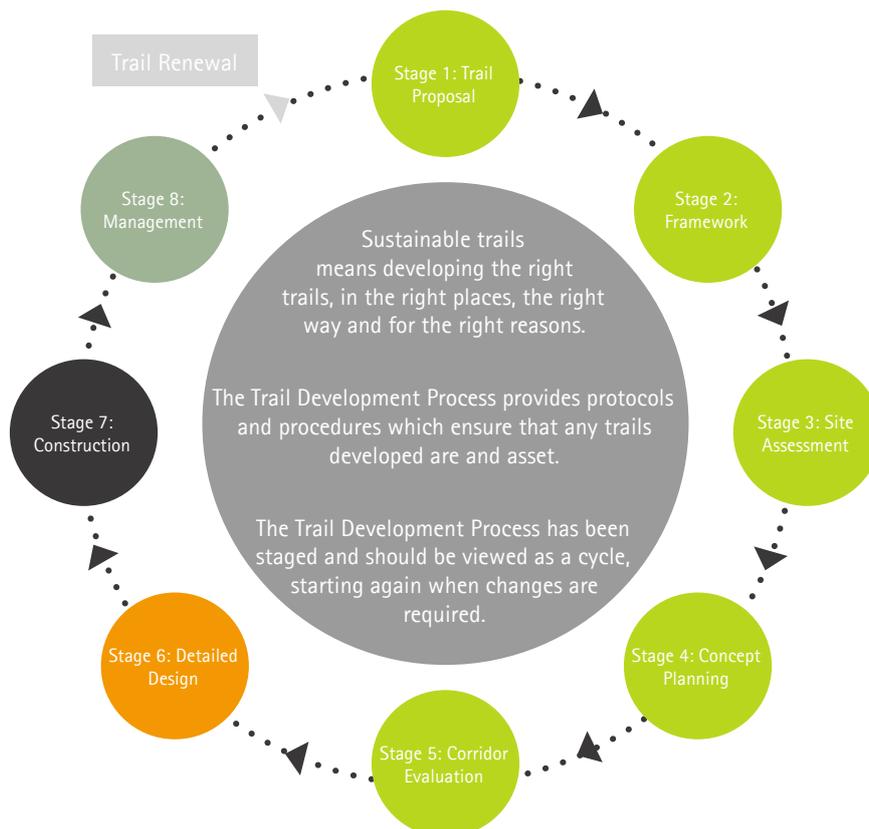
Ensuring sustainable trails both from a management and trail experience perspective requires a thorough development process. As outlined in the Western Australian Mountain Bike Management Guidelines working within a standardised methodology is especially important in high conservation areas and building rigor into the development process ensures high quality outcomes on the ground.

The trail development process involves 8 stages and involves a constant evaluation, review and improvement process as trails are extended or revised. The diagram and table below provides a summary of the trail development process.

Table 3. Trail development process.

Source: WA Mountain Bike Management Guidelines.

	STAGE	OUTCOME	
PLANNING	1. PROPOSAL	The proposed area is either supported in principle for trail development, or is not supported due to environmental, social or cultural constraints. Or proposal to identify suitable areas.	DESKTOP
	2. FRAMEWORK	A project outline, developed by project steering group (stakeholders), including: project objectives, project management model, stakeholder roles, target market, requirements, standards, execution, and ongoing trail management model.	
	3. SITE ASSESSMENT	Undertake a broad scale study of the area and identify constraints, soil types, vegetation etc.	
	4. CONCEPT PLANNING	Identify opportunities and conceptual trail plan including infrastructure requirements produced. Broad trail corridors are physically flagged in the field.	
	5. CORRIDOR EVALUATION	Detailed assessment of corridor.	
	6. DETAILED DESIGN	Detailed trail design produced and physically flagged in the field, including: trail classifications, technical trail features (TTFs), construction types and specifications.	
CONSTRUCTION	7. CONSTRUCTION	Trail is constructed in line with the detailed design.	FIELD
MANAGEMENT	8. MANAGEMENT	Management plan implemented detailing maintenance and monitoring requirements.	



# APPENDIX C

## STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED

The following groups were invited to participate in discussion and were asked to circulate the online survey to their members.

- Shire of York
- DLGSC Project Officer - Wheatbelt
- Avon Valley Track & Trails Group
- Recreational Trailbike Riders Association of WA Inc
- Western Trails Alliance
- Shire of Quairading
- York Pony Club
- Avon Branch of the Wildflower Society of WA
- Avon Valley Environmental Society Inc
- River Conservation Society Inc
- York Avon Valley Tourism -
- Chair of York Business Association
- Adult Riding Clubs Association of WA
- Alzheimer's WA
- Avon Valley Therapeutic Equestrian Centre
- Balkuling Horse and Pony Club
- Bicycling Western Australia
- CWA
- Cycling Without Age
- Donkey Society of WA Inc
- Friends of Bibbulmun Track
- Greenhills Progress Association
- Retirees WA
- River Conservation Society
- RSL York Sub Branch
- Senses
- St. John Ambulance York Subcentre
- Talbot Brook Community Group
- The York Society
- Tipperary Miniature Donkey Stud
- Trails WA
- WA Endurance Riders Association (WAERA) Inc
- WA Horse Council
- WA Mountain Biking Association
- Wheatbelt Womens Health Hub
- York Community Resource Centre
- York Garden Club
- York Men's Shed Inc.
- York Pony Club
- York Probus Club
- York Seniors Mobility group
- York Visitors Centre
- York Weight Watchers
- York YouthCare council
- Swimming Club
- Netball Club
- Hockey Club
- Off road riding club

The following groups attended workshops:

Avon Valley Tracks and Trails  
Representatives from the local Ballardong community  
River Conservation Society  
Recreational Trailbike Riders Association of WA Inc  
The Shire of York  
Perth Trail Series participants  
York Hand Gliding  
Ultra Series WA  
Walk to York – David Hovell  
Western Trails Alliance