

Great Southern Regional Trails Master Plan

Frequently Asked Questions

(updated 11 December 2019)



GSCORE

Great Southern Centre for
Outdoor Recreation Excellence

Q: What is the Regional Trails Master Plan?

A: The Regional Trails Master Plan is a document which will identify a ten-year program of trail infrastructure development for the Great Southern region. It will focus on all types of trails, including terrestrial trails (e.g. walking, cycling, horse-riding, off-road vehicles) and aquatic trails (e.g. snorkelling, paddling).

Q: Why do we need a plan, can't we just start building trails?

A: Trails are expensive to build and maintain. Poorly planned or constructed trails, or unsanctioned trails, can negatively impact on the environment, are difficult to maintain, and provide a poor user experience. Without well-documented trail plan it is also impossible to apply for funding to build trails.

Q: Why do we need a regional plan, can't we just develop a local plan for each shire?

A: The WA Trails Blueprint outlines the State government's approach to trail development. It recommends that regional trails master plans be developed that sit above and reference all local level plans. These regional plans can be for all trail types or for single trail types (e.g. mountain-bike only regional plans).

Q: Which local governments are involved in the Regional Trails Master Plan project?

A: The Regional Trails Master Plan covers all eleven local governments in the Great Southern region – Albany, Broomehill-Tambellup, Cranbrook, Denmark, Gnowangerup, Jerramungup, Katanning, Kent, Kojonup, Plantagenet, and Woodanilling.

Q: Who is GSCORE?

A: The Great Southern Centre for Outdoor Recreation Excellence (GSCORE) is a not-for-profit organisation established to support the growth of outdoor recreation in the Great Southern region. We are supported by the state government's Royalties for Region's program, and our funding stakeholders include the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries; the Great Southern Development Commission; and the Albany Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Q: Why is GSCORE running this project?

A: The Great Southern Centre for Outdoor Recreation Excellence (GSCORE) is the region's peak body for trails. We advocate for best practice and the importance of taking a whole-of-region perspective in planning and development.

Q: How is the Regional Trails Master Plan funded?

A: All three tiers of government have provided funding to support the development of the Master Plan. The Federal Government's Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF), the WA State government through Lotterywest, with co-contributions from all eleven local governments, the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries; and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.

Q: When will the Regional Trails Master Plan be completed?

A: The RTMP is in draft form and will go out for public comment over 5 weeks in December 2019-January 2020. The aim is to have the plan finalised by February 2020.

Q: How can I contribute my views on the plan?

A: Public Consultation on the draft plan will open on the 16 December 2019. We are inviting comments via email or written submissions.

Q: How were priority projects identified?

A: Projects have been identified through an extensive community consultation process. GSCORE conducted consultation workshops across the region between March and May 2019. An infographic summarising the findings from the consultation is available on our website. The next phase of community consultation ran through July to August 2019. A prioritisation assessment tool with a set of criteria was applied to determine which projects best addressed the region's unique point of difference and user demand. This process is outlined in the draft RTMP.

Q: What do you mean by a 'regional trail'?

A: The WA Trails Blueprint classifies WA's trails into three types:

National/State Trails – an extended trail or trail network that is of sufficient quality with appropriate facilities, products and services to be recognised beyond the State and to attraction visitors to WA (e.g. Bibbulmun Track or Munda Biddi Trail).

Regional Trails – A major trail or trail network that services a population centre or large regional community, with facilities and services of a standard and appeal that could attract visitors from outside the region.

Local Trails – A trail that services the local community and provides facilities suited to local use. Some local trails may have potential for development to regional status.

Q: What is a 'trail town'?

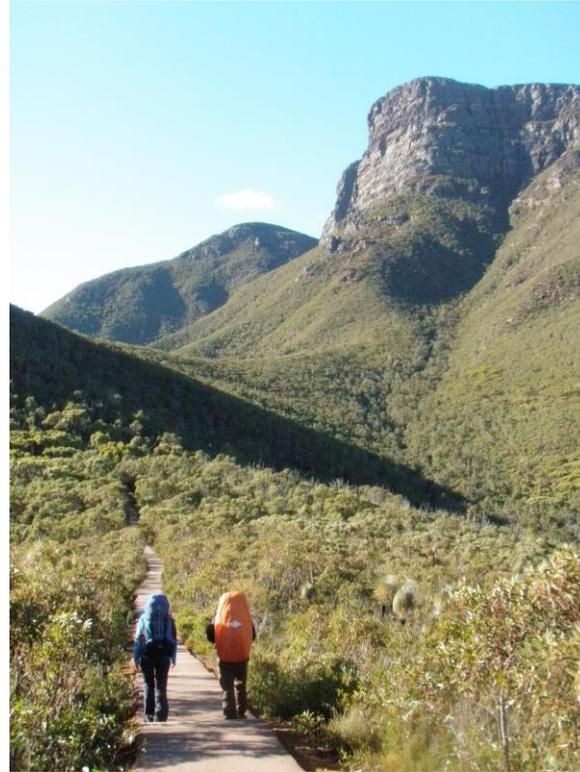
A population centre which has been assessed and accredited as a destination for its trails offering through the provision of high quality trails (single or mixed use); outdoor experiences that encourage extended visitation; trail-user related facilities and services (including accommodation); trail-related businesses; and trail branding and signage.

Q: We already have the Albany Trail Hub Strategy, why do we need another trail plan?

A: The Albany Trail Hub Strategy provides a comprehensive plan for the Albany municipal area. The Regional Trails Master Plan will build on this strategy to identify trail building opportunities in other parts of the Great Southern.

Q: Does the Regional Trails Master Plan supersede the Albany Trail Hub Strategy?

A: No. The Albany Trail Hub Strategy is the foundation stone of the Regional Trails Master Plan. The Albany Trail Hub Strategy is the result of extensive community consultation in Albany and addresses the needs of a diversity of trail user groups. When implemented, it will position Albany as a regional Trail Town. However, outside of Albany most other local governments in the Great Southern lack trail planning. To position the region as a trail destination we need to create a network of trail towns and trail centres across the entire region.



Q: How can I find out more about the project?

A: There are lots of ways to contact us:

W: www.gscore.com.au

FB: [Facebook: /gscore.adventure](https://www.facebook.com/gscore.adventure)

eNews: gscore.com.au > subscribe

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