



## Northern Trails 2022

Northern Trails 2022 establishes a framework for the planning and development of regional trails in Melbourne's north. It documents a realistic planning framework and implementable action plan to establish a high-quality network of integrated and connected shared trails sensitively linking communities, destinations and a diverse range of urban and natural environments.

The regional trail network will provide desirable, safe and accessible transport and recreation opportunities for residents and collectively reinforce the region as a world-class trails destination for visitors. The strategy focuses on 'regional trails', which are higher order trails that have a regional scale, purpose and/or impact. They have multiple potential user groups, an off-road location and a relatively long and continuous length.

It should also be noted that each Council will have its own priorities relating to local trails.

Northern Trails 2022 primarily covers paths for walking and cycling, but also includes bridle paths. Many of the proposed paths connect and extend existing paths, significantly multiplying their benefits. A pool of ongoing funding would maximise benefits, as this is a 10-year plus plan that has the potential to be region-changing.

Twenty-five existing and potential regional trails were identified within the study area, from which more specific actions have been identified and mapped. A list of trail improvement projects and actions were identified and assessed against a set of criteria, allowing them to be prioritised.

To undertake the multi-criteria analysis, a series of qualitative and quantitative criteria were developed and assigned a weighting.

The criteria and the relative weighting used are as follows:

- contribution to an integrated and connected network (26 per cent)
- encouraging use by spatial location (18 per cent)
- potential economic benefits (5 per cent)
- contribution to community health and wellbeing (5 per cent)
- contribution to uniqueness and the quality of the natural environment (18 per cent)
- encouraging diversity of use through facility quality and maximising usability (5 per cent)
- strategic alignment (18 per cent)



- ease of implementation (5 per cent)

The criteria, assessment process and the priority action items outline the priorities for Melbourne’s north and the whole regional trail network.

Advocacy priority list: top 10 unfunded projects

As part of the strategy, there is a list of ‘top 10 unfunded trail action items’.

No.	Trail action item	Project description	Council
1	Maroondah Aqueduct (_01)	Construct new section of trail connecting the Plenty River Trail near Lear Court, east along the aqueduct across Diamond Creek Road to the Diamond Creek Trail at Allendale Road.	Nillumbik
2	Merri Creek Trail (_08)	Complete missing section of trail from the Metropolitan Ring Road to existing section of trail south of Horne Street.	Hume
3	Maroondah Aqueduct (_02)	Construct new section of trail from Main Road Diamond Creek, along Eltham-Yarra Glen Road, Creek Road, Eltham Road, Carters Lane and along Fryers Gully Drain while ensuring minimal impact to the Warrandyte–Kinglake Nature Conservation Reserve. * final alignment to be confirmed.	Nillumbik
4	Edgars Creek Trail (_01)	Construct new section of trail from the Merri Creek Trail to Ronald Street on the west bank.	Moreland
5	Merri Creek Trail (_02)	Partner with Parks Victoria and DELWP to extend the Merri Creek Trail from Merri Concourse (north) to Cooper Street.	Hume
6	Upfield Rail (_02)	Advocate to Department of Transport to construct a new section of trail from the Metropolitan Ring Road to Somerton Road.	Hume
7	Whittlesea Shared (_01)	Construct a new trail along the train line from Mernda Station to Laurel Street, Whittlesea. Ensure there is provision for horse riders on parts of the trail.	Whittlesea
8	Merri Creek Trail (_03)	Advocate for and investigate the staged extension of the Merri Creek Trail from Cooper Street Somerton/Epping north to OHerns Road as a part of the Upper Merri Creek Regional Parkland Plan.	Hume & Whittlesea
9	Merri Creek Trail (_04)	Advocate for and investigate the staged extension of the Merri Creek Trail from OHerns Road to Craigieburn Road as a part of the Upper Merri Creek Regional Parkland Plan.	Hume & Whittlesea
10	Kinglake Way (_01)	Establish a new trail from Hurstbridge to Arthurs Creek.	Nillumbik

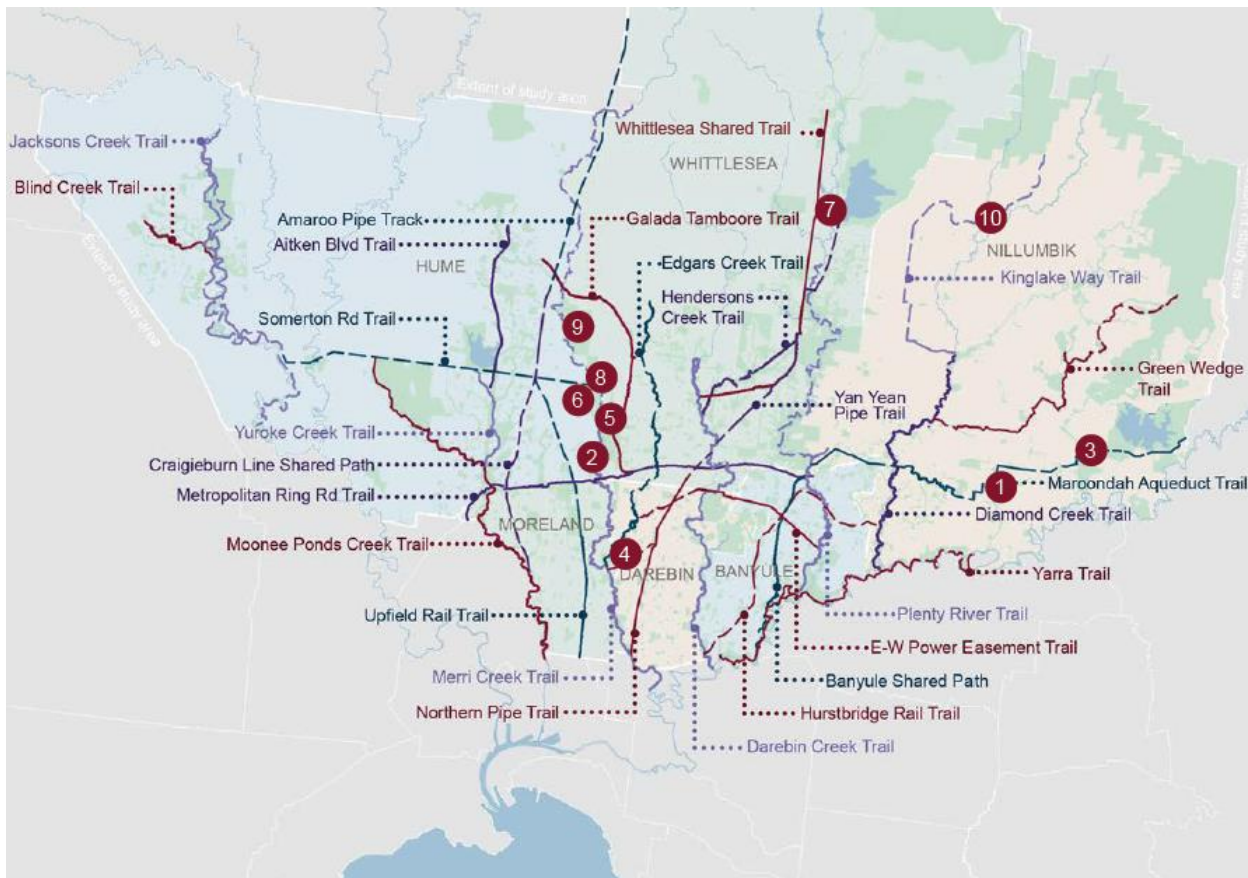


## Next steps

Advocacy will continue for a 10-year pipeline of funding (estimated \$110 million) to complete all stages of the Northern Trails project, including delivery, which will:

- ensure a holistic approach to the planning, design and delivery of the regional network of trails in a transparent, fair and coordinated way
- include all phases of the trail projects including advocacy, planning, design, construction, delivery and ongoing maintenance
- fully support the Northern Trails 2022 strategy, which establishes a framework for the delivery of this network of trails for the next 10 years and beyond.

## The Northern Regional Trail Network



Top ten trail action items