



# Outdoor recreation and trails planning

## Our approach

With land for traditional parks and sports facilities limited, and urban sprawl approaching bushland areas, outdoor recreation pursuits are growing in popularity. Many local governments and state government agencies are realising the benefits in seeking external advice in terms of planning for outdoor recreation activities and specific areas. Outdoor recreation incorporates a wide-range of activities, many of which are not complementary. Planning for outdoor recreation is often complex, multi-pronged and requires the input from a wide variety of stakeholders. ROSS Planning believes in taking time to understand the opportunities and constraints of outdoor recreation planning at the local level prior to making any significant recommendations. ROSS Planning undertake detailed and thorough investigation across a number of criteria to ensure that there is a balanced and optimal outcomes for both the natural and social environments.

Trails and tracks are generally considered the most demanded infrastructure requirement for many outdoor recreation activities. Planning tracks and trails for differing uses (bushwalking, mountain biking, equestrian trails or off-road motorcycle trails) requires specialised skills and planning experience.

## Case studies

### Queensland Government— Feasibility Study for a Regional Off-Road Motorcycling Facility

The purpose of the study was to undertake a feasibility study and concept plan for a multi-disciplinary off-road motorcycling facility. While the subject site had no formalised use, the site had a number of informal recreation users. The project included: identifying opportunities and constraints associated with developing an off-road motorcycling facility; investigating solutions and options for mitigating constraints; and preparing concept plan options prior to undertaking a detailed feasibility analysis and facility design.

### Gympie Regional Council — Tracks and Trails Plan

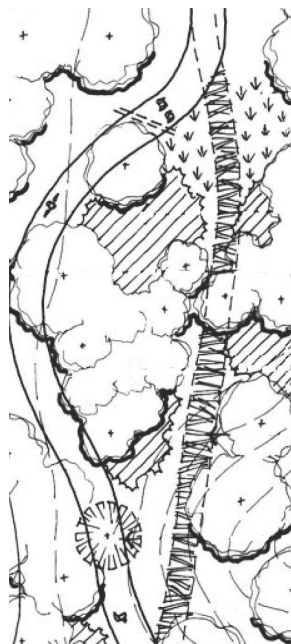
The Tracks and Trails Plan investigates opportunities to increase and enhance the tracks and trail-based activities (namely walking, horse riding and mountain bike riding) within the public areas of the region.

The aim of the project was to develop a strategy that ensures that trail provision meets demand (from both the local community and visitors) and ensures a diverse range of quality trail-based activity opportunities. The project provides strategies to increase tourism and economic opportunities by enhancing and promoting the region's trail networks.

### Ipswich City Council — Outdoor Recreation Plan

The plan informs Council's strategic direction, provision and management of nature-based/outdoor recreation, recreation trails and water-based recreation within Ipswich. The plan has been prepared from an activity demand, capacity, development, management and partnership perspective.

The plan encompasses outdoor recreation in both private and public lands. Additionally, it considers sustainable, nature-based recreation within the natural area estates. Broad scale, concept master plans have been developed for each significant city-wide and district level reserve to assess the ecological values and subsequently to identify any suitable recreation activities. The plan also includes strategic recreation track and trail planning to direct the preparation of master plans/management plans for each trail. An assessment of water-based recreation access and demand has also been undertaken.



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## Outdoor recreation and trails planning project list

- Brisbane City Council -
  - Anstead Bushland Reserve Concept Plan
  - Brisbane Koala Bushlands Natural Area Concept Planning
  - Boondall Wetlands Natural Area Concept Planning
  - Keperra Bushland Reserve Natural Area Concept Planning
  - Mt Coot-tha Reserve Outdoor Recreation Plan
  - Natural Area Track and Trail Analysis
  - Mountain Bike Parks Master Plans
- Broken Hill City Council -
  - Primitive Camping Feasibility Study
  - Walk and Cycle Strategy
- Cessnock City Council - Cycling Strategy
- Gold Coast City Council -
  - Gold Coast Hinterland Tourism Audit and Mapping Project
  - Gold Coast Outdoor Recreation Strategy (sub-consultant)
  - Motorcycle Complexes Plans of Management
  - Community Motor Sport Precinct Site Analysis
- Gympie Regional Council - Tracks and Trails Plan
- Ipswich City Council - Outdoor Recreation Plan
- Kingaroy Shire Council - Walk and Cycle Plan
- Moreton Bay Regional Council
  - Recreational Trail Construction Guidelines (sub-consultant)
  - Outdoor Recreation Plan
- Mount Isa City Council - Cycling Plan
- Queensland Government, Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing - Feasibility Study for a Regional Off-Road Motorcycling Facility
- Redland City Council - Redland Track Park Master Plan
- Sunshine Coast Regional Council - Recreational Trail Construction Guidelines (sub-consultant)
- Upper Hunter Shire Council - Bicycle Plan
- Upper Lachlan Shire Council - PAMP and Bike Plan
- Whitsunday Regional Council - Bridle Trail Master Plan
- Wide Bay Burnett Wide Bay Burnett - Sport and Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Strategy

