

Connect Melbourne's north: complete Northern Trails



Transport
connectivity
and access

Northern Trails 2022 sets out a ready-to-go plan for over 25 connected walking, cycling and riding paths. With \$110 million over 10 years, it will fix missing links, improve access, boost wellbeing and support active transport across a fast-growing region.

Our ask (deliverables)

We are seeking a committed 10-year, \$110 million investment to implement the *Northern Trails 2022* priorities, building the missing links, completing region-shaping corridors and delivering more than 25 safe, connected regional-scale shared paths for walking, cycling and horse riding.

Priority deliverables focus on completing the region's major missing links, including:

- **construction of the 5-kilometre critical link** connecting the Plenty River Trail and the Diamond Creek Trail (Greensborough to Eltham North)
- **completion of the Edgars Creek connection** to Merri Creek
- **new connections and extensions** along Merri Creek Trail (multiple sections between Metropolitan Ring Road and Craigieburn Road)
- **extension of the Maroondah Aqueduct Trail** (Diamond Creek → Warrandyte–Kinglake corridor)
- **new links on the Upfield Rail Trail** (Metropolitan Ring Road → Somerton Road)
- **a new Whittlesea Shared Trail** (Mernda → Whittlesea), including provision for horse riders
- **a new Kinglake Way Trail** (Hurstbridge → Arthurs Creek).

These projects form the Top 10 Unfunded Priority Actions identified through a multi-criteria assessment focused on connectivity, environment, health, economic uplift, usability and strategic alignment.

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 destination for visitors.

Northern Trails 2022

Projects are ready to go

Northern Trails 2022 provides:

- a fully developed, region-wide planning framework and mapped network
- a prioritised action plan backed by quantitative assessment
- identified alignments (where confirmed), partnerships and staging pathways
- clear governance and delivery sequencing
- a costed 10-year pipeline requiring \$110 million for planning, design, construction and ongoing maintenance.

Many projects are ready to proceed to design or construction pending funding.

Why we need Northern Trails projects to commence now

Our region is experiencing rapid population growth, significant transport gaps and rising demand for safe active transport corridors.

Current constraints include:

- critical missing links that undermine the functionality of existing paths, reducing usage and delivering poor network performance
- trails that end abruptly at municipal boundaries or major roads, creating unsafe conditions and forcing users onto busy traffic corridors
- key regional destinations (stations, town centres, open space and employment precincts) that remain inaccessible by continuous off-road paths.

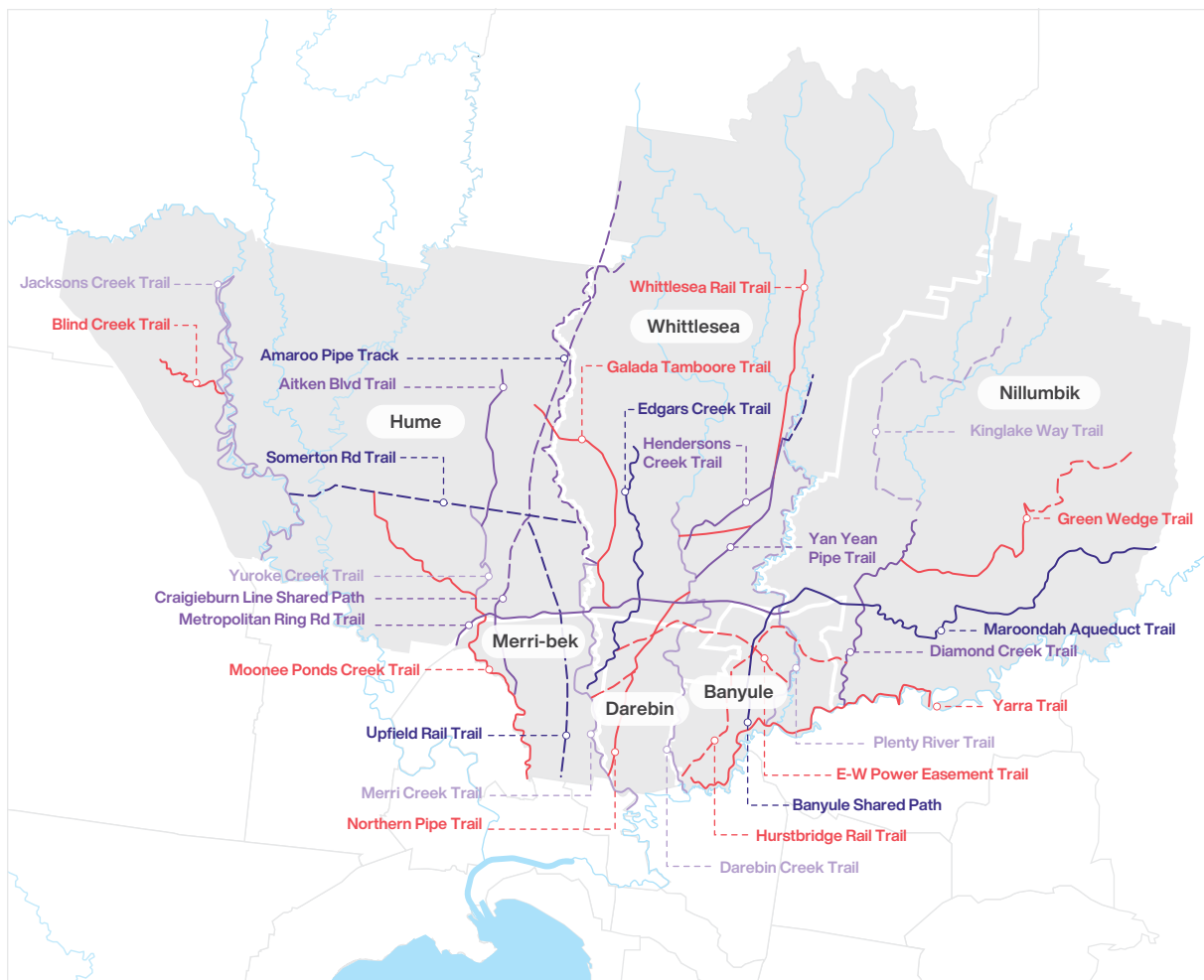
Without intervention, our region risks widening inequality in access to transport, nature and recreation.

Our *Northern Trails 2022* report represents our region's collective, agreed roadmap. What is missing is the long-term, stable investment required to deliver it.

Benefits of delivering this important project

A fully connected Northern Regional Trail Network will:

- provide safe, continuous active transport routes that reduce car dependence and congestion
- enable equitable access for communities with limited transport options
- increase physical activity and deliver measurable wellbeing outcomes, supported by high-quality off-road paths
- strengthen social connection through accessible public spaces
- create a world-class trails destination, attracting visitors and supporting local businesses
- unlock economic uplift through improved access to town centres and employment hubs
- promote low emissions transport
- offer connected green corridors that enhance environmental values and stewardship.



Regional trails often cross municipal boundaries, regularly traverse land managed by multiple different organisations and are funded from a range of sources. Northern Trails 2022 identifies the current management bodies and challenges, and identifies opportunities for improving management processes across organisations for the betterment of the regional trail network.

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