



# PATHWAYS & TRAILS EXPANSION STRATEGY

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup is a rural municipality with a current population of 5,940. The population of the Shire is projected to increase to 6,700 by 2026. This population growth places an increasing demand on the Shire's current and future pathway network. This strategy aims to provide a strategic direction for the development of new pathways and trails within the Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup.

Pathways and trails provide health, social and economic benefits to the community by encouraging walking, cycling and other recreational and leisure activities. Pathways and trails also provide an alternative mode of transport which is safe for all users.

The Shire has identified a lack of trails within the Shire and expects the demand for these types of pathways to increase as the community grows. There is currently very little information available regarding trails but the Shire acknowledges these form part of the pathway network.

## **2. PATHWAYS AND TRAILS EXPANSION STRATEGY**

Pathways and trails form an important part of the infrastructure of the Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup and have been identified from community feedback, upgrading of existing infrastructure and new subdivision development.

The following areas are being addressed in this strategy;

- Planning and Development
- Design
- Funding
- Access for all users

### **2.1. Planning and Development**

Planning and development of new pathways and trails will be undertaken in a manner that ensures;

- Accessibility – pathways and trails are to be accessible and safe for all users
- Network Connectivity – priority will be given to pathways which create recreation loops
- Connectivity to Community Facilities and Attractions – proximity to schools, recreational buildings, ovals, parks, public transport infrastructure and other community activity nodes
- Consider alignment with the Bunbury-Wellington 2050 Cycling Strategy – particularly the priority Actions listed relevant to the Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup.

- Compliance – compliant with current Australian Standards, design guidelines and council standards

## **2.2. Design**

The Shire will consider the following factors when designing extensions of our pathways and trails:

- Compliant – pathways and trails are designed to comply with the latest standards and guidelines
- Alignment – clearances from infrastructure to ensure the safety of users
- Construction Material – suitable for the intended purpose of the pathway
- Width – consideration is given to the comfort of the user
- Environmental Impact – ensure the impact on the environment is kept to a minimum
- Drainage – easy to maintain
- Accessibility – pathways and trails are to be accessible by all users
- Consistency – consistent with the surrounding landscape

## **2.3. Funding**

The Shire will pursue various funding sources to contribute towards the cost of constructing pathways and trails. Funding is available from the following sources:

- Shire's Capital Works Program
- State Government Grants
- Federal Government Grants
- Developer Contribution Scheme
- Any other available Grants/Funding

## **2.4. Access for all users**

The Shire will endeavor to;

- Develop new pathways and trails that are accessible, safe and practical
- Consider minimizing number of crossings to provide continuity of pathway
- Provide dual use pathways where possible
- Comply with the Shire's Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2017-2022

### 3. PATHWAYS HIERARCHY

The Shire has developed a pathways hierarchy and definition to categorize pathways & trails.

Hierarchy	Definition	Design Standard
Dual Use Path	A pathway which facilitates pedestrians, cyclists, wheelchair and gopher users	Minimum 2.0m wide constructed from concrete or asphalt
Pedestrian Path	A pathway predominantly used by pedestrians	Minimum 1.5m wide constructed from concrete, asphalt or brick paving
Trail	A pathway which caters for recreational use	A trail of suitable width constructed from limestone, gravel or other natural materials.

### 4. PRIORITY OF WORKS

The cost of new pathways is substantial and priority has been given to locations that provide critical links and recreation loops. Within townsite areas, it would normally be expected that an adjacent sealed and kerbed road would exist before construction of a new pathway is considered. Funding from external agencies also plays a significant part in the prioritization of works.

The following criteria are to be used to prioritize and rank new projects, prior to them being included in future works programs . Each criterion is allocated a score, of which the score weighting is applied to reach an overall ranking score out of 100.

The following criteria list will be used to prioritize and rank new pathways and trails, prior to projects being included in future works programs. Each criterion is allocated a score for the purpose of ranking future works.

Criteria	Definition	Score Weighting
Traffic Volume	Does the volume of traffic warrant a dedicated pathway/trail?	15%
Community Facilities and Attractions	Does the pathway/trail provide connectivity to a community facility or attraction?	20%
Network Connectivity	Does the pathway/trail improve/extend the current path/trail network?	25%
Environmental	Does the pathway/trail negatively impact	15%

	the environment?	
Services/Infrastructure	Do any services require relocation?	10%
Community Support	Is there strong community support?	15%

## 5. RECOMMENDATIONS

The following are recommendations to facilitate the implementation of the Pathways & Trails Expansion Strategy.

- The Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup - Pathways & Trails Expansion Strategy be adopted by Council and used for the planning, development and implementation of future pathways to conform with changing community expectations.
- Council allocates a minimum of \$60,000 annually, regardless of external funding, to expand the Shire's Path & Trails network.
- A review and update of this strategy is to be undertaken every three (3) years, with a desktop review conducted annually.

<b>Adopted:</b>	26 July 2017
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<b>Responsible Department:</b>	Works & Services