



JOHN FORREST
NATIONAL PARK

TRAIL NETWORK
CONCEPT PLAN

Contents

Prepared by Common Ground Trails Pty Ltd for Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions

Acknowledgements

The authors of John Forrest National Park Trail Network Concept Plan respectfully acknowledge that this land on which we live and work is Noongar country, and that the Noongar people are the traditional custodians who have a rich social, spiritual and historical connection to this country, which is as strong today, as it was in the past.

Common Ground Trails wishes to acknowledge the significant contribution of the Project Advisory Group (PAG) as well as the valuable input from, stakeholders, organisation representatives, users and individuals.

Disclaimer

Common Ground Trails Pty Ltd, its employees, directors and associated entities shall not be liable for any loss, damage, claim, costs, demands and expenses for any damage or injury of any kind whatsoever and howsoever arriving in connection with the use of this Plan or in connection with activities undertaken in mountain biking, hiking and trail running generally.

While all due care and consideration has been undertaken in the preparation of this report, Common Ground Trails Pty Ltd advise that all recommendations, actions and information provided in this document is based upon research as referenced in this document.

Common Ground Trails Pty Ltd and its employees are not qualified to provide legal, medical or financial advice. Accordingly, detailed information in this regard will require additional professional consultation in order to adequately manage and maintain the facilities and reduce risk.

Revision	Description	Date
A	Draft for client review	29/06/21
B	Final	06/08/21



John Forrest National Park Trail Network | Concept Plan

Introduction	3
Project Overview	3
Planning Context	3
Project Objectives	3
Scope and Scale	4
Target Market	4
Engagement and Consultation	4
Site Assessment	5
Tenure/management zones	5
Topography & hydrology	5
Flora	6
Fauna	6
Hygiene (Phytophthora Dieback)	6
Cultural Values	7
Unsanctioned Trails	7
Existing Trails and Facilities	8
Broader context	9
John Forrest Trail Network Concept	10
Core trail experiences	10
Infrastructure	11
Trail Summaries	13
Railway Reserves Heritage Trail	13
Jane Brook Promenade	13
National Park Falls Walk	13
Glen Brook Trail	14
Wildflower Walk	15
Little Eagle Walk Trail	16
Eagle View Walk Trail	17
John Forrest Green Ride	18
John Forrest Blue Ride	19
Trail Running trails	20
Trail status	21



Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions



Introduction

Project Overview

John Forrest National Park (JFNP), located on the edge of the Darling Scarp, is well known for its wildflowers, scenic views and historic picnic / garden precinct. The park has a long history as a hiking destination and being located less than an hour drive from Perth the park is a popular day trip for Perth residents and visitors. The park is also characterised by significant conservation values with vegetation complexes which are unique and limited in range.

JFNP contains six formal well established hiking trails with a range of lengths and classifications (Class 1-4). DBCA Perth Hills District staff maintain and upgrade the trails, however major maintenance, realignments and potential new trails are being explored to revitalise the hiking experience in JFNP and reduce long term maintenance requirements by ensuring trails are sustainably constructed.

The park receives over 40,000 bicycle visits per year (Park Stats) these are predominantly along the popular Railway Reserve Heritage Trail (Class White – Easiest – Type Touring). Off-road cycling (mountain biking) is permitted within the park on approved trails only. There are no sanctioned dedicated off-road cycling trails in the park, however, a significant network of unsanctioned (Class predominantly Black – difficult type cross country and gravity) trails exist. DBCA Perth Hills District is actively removing and rehabilitating unsanctioned trails, primarily in high conservation areas.

Trail running is growing exponentially within the State (WA Hiking strategy 2020) and is becoming very popular within JFNP. Both sanctioned events and informal trail running is on the increase, with runners utilising the walk tracks, management tracks and some of the unsanctioned trails.

JFNP is also a popular destination for events, with the number of recreation events in the park on the increase. Events currently held in the park include Oxfam 100km, Orienteering, Rogaining, trail running, marathon running, guided hiking and yoga in the bush.

Planning Context

The John Forrest National Park Management Plan 1994-2004 provides overarching management guidance for the Park. Due to its age, the management guidance on off-road cycling is limited. The document is soon to be replaced by the Parks of the Darling Range Management Plan. This management plan is not likely to be completed within the planning phase of this project. Any activities that are not explicitly allowed under the current Management Plan may require interim guidelines or management plan.

The Perth Peel Mountain Bike Masterplan (2017) identified John Forrest National Park as a high priority site as part of the broader, Nationally Significant Perth Hills Precinct.

The John Forrest National Park Recreation Master Plan (2017) provides guidance for the development and maintenance a trail network with a range of trails to meet the needs of users including walking, mountain bike riding, trail running and equestrian.

Other strategic/ guidance documents which have informed the development of the concept plan include:

- WA Hiking Strategy Bushwalking and trail running in Western Australia 2020 – 2030.
- John Forrest National Park Improvement Program – Business case 2019 (including user survey).
- Western Australian Mountain Bike Management Guidelines (WAMTBMG).
- John Forrest National Park Visitor Precinct Master Plan 2021.

Project Objectives

The objectives of this project are to establish an accessible coherent and intuitive trail network for a range of trail users that showcases the unique attributes of the JFNP landscape. The trail network should emanate from the proposed Park Centre. Overall objectives and objectives for each trail user group are outlined below:

Overall

- Ensure trails consider environmental and cultural heritage values and provide a sympathetic fit within the natural landscape.
- Ensure trail development is consistent with best practice planning, design and construction standards.
- Develop a high-quality walk, trail run and off road cycling trail system suitable for a diverse range of users, focusing on adventure and nature appreciation
- Provide inclusive trails, specifically trails with access for off-road hand cycles and other mobility equipment
- Trails to accommodate eMTB and adaptive (e)bikes.

Hiking

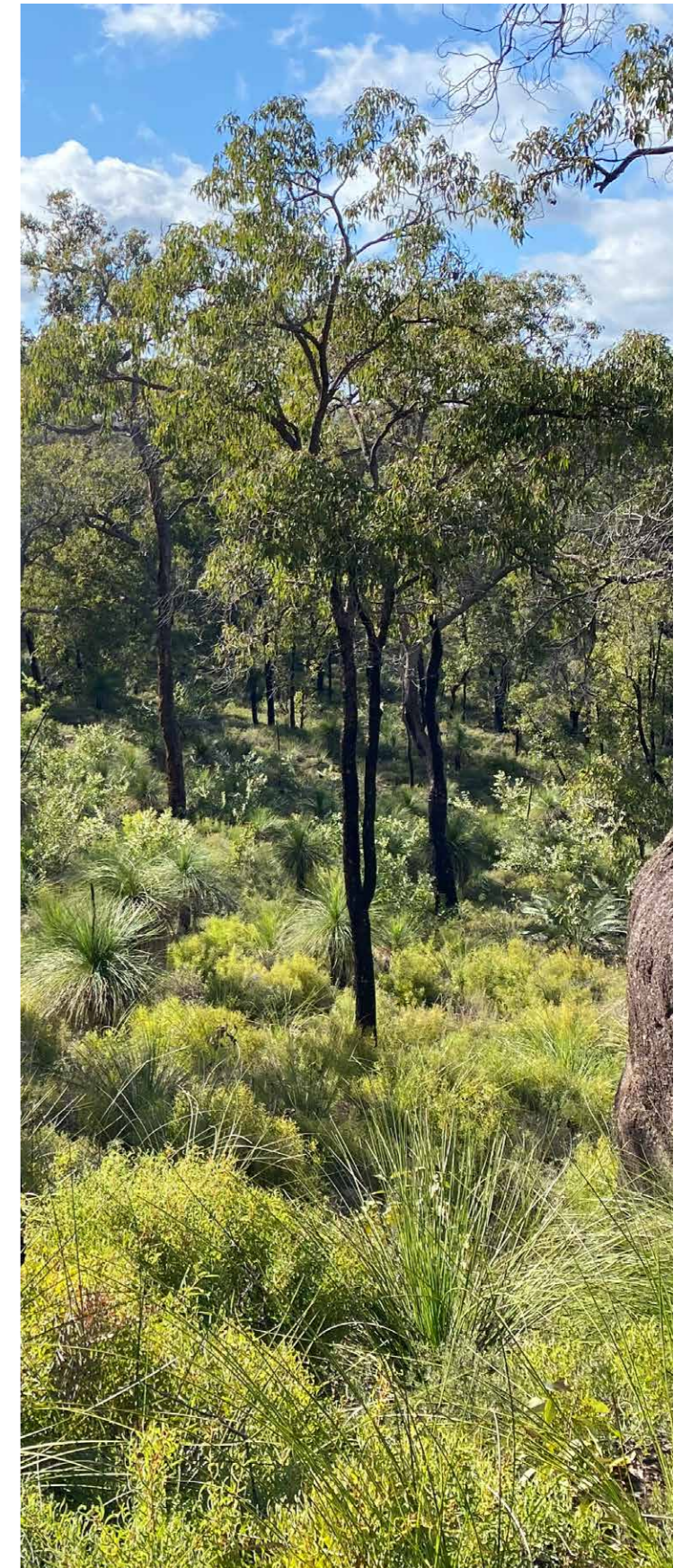
- Maintain and enhance the hiking experience at JFNP by reviewing, maintaining, and realigning existing trails and explore options for new strategic linking and loop trails.
- Provide for more hiking opportunities off management trails.
- Reduce long term maintenance through development of sustainable trails whilst minimising impact on natural and cultural assets.
- Develop or improve half to full day loop options.
- Retain family and leisure focused recreation.

Trail Running

- Provide for a range of trail classifications
- Ensure the network caters for event use with possibility to use Off Road Cycling trails in event scenarios

Off Road Cycling

- Develop easily accessible, high quality, sustainable off-road cycling trails fitting with JFNP character and values.
- Trails should complement, not replicate, other off-road or mountain bike experiences in the Perth Hills District and greater Perth region.
- Retain family and leisure focused recreation.
- Focus on provision of adventure style riding experience – journey rather than technical session-ability.



Scope and Scale

The network will comprise of approximately 21km of hiking trails, and up to 35km of new or upgraded/realigned off road cycling trail. Trail running will be allowed across hike and off road cycling trails. The primary focus of the trail network is recreational trail riding, running and walking with capability to host trail running and cross country MTB events. Access to the trail network will be focussed around the proposed park centre development.

Hiking/trail running

The Eagle View is a regionally significant hiking trail which is complemented by shorter locally significant trails. The scale of proposed hiking trail development includes:

- Upgrade and realignments of the Eagle View Walk Trail to ensure long term sustainability.
- New ridge walk for half loop option.
- Extension of the Glen Brook Trail to Park Rd/Great Eastern Hwy or possible loop option.
- New trail options to be considered.
- Trail classification to include a range from Class 1 through to Class 4.

Off-road cycling

The off road cycling trails will be a local to regional scale significance and will form part of the nationally significant Perth Hills Precinct as outlined in the Perth and Peel MTB Master Plan. The scope and scale of proposed off road cycling trail development includes:

- Approximately 20-35 km of new trail, (sufficient to create desired loops) including some upgrades to existing management tracks.
- Trails will have a strong focus on easy riding (green) to intermediate (blue) classifications with natural features whilst minimising physical and visual impact on the park. The aim is to cater for beginners to intermediate riders whilst reducing impact on the many significant environmental and cultural assets of the park.
- Trail type will have a focus on cross country and touring.

Target Market

The primary target market for the John Forrest National Park Trail Network is leisure and enthusiast trail users. These markets are comprised of casual recreation trail walkers and/or off road cyclists who require accessible trails, good support infrastructure and trails with limited technical challenge. These trail users will typically spend a few hours up to a day on the trail. The leisure and enthusiast trail user prefer accessible trails close to home and seek nature, escape, solitude and authenticity in the experience.

The secondary target market is the sport and independent trail users. These markets are seeking a more challenging trail and like the leisure and enthusiast markets seek nature, escape solitude and authenticity in the experience.

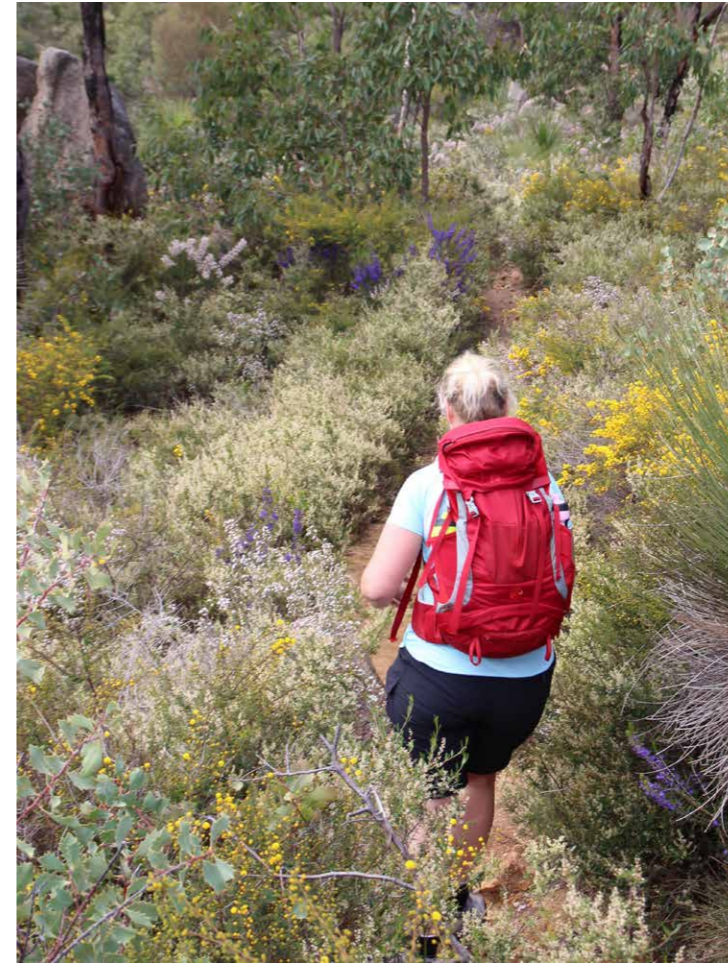
Engagement and Consultation

Project Advisory Group

The Project Advisory Group (PAG) comprised representatives from the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions head office and regional teams, Westcycle, HikeWest and Perth Trail Series. The PAG were involved in development of the concept with site visits and workshops undertaken in development of the broad concept. The broad concept and draft concept were presented to the PAG for feedback.

Key stakeholders

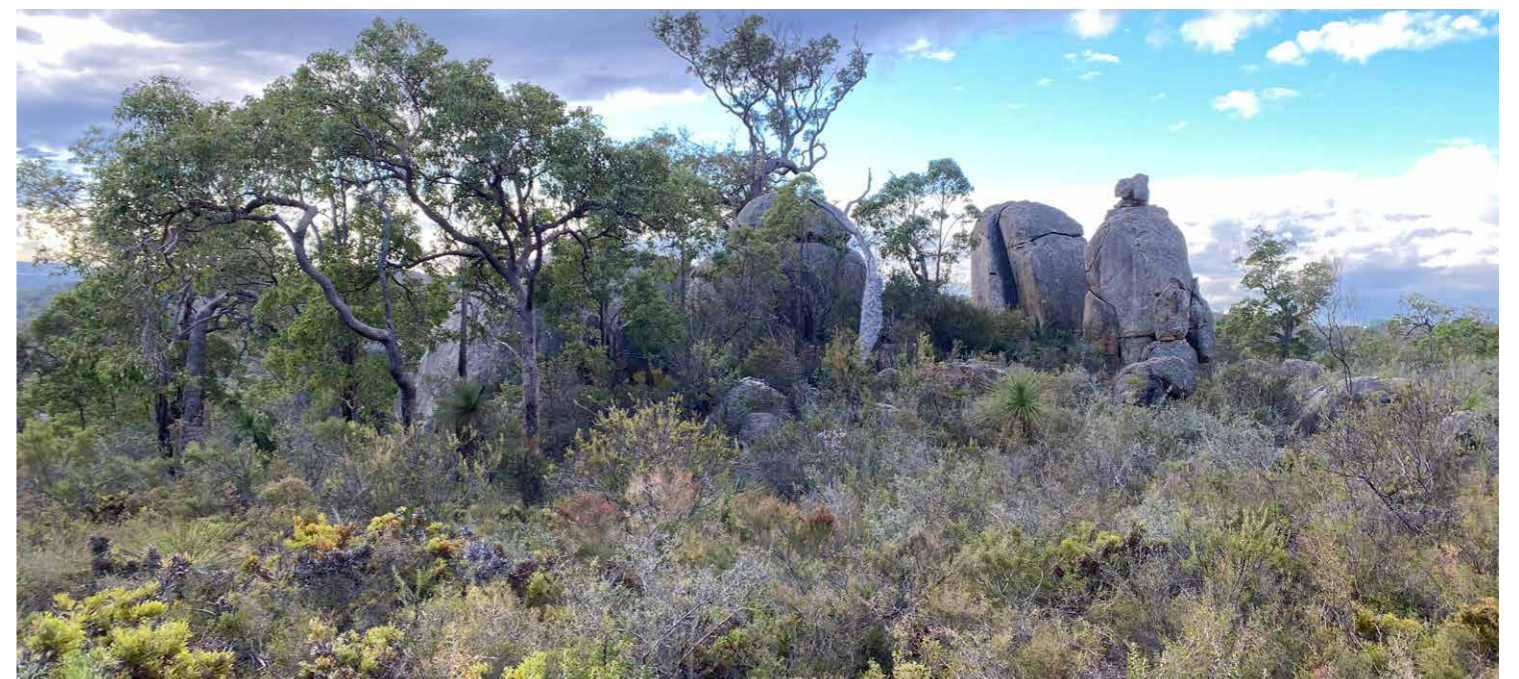
Key stakeholders were informed about the project and invited to provide input via email and phone conversations.



Eagle View Trail (source: www.weekendnotes.com)



Christmas Tree Creek Trail (source: www.adventurouswomen.com.au)



Granite outcrop in the north of JFNP (source: Common Ground Trails)

Site Assessment

Site assessment undertaken considered the inherent qualities of the landscape such as terrain and vegetation types, the existing visitor offer including trails and infrastructure and constraints such as dieback occurrence, threatened ecological community presence. The JFNP landscape includes native bushland, valleys and undulating hills covered with a diversity of vegetation interspersed with granite outcrops, waterfalls and stream courses, and historic and cultural landscape elements such as the picnic shelters.

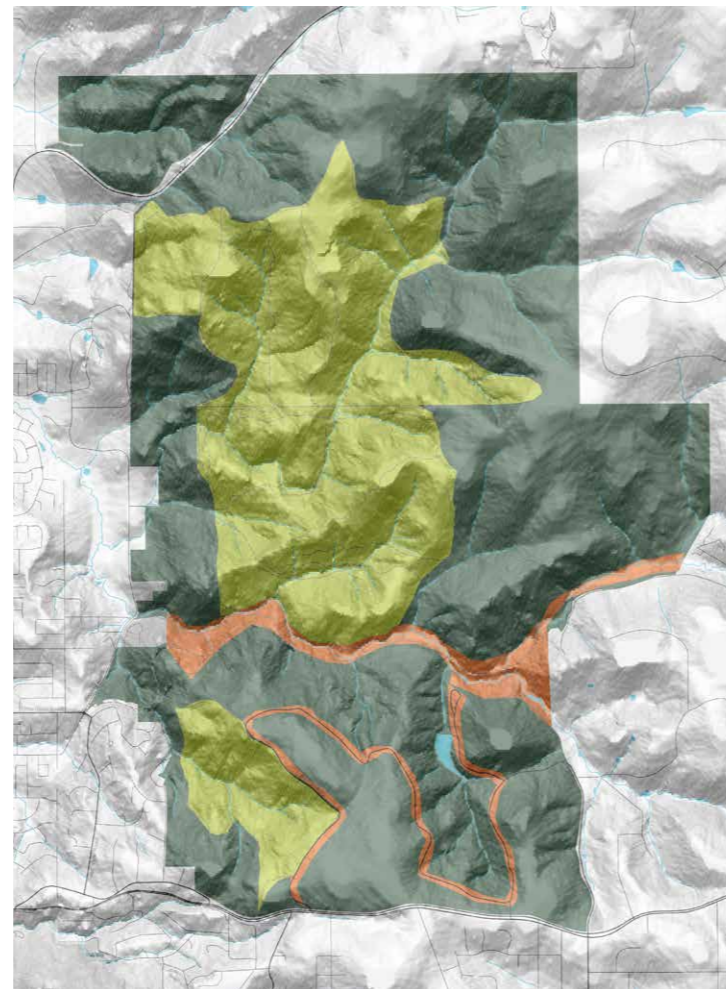
Tenure/management zones

The project area is within National Park managed by the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions and neighbored by freehold land. The park is divided into management zones with varying levels of recreation permissible in each:

Zone	Description	Recreation/facilities
Special Conservation Zone	Areas which contain unique, vulnerable or threatened species that require specific management and protection.	Recreation not encouraged and no facilities provided.
Natural Environment Zone	Areas of the park that will be retained in their natural state.	Recreation permitted with very few facilities provided.
Recreation Zone	Areas within which a broad range of recreation opportunities can be sustained.	Medium to high density recreation development permitted with a range of facilities provided.
Park Services Zone	Localised area which provides for ranger housing, visitor centre and park administration facilities.	Formalised facilities for park management.

Given the age of the management plan guidance on off road cycling is limited, it is expected that DBCA will need to establish interim guidelines or management plan to allow for development of off road cycling trails.

MAP 1 - JFNP management zones



Legend

- Natural Environment
- Special Conservation
- Recreation

Topography & hydrology

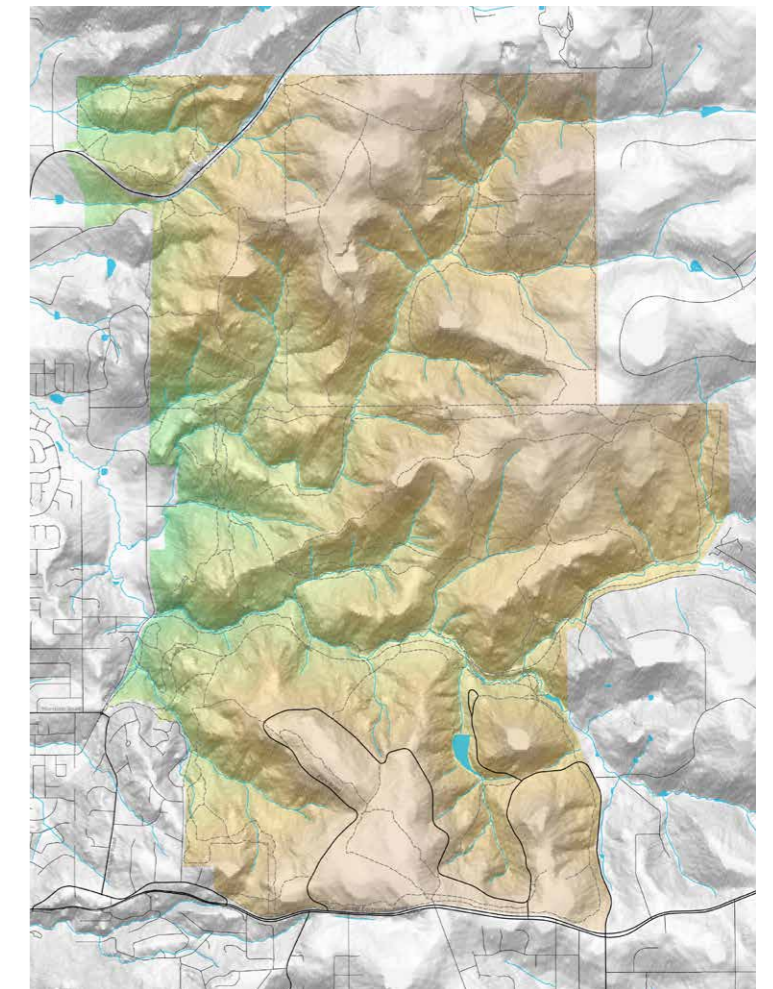
The Park is sited on the western edge of the Darling Plateau, an ancient plateau composed mainly of granite rock with intrusions and capped with laterite. As a result of weathering the Park has a number of distinct landscapes, namely lateritic uplands, minor valleys, major valleys and scarps.

There is significant elevation change with up to 225m of change from the highest point to the lowest point. A series of spurs and gullies provide for a range of slope gradients, providing good opportunity for engaging trail with purposeful ascents mixed with exhilarating descents. The varied terrain provides for a range of slope aspects

The Park's soils are influenced by the granite bedrock and physical geological processes. Within the Park, the soils are highly erodible and are sharply divided into those that are developed on either dolerite or granite.

No major river systems occur within JFNP, a mainly winter flowing stream, Jane Brook is the Parks main drainage line, with a series of tributaries throughout the Park. All streams flow from May to November. During a wet summer they flow for even longer periods. Some areas in the Park become swampy during winter. Hovea Falls and National Park Falls are seasonal waterfalls located on Jane Brook that are popular attractions for visitors when flowing. The Park's streams also have significance to Aboriginal people due to the presence of the mythological Wagyl.

MAP 2 - JFNP topography



Legend

- 5m
- 90m
- 190m
- 280m
- 370m

Flora

The project area contains a range of vegetation complexes largely defined by topographical variances. Vegetation structure ranges from jarrah, marri/wandoo woodlands to scarp heathlands. The vegetation complexes at the edge of the Darling Scarp and the Swan Coastal Plain are of particular interest as these communities are unique and limited in range.

There are also strongly defined patterns of vegetation associated with granite outcrops, swampy low lands and forested higher grounds. These variances provide opportunity to create a varied trail experience and work towards fostering a greater understanding of the landscape and ecosystem values for visitors, through experience, appreciation and interpretation.

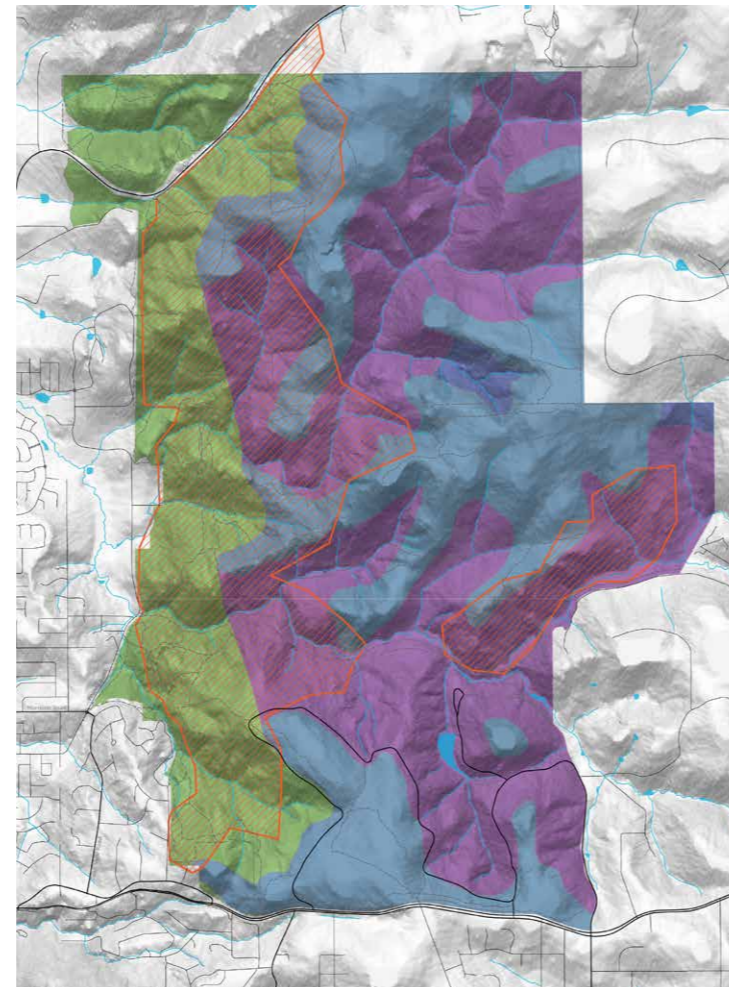
A significant number of Threatened and Priority species are found within the National Park. In addition to desk top surveys, field flora surveys are required to identify and assist in avoid impact.

Fauna

Some habitats, such as granite outcrops, wetlands and ecologically mature forest, are types of ecological communities that are significant for the abundance and diversity of flora and fauna habitats they provide.

The planning area is valuable for fauna conservation due to its size, habitat diversity and continuity with adjoining conservation estate. A significant number of Threatened and Priority species are found within the National Park. Design of the trail network will be cognisant of intact areas of habitat and the need to minimise further fragmentation.

MAP 3 - JFNP vegetation complexes



Legend

- Uplands - mosaic open forest
- Uplands - open forest
- Valleys - open forest dry
- Valleys - open forest sub humid
- Threatened Ecological Community

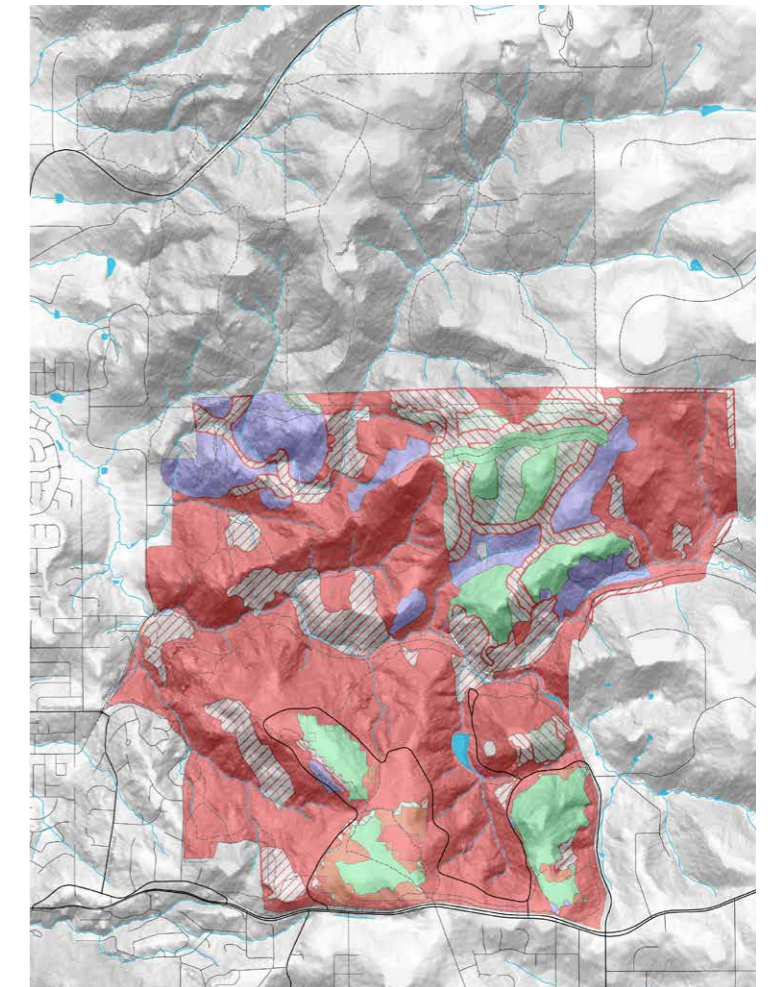
Hygiene (Phytophthora Dieback)

Phytophthora dieback disease, principally *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, has been in John Forrest National Park for about 90 years, likely having been introduced during timber production operations. Spread of phytophthora dieback has been from sources high in the landscape, by machinery used in logging operations and in constructing roads and tracks, and presumably in the use of tracks by vehicles, horses and walkers.

The southern portion of the National Park has been assessed (in the 1980s), approximately 50% of the southern section has been identified as infested, however due to land use and topography it is likely that much more is now infested. Despite the presence of *Phytophthora dieback*, the Park's conservation values remain high and the disease does not appear to be spreading rapidly, as indicated by recent surveys of small sections of the park. In some areas of the Park, *Phytophthora dieback* susceptible species have been replaced by species resistant to the disease.

Areas known to be dieback free have been avoided in the development of the trail network concept. Detailed corridor assessments will be undertaken as a next step and the trail realigned where necessary in detailed design.

MAP 4 - JFNP dieback occurrence



Legend

- Dieback infested
- Dieback free
- High potential risk/not effectively quarantined
- Low potential risk
- Suspect/uninterpretable

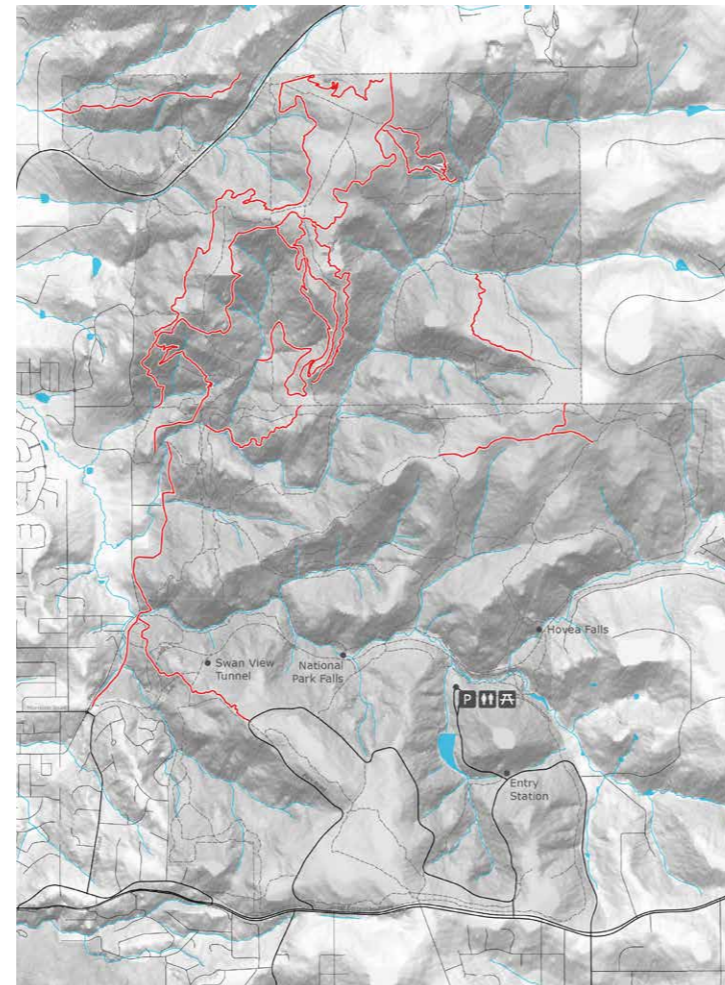
Unsanctioned Trails

There is a network of unsanctioned built trails in the park. These are concentrated in the north west area and are primarily gravity and cross country style off road cycling trails however it is understood that walkers and trail runners also use these trails. These trails will be closed and rehabilitated strategically as part of construction works with the nearby Goat Farm and Kalamunda Circuit offering trail styles which cater for this market.



Unsanctioned trail in the north of JFNP (source: Common Ground Trails)

MAP 5 - JFNP unsanctioned trails



Legend

— Unsanctioned trail
(source: trailforks)

Cultural Values

The project area has many layers of cultural heritage including Aboriginal and European values. The area supported a significant Nyoongar population prior to European settlement. Nyoongar people hunted in the area where the Park is now situated and used the Jane Brook Valley as an ancient highway to cross the Darling Scarp to the more open country in the east¹. The project area has six known registered sites of Aboriginal significance corridor assessments may uncover more sites.

European cultural heritage is also rich within the project area with a diverse range of stories and layers from early exploration and industries such as timber and tourism. During the 1930s the main visitor infrastructure was developed by sustenance workers including the main picnic area, parking and scenic drive². JFNP also contains significant heritage value for the State with relics associated with the east-west rail route including the Swn View Tunnel, bridges, embankments and station remnants.

There is opportunity in development of the John Forrest Trail Network for interpretation of sites of cultural significance which can assist in maintaining a sense of place and informing visitors about the values of the area. Areas of known significance have been avoided in the development of the trail network concept. Detailed corridor assessments including cultural heritage surveys will be undertaken as a next step and the trail realigned where necessary in detailed design.

1. 2019, John Forrest National Park Improvement Program Business Case. Keston Technologies
2. CALM 1994, John Forrest National Park management plan 1994



Swan View Tunnel (source: offthebeatentrackwa.com.au)

Existing Trails and Facilities

JFNP contains six formal well established hiking trails with a range of lengths and classifications. These trails are accessed from the main visitor precinct, and are a mix of purpose designed trail and management tracks.

Table 1: Existing trails within John Forrest National Park

Trail	Class	Length
Jane Brook Promenade	Class 1	300m
National Park Falls Walk	Class 2	1.3km
Glen Brook Trail	Class 3	2.2km
Wildflower Walk	Class 3	4.5km
Christmas Tree Creek Walk	Class 4	10.5km
Eagle View Walk	Class 4	16km

The Railway Reserves Heritage Trail which is a 41km loop traversing the old Eastern Railway passes through JFNP providing informal access to the park for walkers, trail runners and cyclists. Major features that can be accessed from the trail include National Park Falls, Hovea Falls and Swan View Tunnel.

The park receives over 40,000 bicycle visits per year (Park Stats) these are predominantly along the Railway Reserve Heritage Trail. Off-road cycling (mountain biking) is permitted within the park on approved management trails only. There are no sanctioned dedicated off-road cycling trails in the park, however, a significant network of unsanctioned (Class predominantly Black – difficult type cross country and gravity) trails exist.



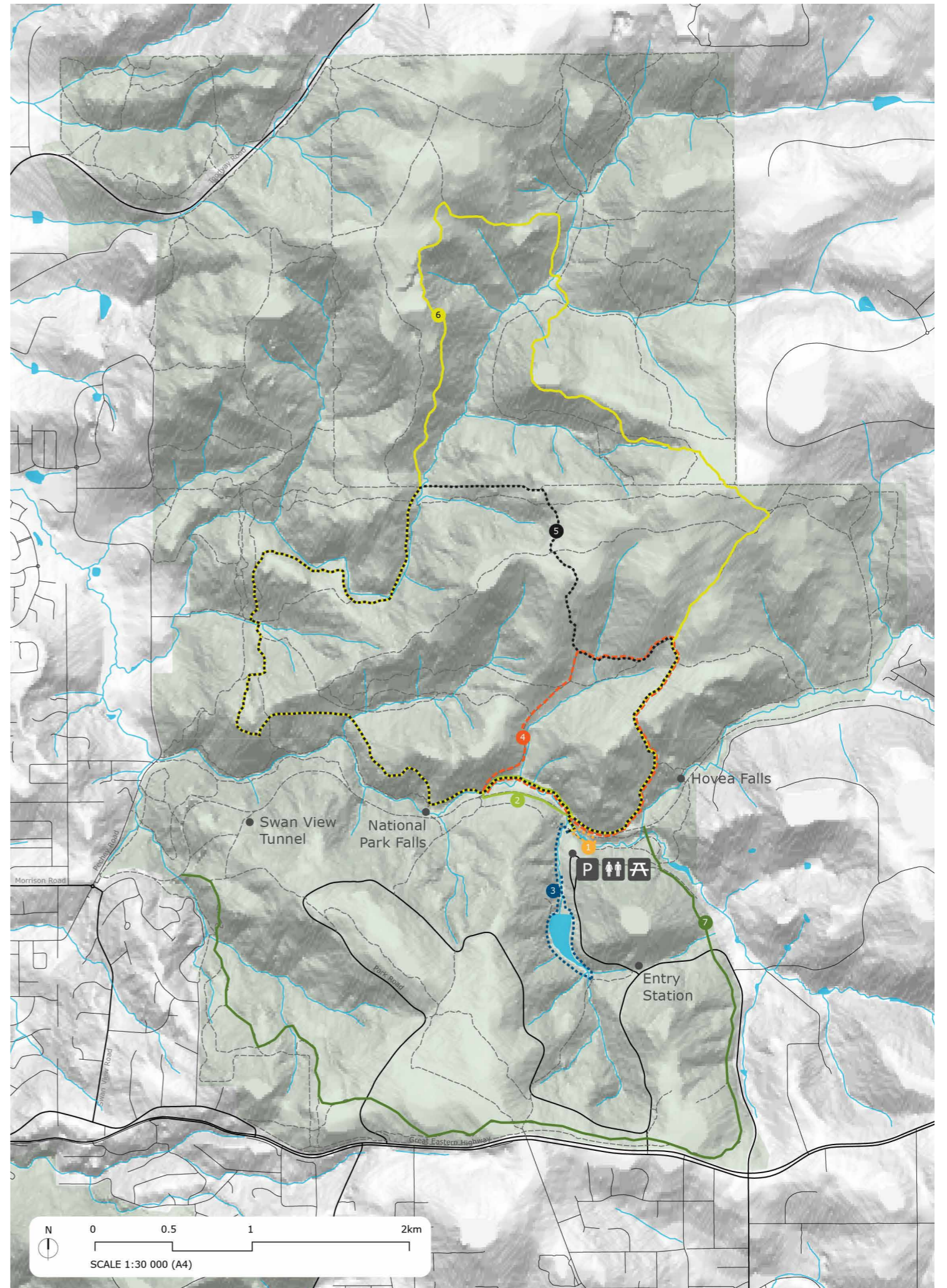
Railway Reserves Heritage Trail (source: Common Ground Trails)
John Forrest National Park Trail Network | Concept Plan

The main visitor precinct is accessed off the Great Eastern Highway via Park Road. This precinct contains carparking, picnic, toilets, café and park administration facilities. A Master Plan has been developed for the redevelopment of this precinct to ensure opportunities for future growth, retention and enhancement of the visitor experience and diversification of recreation opportunities are accommodated in the Park. The Master Plan has been a key reference document in development of the trail network concept.

Legend

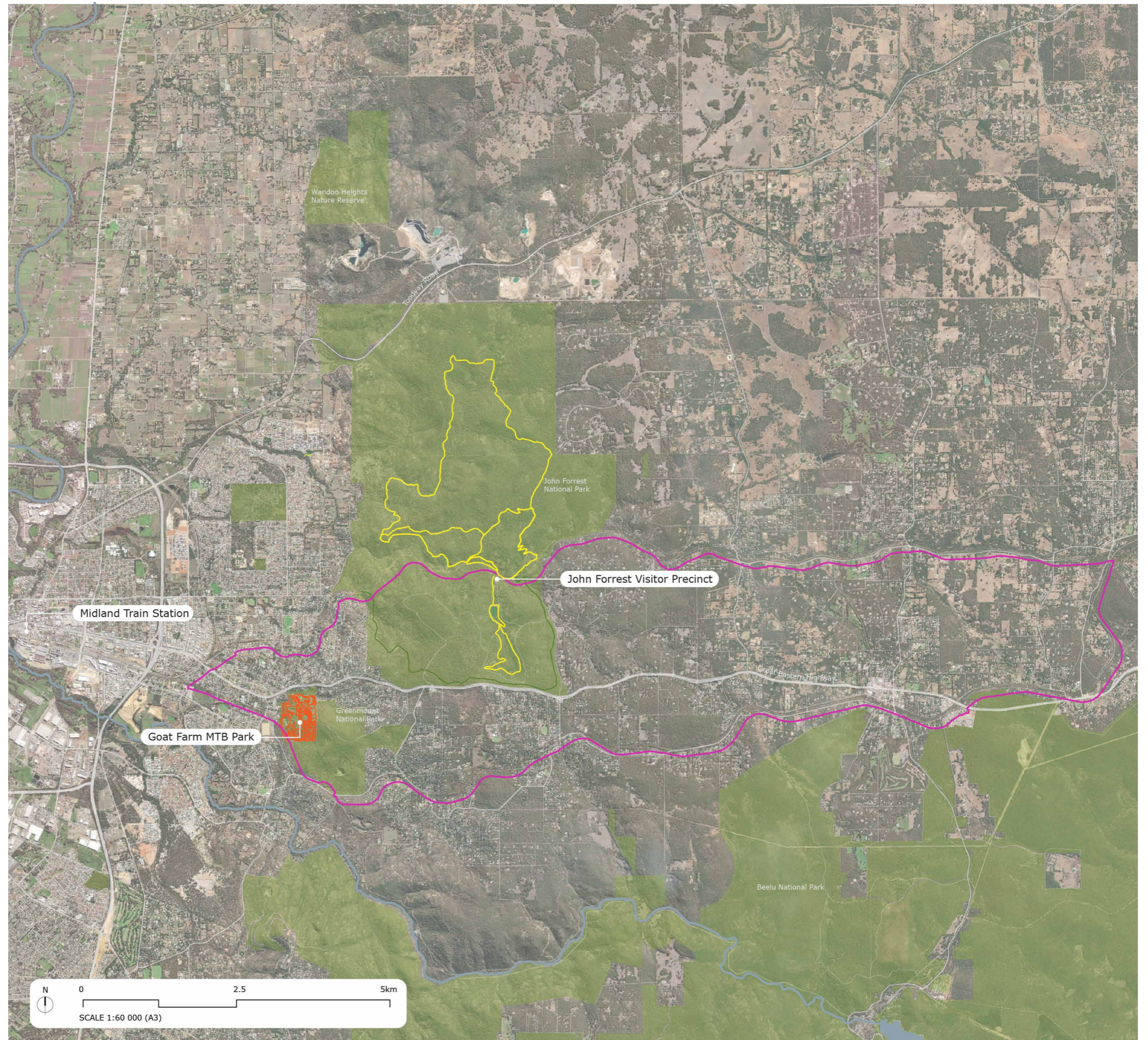
- Railway Reserve Heritage Trail
- 1 Jane Brook Promenade
- 2 National Park Falls Trail
- 3 Glen Brook Dam Trail
- 4 Wildflower Walk
- 5 Christmas Tree Creek Trail
- 6 Eagle View Walk Trail
- 7 John Forrest Bridle Trail

MAP 6 - JFNP existing trails and facilities



Broader context

The Railway Reserves Heritage Trail provides a link to John Forrest from nearby Midland and also connects to the Goat Farm MTB Park. This link makes the John Forrest National Park accessible for those riders using public transport. The proposed off road cycle trails within John Forrest will broaden the route options for riders on the Railway Reserves Heritage Trail who would delight in the opportunity to explore more of the National Park by bike. The proposed adventure style xc trail with minimal technical feature will suit the market that currently rides the Railway Reserves Heritage Trail.



Legend

- Existing Walk Trail
- Off Road Cycle Trail
- Railway Reserves Heritage Trail

MAP 7 - John Forrest broader context

John Forrest Trail Network Concept

Core trail experiences

The John Forrest Trail Network has been designed to provide a series of core experiences of varying length and difficulty which also allow for a number of connections and diversions enabling visitors to develop an experience that suits their needs and desires.

The core experiences provided are outlined in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Proposed core trail experiences

Core trail experiences			
Trail	Use	Length	Grade/classification
Railway Reserve Heritage Trail	Walk/trail run/cycle	5.5km	Class 1/Easiest - white
Jane Brook Promenade	Walk	TBC	Class 1
National Park Falls Walk	Walk/trail run	1.3km	Class 2
Glen Brook Trail	Walk/trail run	4.6km	Class 3
Wildflower Walk	Walk/trail run	5.3km	Class 3
Little Eagle Walk	Walk/trail run	8.7km	Class 4
Eagle View Walk	Walk/trail run	15.2km	Class 4
John Forrest Green Ride	Off Road Cycle/trail run	17.9km	Easy - green
John Forrest Blue Ride	Off Road Cycle	15.8km	Moderate - blue

These experiences enable locals and visitors to access immersive trail adventures which connect key features, provide a sense of discovery and entice repeat visits.

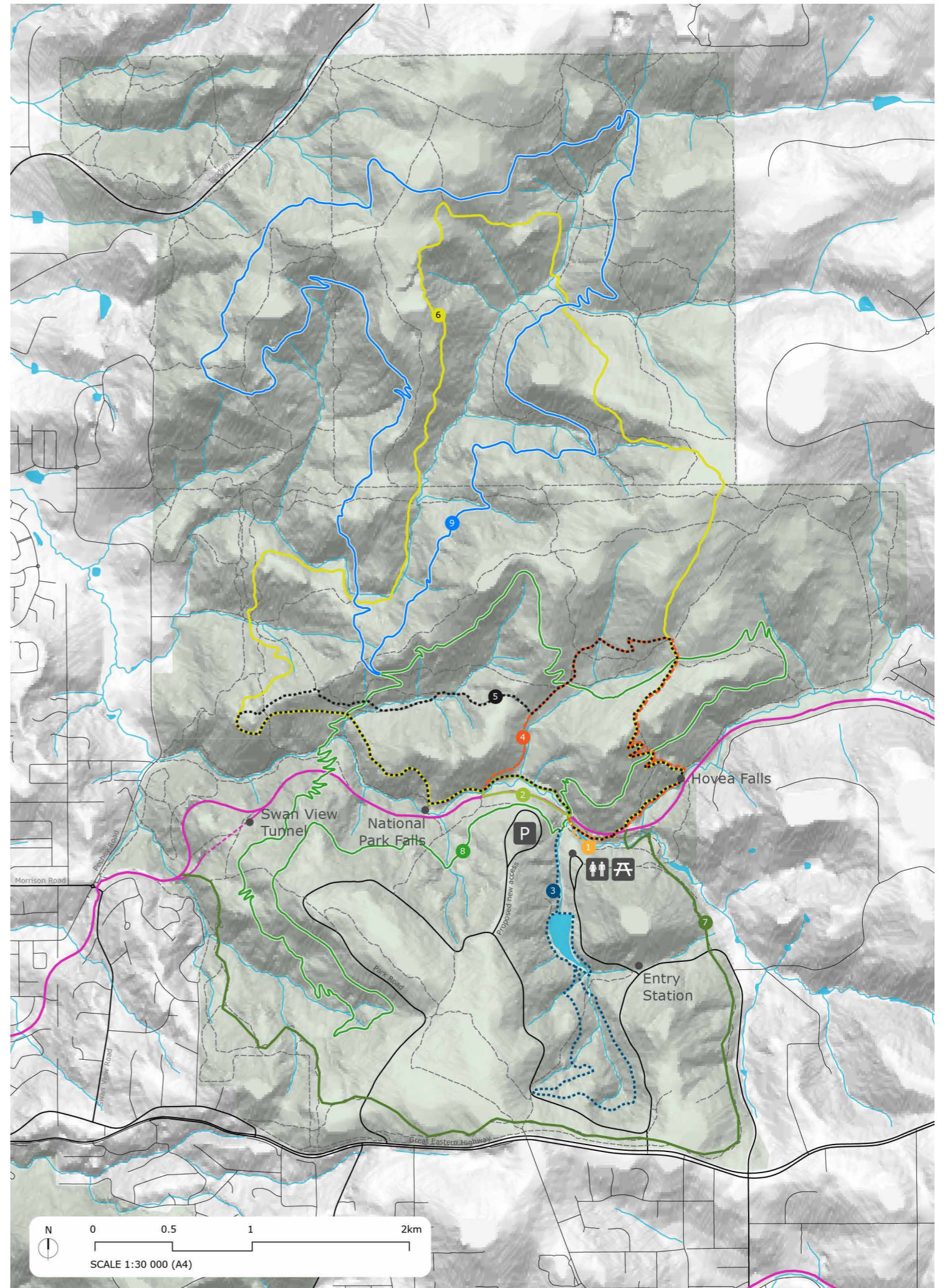
The John Forrest trail network prescribes to the following best practice principles;

- The network avoids areas of environmental significance and problematic landforms where possible, and is generally sympathetic to the landscape and viewsheds
- Where possible the trail network connects users with the natural environment and it's features
- Trail alignments are engaging and purposeful providing opportunities for discovery and adventure
- All trails are designed to be optimised for their intended user (hike/run or bike)
- Off road cycling trails are designed to be single direction to allow for an engaging trail and easy of navigation
- The overall system is accessible, intuitive and easy to navigate with pinch points and link trails strategically placed
- Road crossings have been kept to a minimum to allow for an improved experience while still catering for emergency access.
- Provides a range of trail options suitable for adaptive cycles and other mobility equipment use

Legend

- Railway Reserve Heritage Trail
- - - Jane Brook Promenade
- National Park Falls Trail
- - - Glen Brook Dam Trail
- - - Wildflower Walk
- - - Little Eagle Walk Trail
- Eagle View Walk Trail
- John Forrest Bridle Trail
- John Forrest Green Ride
- John Forrest Blue Ride

MAP 8 - JFNP Trail Network Concept



Infrastructure

A range of infrastructure is required to ensure the proposed trails are accessible, safe and enjoyable.

Trailheads

Most important is the trailhead which fulfils a number of important functions:

- Is visible and a safe place to leave a vehicle
- Provides for the needs of trail users – water, toilets, bins, information and car parking
- Bike maintenance facilities
- Encourages social interaction as the primary meeting place and finishing point for users
- Promotes positive use of the site through additional infrastructure such as seating, shelters, landscaping
- Is easily accessible and promoted to suit visitors of all mobility
- Provides all of the necessary trail information to plan a ride through good signage and also considers inclusion of interpretation signage

The network has been designed around an accessible primary trail head at the main visitor precinct, secondary access points utilise the Railway Reserve Heritage Trail as a spine through the park. The proposed realignment of the Glen Brook Trail to link to the Great Eastern Highway provides access into the park and main visitor precinct for those arriving via public transport with access to the trail via management tracks linking to the highway.

The primary trail head will be located at the proposed arrival plaza located adjacent the new carpark (refer to Map 9 for location). This trailhead will provide orientation signage for visitors, outlining the various trail options. Trail users requiring additional information will then be directed to the park information/interpretation centre. This trailhead is located close to proposed infrastructure including picnic facilities, toilets and café (refer to John Forrest National Park Visitor Precinct Master Plan 2021).

Trail and park information is proposed to be provided at the east and west entry points along the Railway Reserves Heritage Trail. Trail nodes have been identified where there are critical intersections between walk and off road cycling trail or where there is a convergence of several trails requiring a decision from trail users. Five Trail Nodes have been identified in the network and should have a small network map provided alongside directional signage.

The trail network has been designed such that it is best accessed from the main visitor precinct/primary trailhead. The intention is that trail users will be provided with information and orientation at the carpark with detailed information provided at the park information / interpretation centre. To access the trail network trail users will either head to the Railway Reserve Heritage Trail from the Carpark or go through the precinct past the picnic areas and park information/ interpretation centre. It is proposed that access to a majority of the trail network be via a shared use trail traversing under the existing Railway Reserve Heritage Trail Bridge providing a gateway for the start of the experience.

Other important information to include at the trailhead is trail user code of conduct/s and notification of which trails are shared use including information regarding respectful use of trails and of other trail users and the yield protocols particularly for John Forrest Green Ride which is proposed to be shared between off road cyclists and trail runners. Yield and trail users symbols should also be incorporated into trail directional signage.

Bridges

Crossing of watercourses have been minimised, with crossing of minor gullies achievable with armouring. One crossing of Jane Brook on the Fohn Forrest Green Ride will require a small bridge to enable crossing (refer to Map 10 for location), bridge design is TBD, DBCA kit bridge design is recommended.

Access

Road crossings have been kept to a minimum with trails converging to cross at road intersections. Key emergency access points are located on management tracks that are well maintained ensuring ease of access in case of emergency (refer to Map 10 for locations).

Event Centre

At this stage it is proposed that any event be hosted from the Visitor Precinct making use of the significant investment proposed in this area. In future should the need arise there is potential to invest in establishment of an event centre including carpark, toilets and storage at the disturbed site on the western edge of the Park off Pechy Road. This would be accessible only in event situations and allow access to the trail network via Eagle View Trail and the John Forrest Blue Ride.



MAP 9 - JFNP Trail Network access at Visitor Precinct

(base map source: John Forrest National Park Visitor Precinct Master Plan 2021)



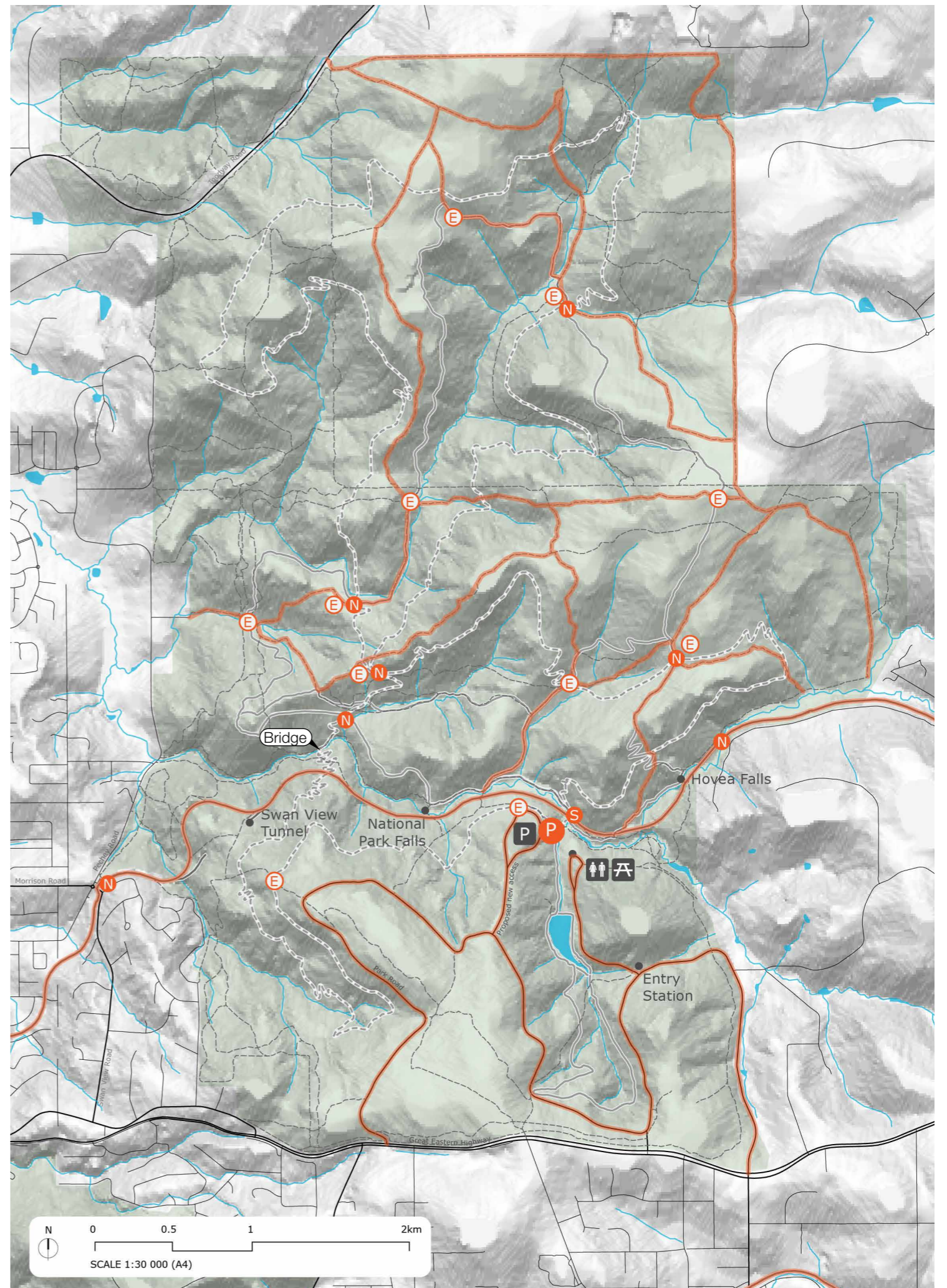
DBCA Kit Bridge (source: DBCA)



Trail node sign precedent image

- Legend**
- Railway Reserve Heritage Trail
 - Proposed Walk Trail
 - - - Proposed Off Road Cycle Trail
 - Emergency access track (vehicle)
 - ⓔ Emergency access point
 - Ⓟ Primary Trailhead
 - Ⓢ Secondary Trailhead
 - Ⓝ Trail Node

MAP 10 - JFNP Trail Network Concept access





Trail Summaries

Railway Reserves Heritage Trail

The Railway Reserves Heritage Trail is a 41km loop trail that follows the route of the old Eastern Railway. The trail passes through John Forrest National Park (5.5km) and provides a spine and a link trail offering options for trail users to shorten their experience or create routes using a few different trails. The Railway Reserves Heritage Trail is a 3m wide trail with a smooth surface suitable for all trail users and remains unchanged in the concept.


Trail Summary

Classification	 Class 1  Easiest - White
Trail Length	5,500m (within JFNP)
Trail Type	Open
Tread Width	3m
Use	Walk/trail run/cycle
Direction	Dual Direction
Total Ascent	192m
Total Descent	192m
Average Trail Gradient	2%

National Park Falls Walk

National Park Falls Walk will remain unchanged. The trail will be accessed at the main precinct via the trail gateway (Railway Reserve Heritage Trail bridge) and then traverse west along the northern bank of Jane Brook towards National Park Falls before returning on the Railway Reserves Heritage Trail.

Trail Summary

Classification	 Class 2
Trail Length	1300m
Trail Type	Open
Tread Width	1m
Use	Walk/trail run
Direction	Dual Direction
Total Ascent	11m
Total Descent	11m
Average Trail Gradient	2%




National Park Falls (source: thelongwaysbetter.blogspot.com)

Jane Brook Promenade

Jane Brook Promenade will be upgraded as part of the Precinct Master Plan works, length TBC however will likely remain close to 300m. This Class 1 trail will be paved and suitable for prams and wheelchairs with assistance. Refer to John Forrest National Park Visitor Precinct Master Plan 2021 for further details.

Trail Summary

Classification	 Class 1
Trail Length	TBC
Trail Type	Open
Tread Width	TBC
Use	Walk/trail run
Direction	Dual Direction
Total Ascent	TBC
Total Descent	TBC
Average Trail Gradient	TBC




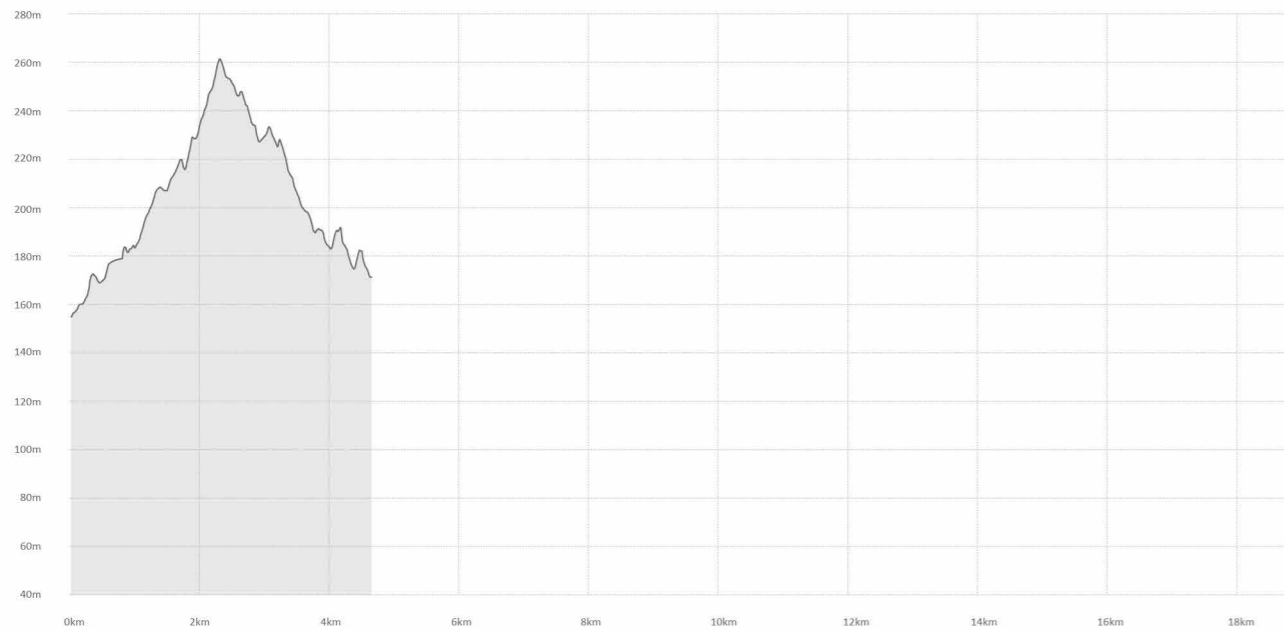
View from proposed trail node towards visitor precinct. Railway Reserves Heritage Trail Bridge provides a gateway (image source: thelongwaysbetter.blogspot.com)

Glen Brook Trail





Glen Brook Trail will remain unchanged for the first section heading out towards Glen Brook Dam along the Glen Brook valley. From the Dam it is proposed to extend the trail south towards the Great Eastern Highway where it will provide a connection to management vehicle track adjacent the Highway before heading east and then north to link back into the existing trail at the dam. This extension will provide access into the trail network and park for those arriving by public transport with the trail linking via management tracks to two bus stops along the Great Eastern Highway. The new sections of trail are proposed to be Class 3 and will bring the total trail length to 4.6km, the existing 2.2km loop around the dam will still be available for use.

Trail Summary

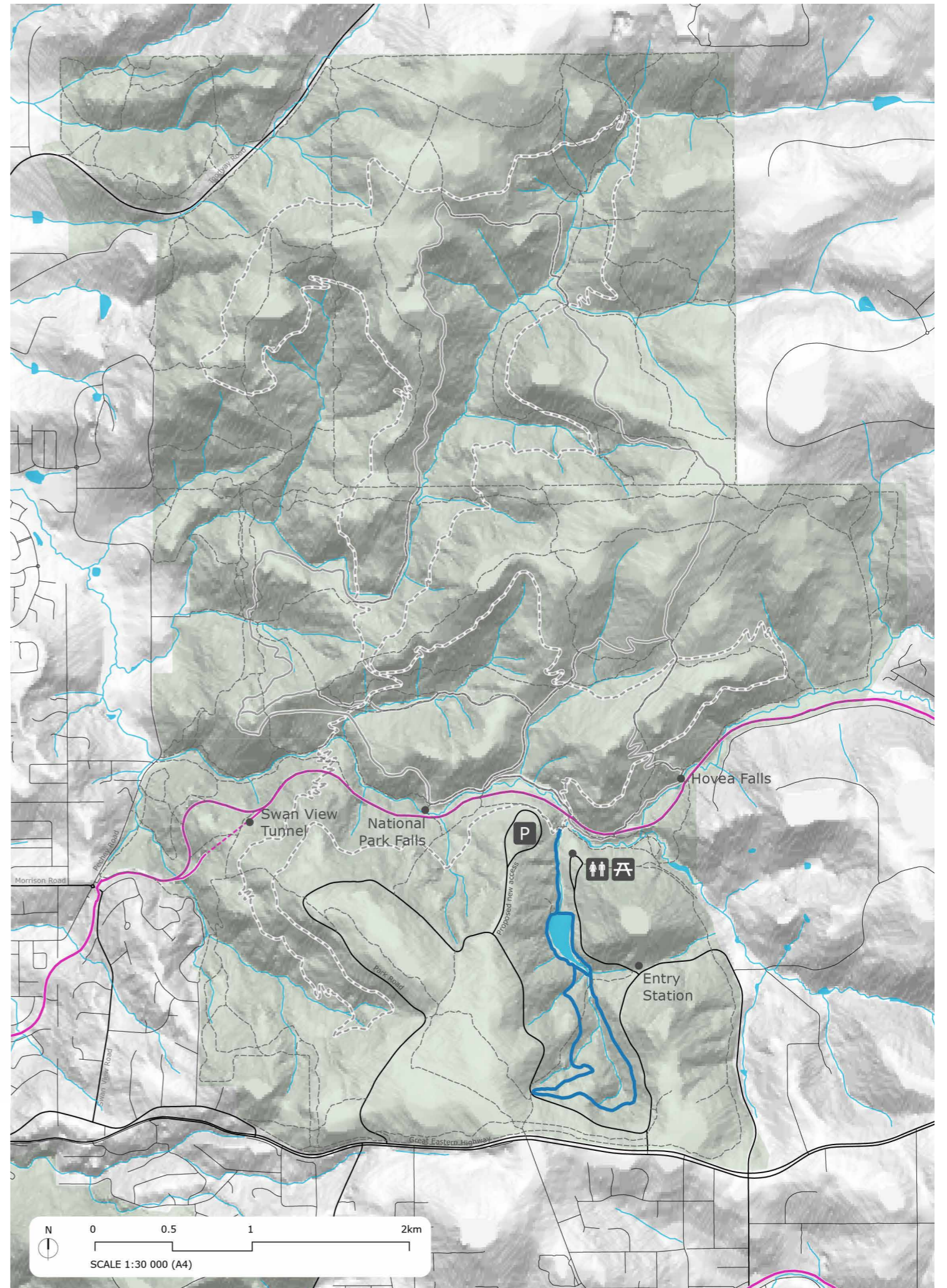
Classification	 Class 3
Trail Length	4600m
Trail Type	Open
Tread Width	1m
Use	Walk/trail run
Direction	Dual Direction
Total Ascent	107m
Total Descent	107m
Average Trail Gradient	5%



Legend

-  Railway Reserve Heritage Trail
-  Proposed Glen Brook Trail
-  Proposed Walk Trail
-  Proposed Off Road Cycle Trail


MAP 11 - Glen Brook Trail

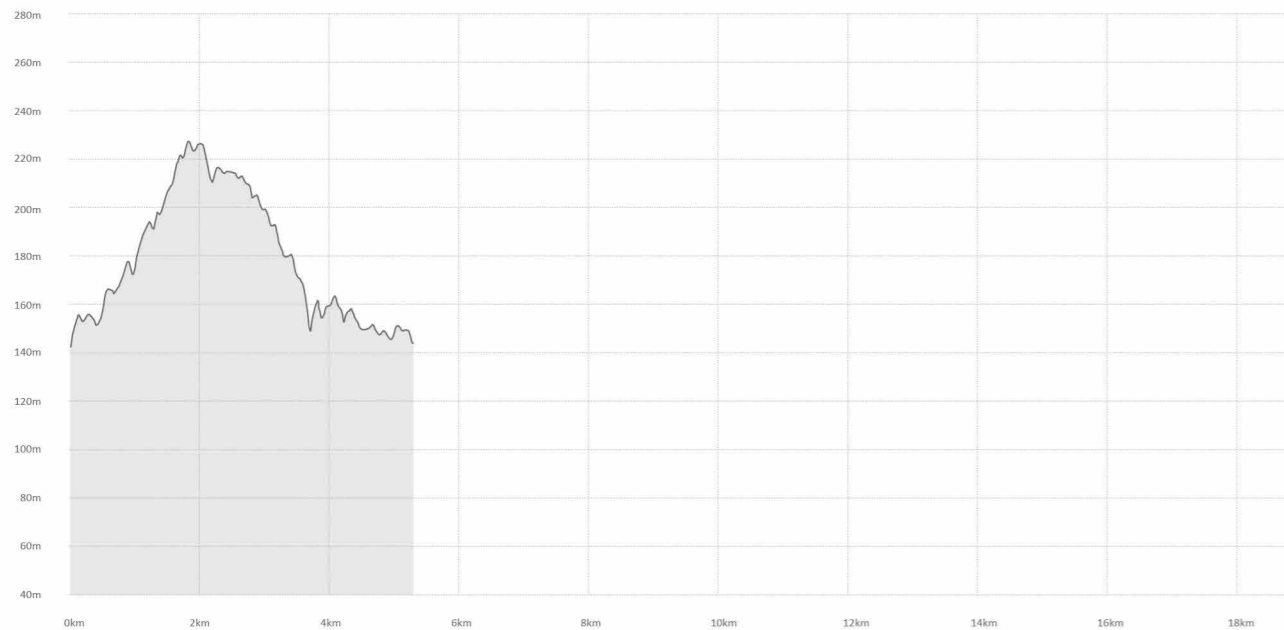


Wildflower Walk

Wildflower Walk will remain largely unchanged with the addition of realignments and switchbacks where the trail grade is currently steep. The Wildflower Walk traverses primarily along wide management vehicle tracks and provides a short walk option that allows for walkers/runners to be side by side. A popular walk in spring the trail highlights the diversity and colour of the many wildflowers in the park. It is proposed that the trail alignment take in the proposed diversion to Hovea Falls. The trail will remain a Class 3 trail and with realignments will be 4.5km long.

Trail Summary

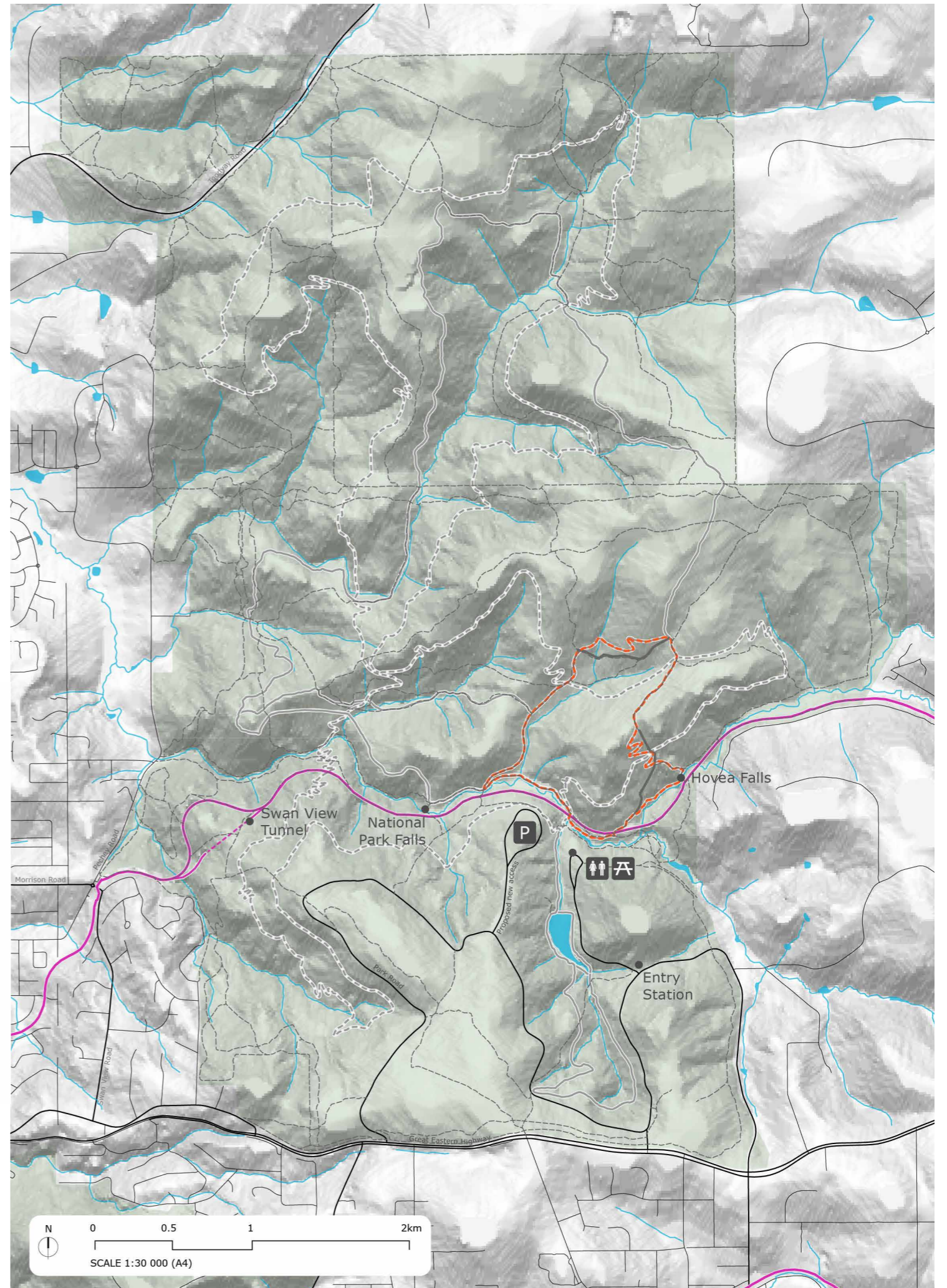
Classification	 Class 3
Trail Length	4800m
Trail Type	Open
Tread Width	1m - 2.5m
Use	Walk/trail run
Direction	Single Direction (clockwise)
Total Ascent	81m
Total Descent	81m
Average Trail Gradient	3%



Legend

- Railway Reserve Heritage Trail
- - - Proposed Wildflower Walk
- Current Wildflower Walk
- Proposed Walk Trail
- - - Proposed Off Road Cycle Trail


MAP 12 - Wildflower Walk

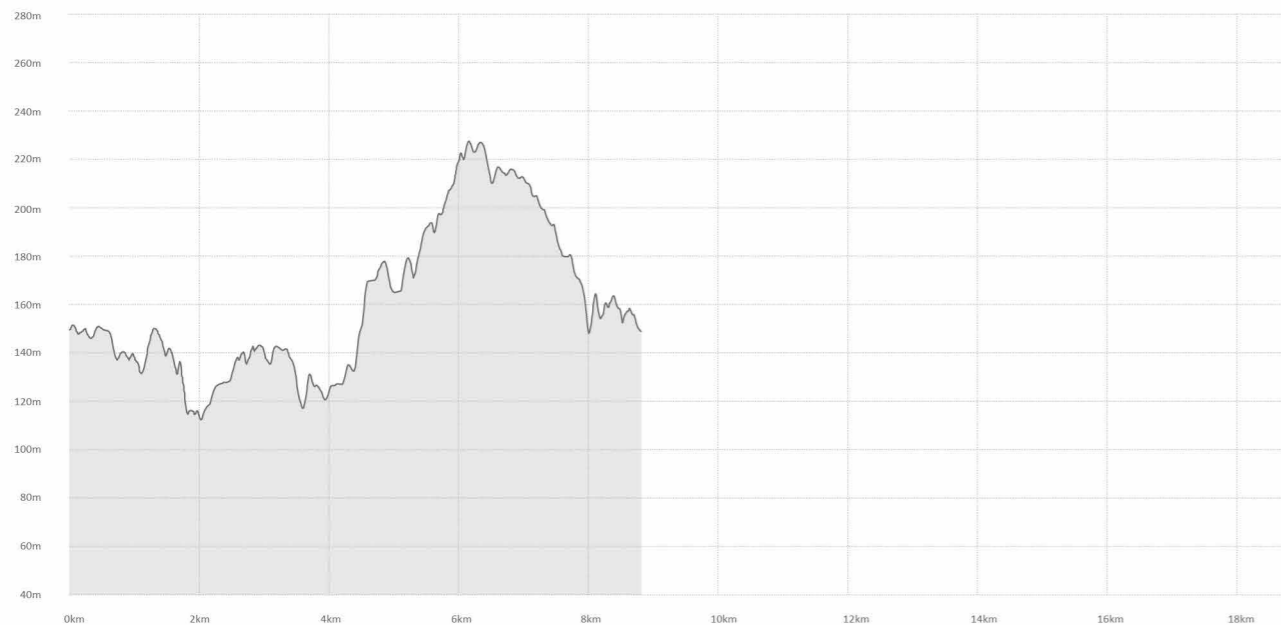


Little Eagle Walk Trail

Little Eagle Walk is a rebrand of Christmas Tree Creek Trail. It is proposed to rebrand the trail as it provides a shorter alternative to the renowned Eagle View Trail and it is hoped that renaming it will entice those that perhaps aren't ready for the full Eagle View Trail challenge to tackle the shorter option but still feel as though they have experienced the quintessential Perth hike. The trail will be accessed at the main precinct via the trail gateway (Railway Reserve Heritage Trail bridge) and then traverse west along the northern bank of Jane Brook towards National Park Falls then follow the Eagle View Walk Trail alignment out to the Eagle View Lookout. From the lookout the Little Eagle Trail will head East along a ridgeline which provides spectacular views and traverses through Wandoo woodland, utilising some existing goat tracks which will be upgraded to make them suitable. The trail then links into the Wildflower Walk and will make use of the proposed alignment improvements including passing Hovea Falls.

Trail Summary

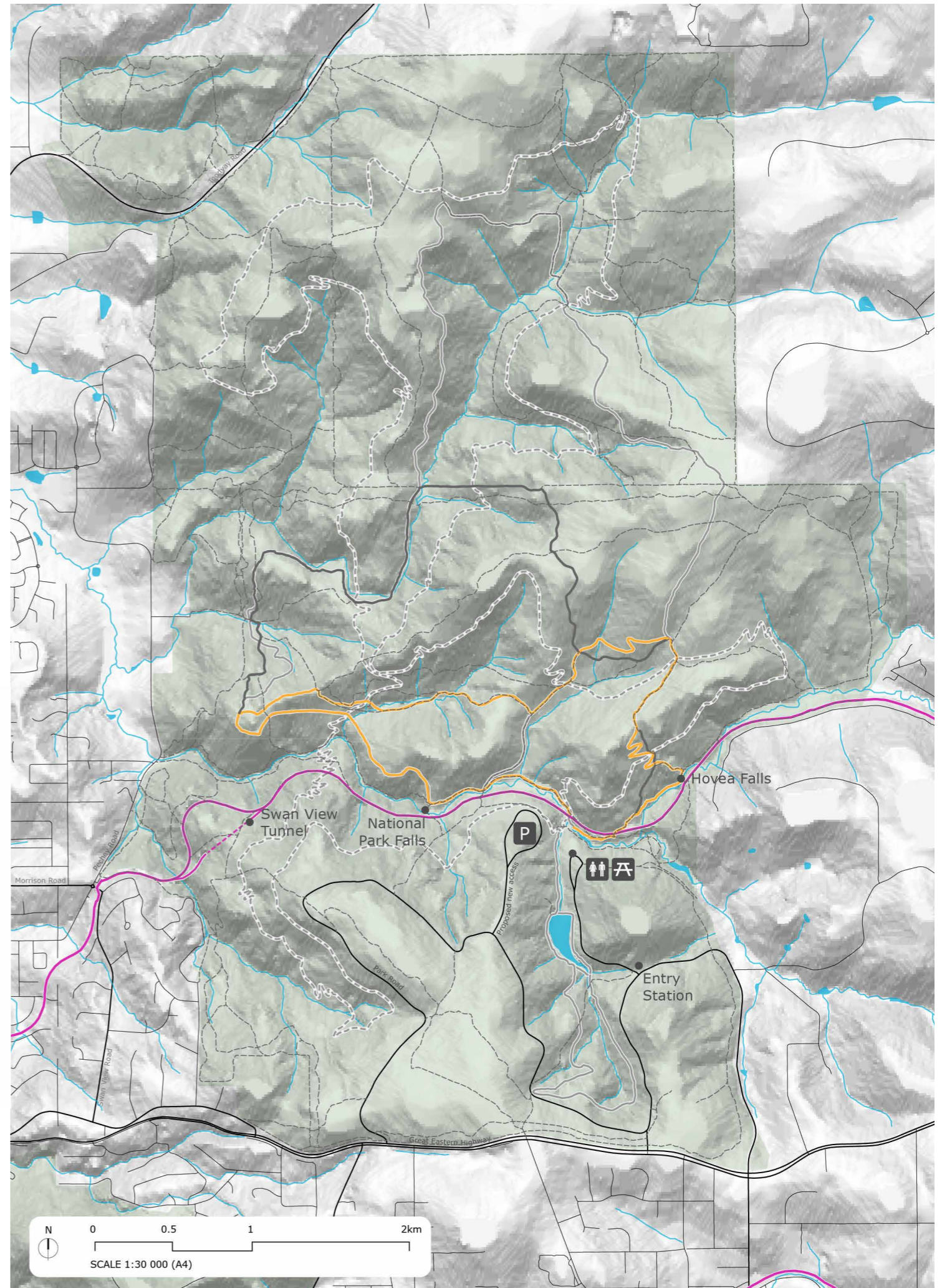
Classification	 Class 4
Trail Length	8,700m
Trail Type	Open
Tread Width	0.9m
Use	Walk/trail run
Direction	Single Direction (clockwise)
Total Ascent	159m
Total Descent	89m
Average Trail Gradient	4%



Legend

- Railway Reserve Heritage Trail
- Proposed Little Eagle Trail
- Current Christmas Tree Creek Walk
- Proposed Walk Trail
- - - Proposed Off Road Cycle Trail


MAP 13 - Little Eagle Walk Trail

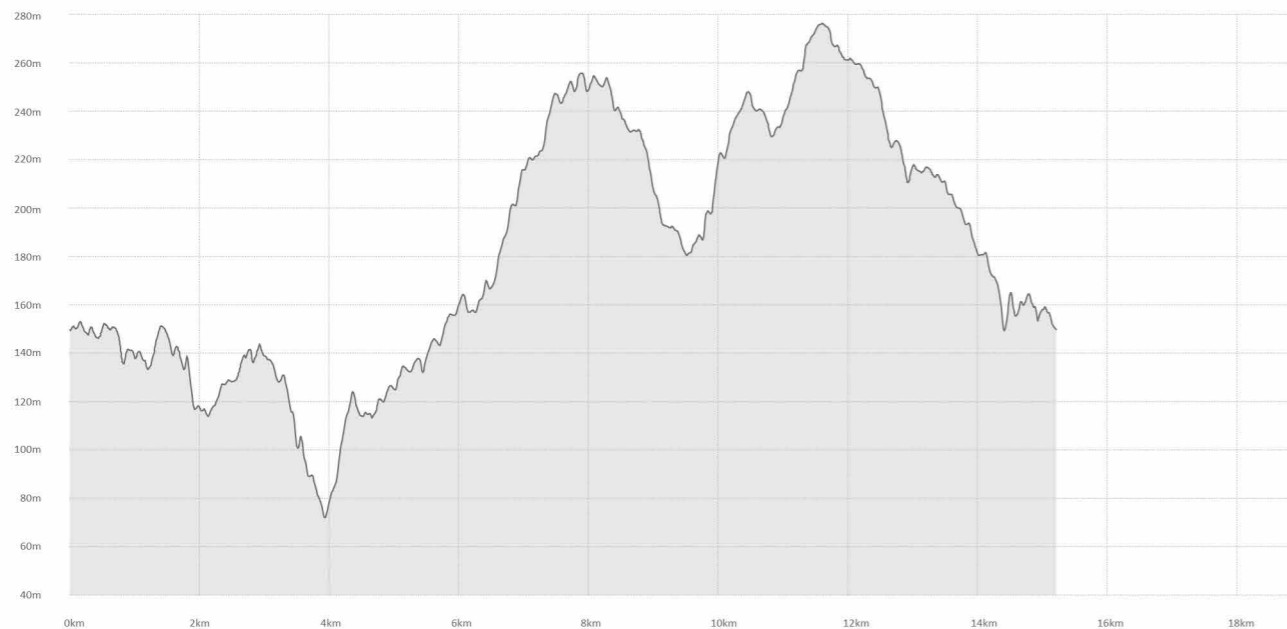


Eagle View Walk Trail

The Eagle View Walk Trail is the quintessential Perth Hike offering a challenging 15km loop which takes in spectacular views across the Swan Coastal Plain to Perth city and the ocean. The trail is a bushwalker's delight, covering a variety of relatively pristine habitats, passing beautiful seasonal waterfalls and boasting impressive wildflower displays in spring. A number of improvements are proposed to take the trail off sections of management track, improve grade and to link into Hovea Falls. A short section over the granite north of Hovea Falls is proposed to be elevated boardwalk to protect the sensitive granite ecosystems.

Trail Summary

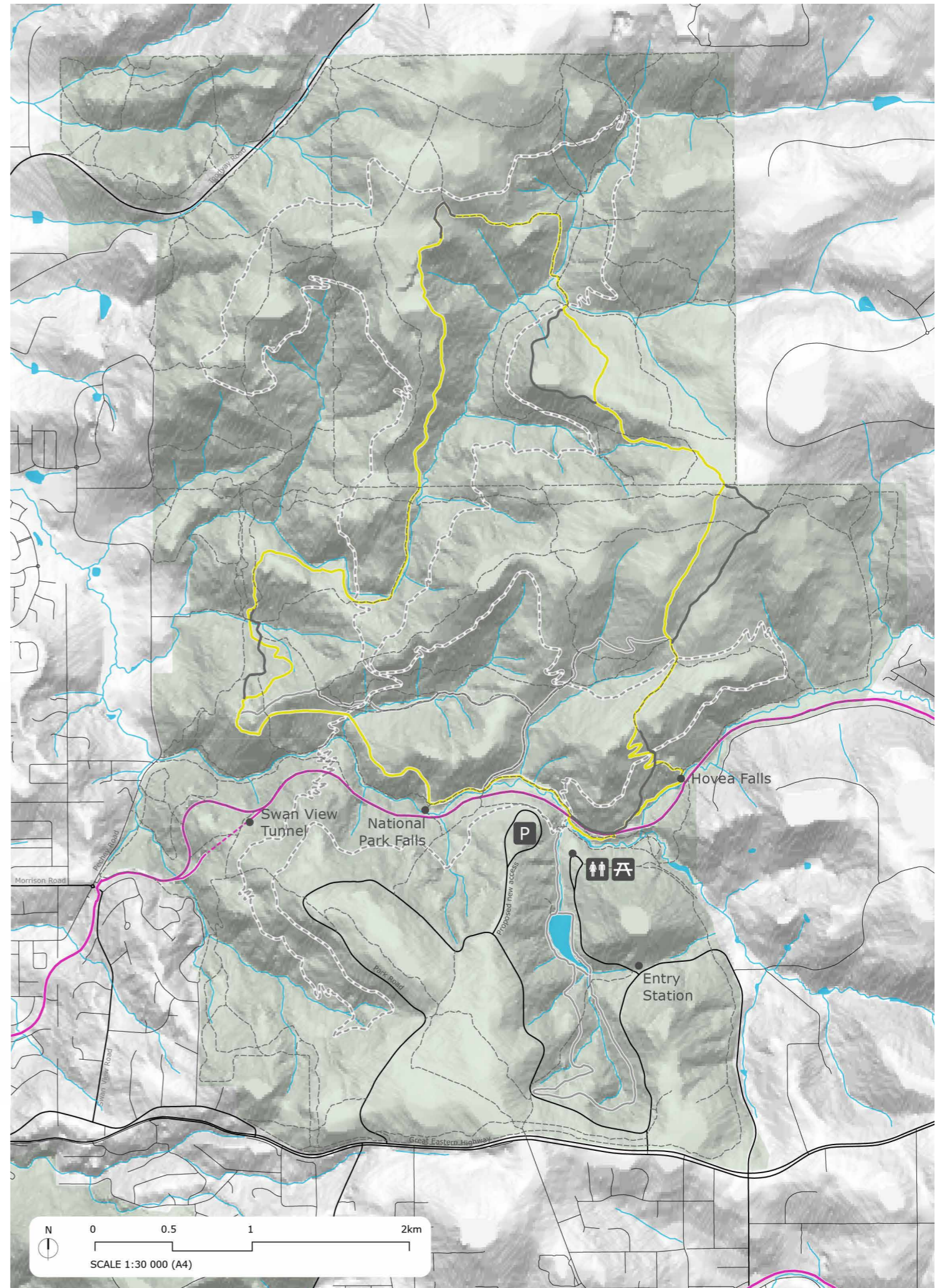
Classification	 Class 4
Trail Length	15,200m
Trail Type	Open
Tread Width	0.9m
Use	Walk/trail run
Direction	Single Direction (clockwise)
Total Ascent	335m
Total Descent	339m
Average Trail Gradient	4%



Legend

- Railway Reserve Heritage Trail
- Proposed Eagle View Trail
- Current Eagle View Trail
- Proposed Walk Trail
- - - Proposed Off Road Cycle Trail

MAP 14 - Eagle View Walk Trail




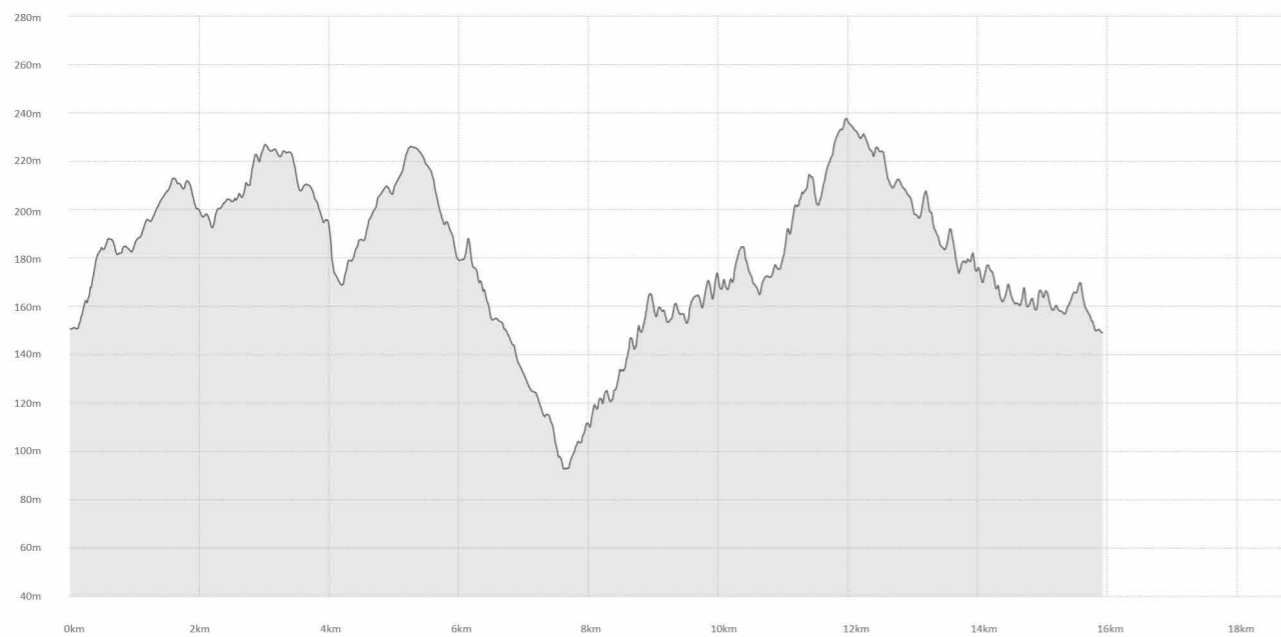
John Forrest Green Ride

The John Forrest Green Ride is proposed to be a cross country style adventure ride. The trail is classified easy – green circle and is 16km long with the option to shorten the loop to 12.6 km using the Railway Reserves Heritage Trail and the northern half of the Green Ride or 10km using the Railway Reserves Trail and the southern section of the Green Ride. The Green Ride is accessed at the main precinct via the trail gateway (Railway Reserve Heritage Trail bridge). The trail is proposed to be 900mm wide and feature minimal technical trail features, rather using the terrain and alignment to engage the rider. The trail will make the most of the varied terrain, traversing side slopes and offering a series of gradual climbs and long thrilling descents taking riders past scenic vistas, granite outcrops and seasonal brooks. The trail is proposed to be single direction (counter clockwise). The Green Ride will also present an ideal option for riders on adaptive cycles, the smooth surface and wider trail profile will suit a majority of adaptive cycle users with the distance providing the challenge.





The John Forrest Green Ride is proposed to be a shared use trail with trail runners allowed on the trail. It is proposed that trail runners will yield to riders and this information will be communicated at all trailheads and on directional signage on the trail. An important distinction that should be made regarding promoting this trail as shared use is that it is shared use with trail runners and off road cyclists only, not walkers. This can be achieved in use of three different trail user symbols on trail head and directional signage to distinguish user types.

Trail Summary

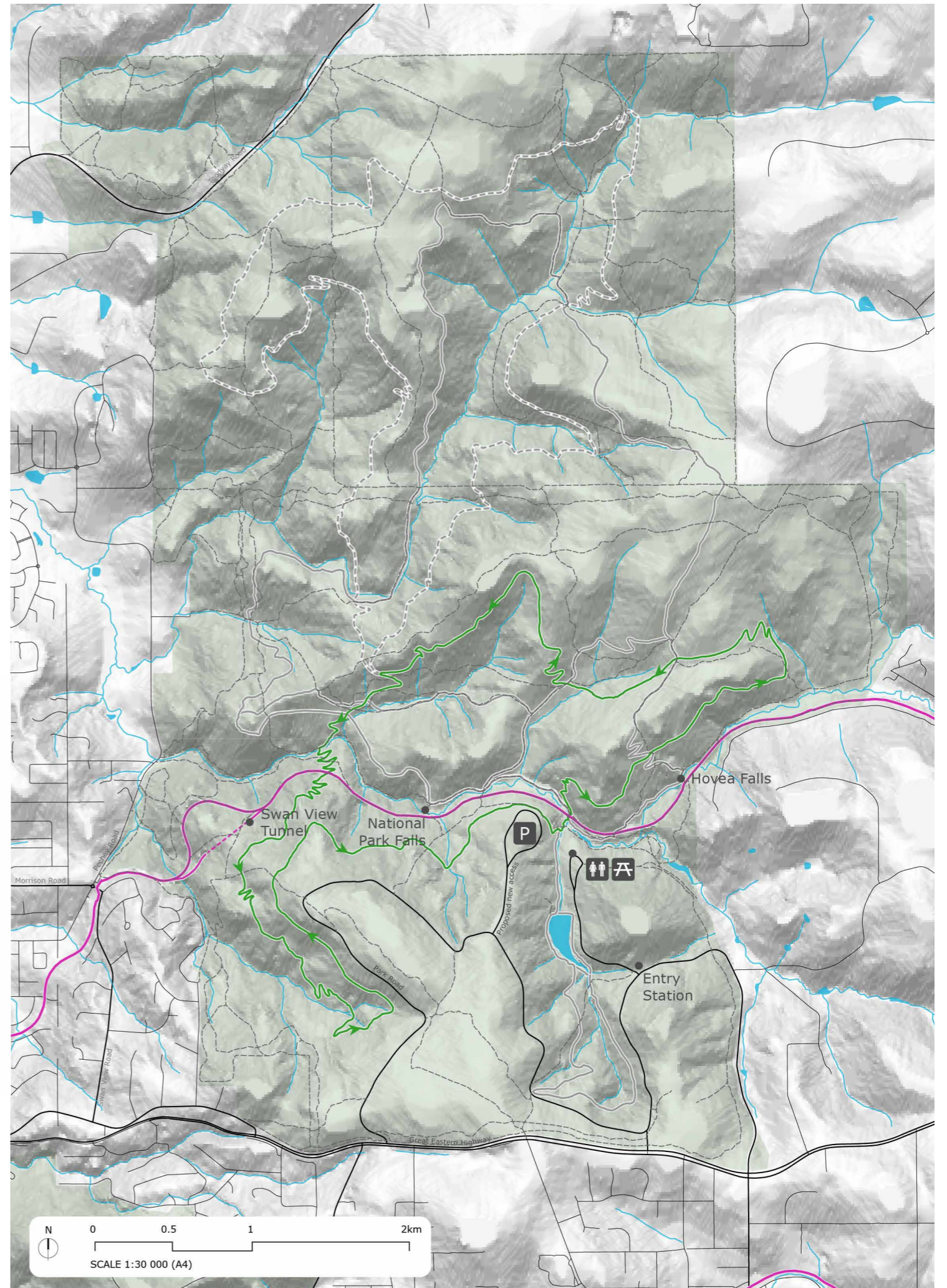
Classification	 Easy - Green Circle
Trail Length	15,900m
Trail Type	Cross Country
Tread Width	0.9m
Use	Off Road Cycle/trail run
Direction	Single Direction (counter clockwise)
Total Ascent	324m
Total Descent	324m
Average Trail Gradient	4%



Legend

-  Railway Reserve Heritage Trail
-  Proposed John Forrest Green Ride
-  Proposed Walk Trail
-  Proposed Off Road Cycle Trail


MAP 15 - John Forrest Short Ride

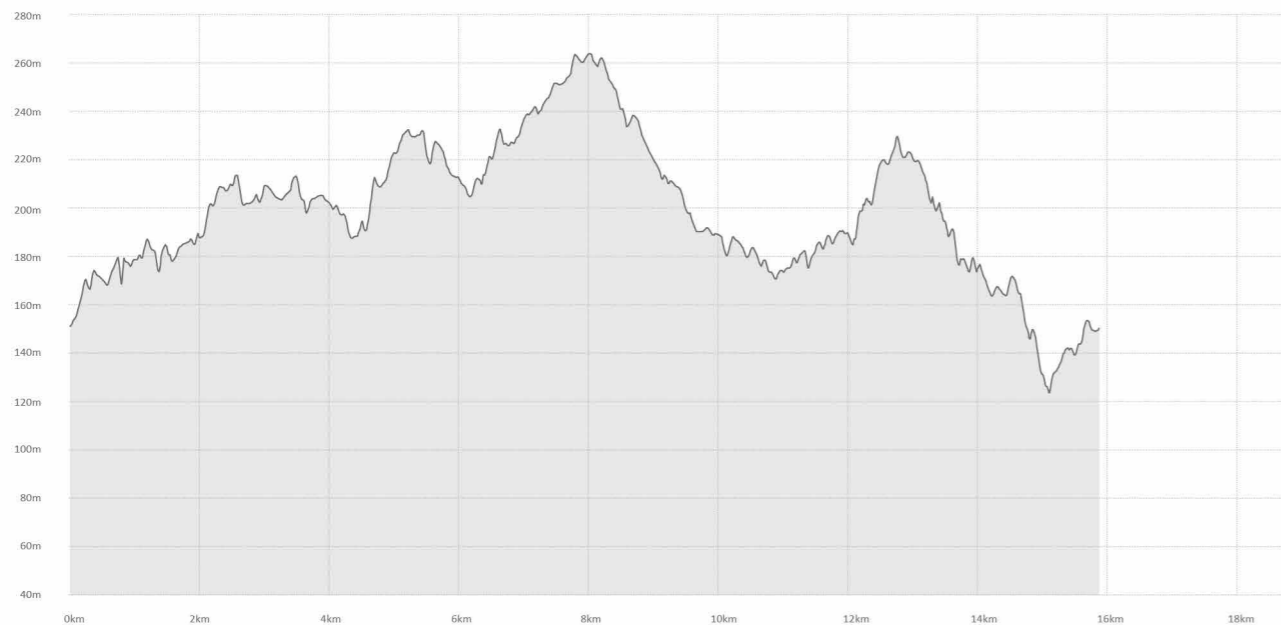


John Forrest Blue Ride





The John Forrest Blue Ride is proposed to be a cross country style adventure ride. The trail is classified moderate – blue square and is 15.8km long however is accessed via the Green Ride making the total ride 34km with the option to shorten the loop to 29km using the Railway Reserves Heritage Trail. The Blue Ride is accessed off the Green Ride which starts at the main precinct via the trail gateway (Railway Reserve Heritage Trail bridge). The trail is proposed to be 600mm wide and feature minimal technical trail features, rather using the terrain and alignment to engage the rider. It is proposed that natural features be incorporated into the alignment with the easy line the dominant line, leaving and using appropriately sized/positioned existing rock etc as “natural features” will reduce disturbance during trail construction and enhance riding experience for more advanced riders. This will enable more advanced riders to find optional ride lines within the trail footprint and beginner riders would ride straight through and not notice the more difficult line. The trail will make the most of the varied terrain, traversing side slopes and offering a series of gradual climbs and long thrilling descents taking riders past scenic vistas, granite outcrops and flowing brooks. The trail is proposed to be single direction (counter clockwise).

Trail Summary

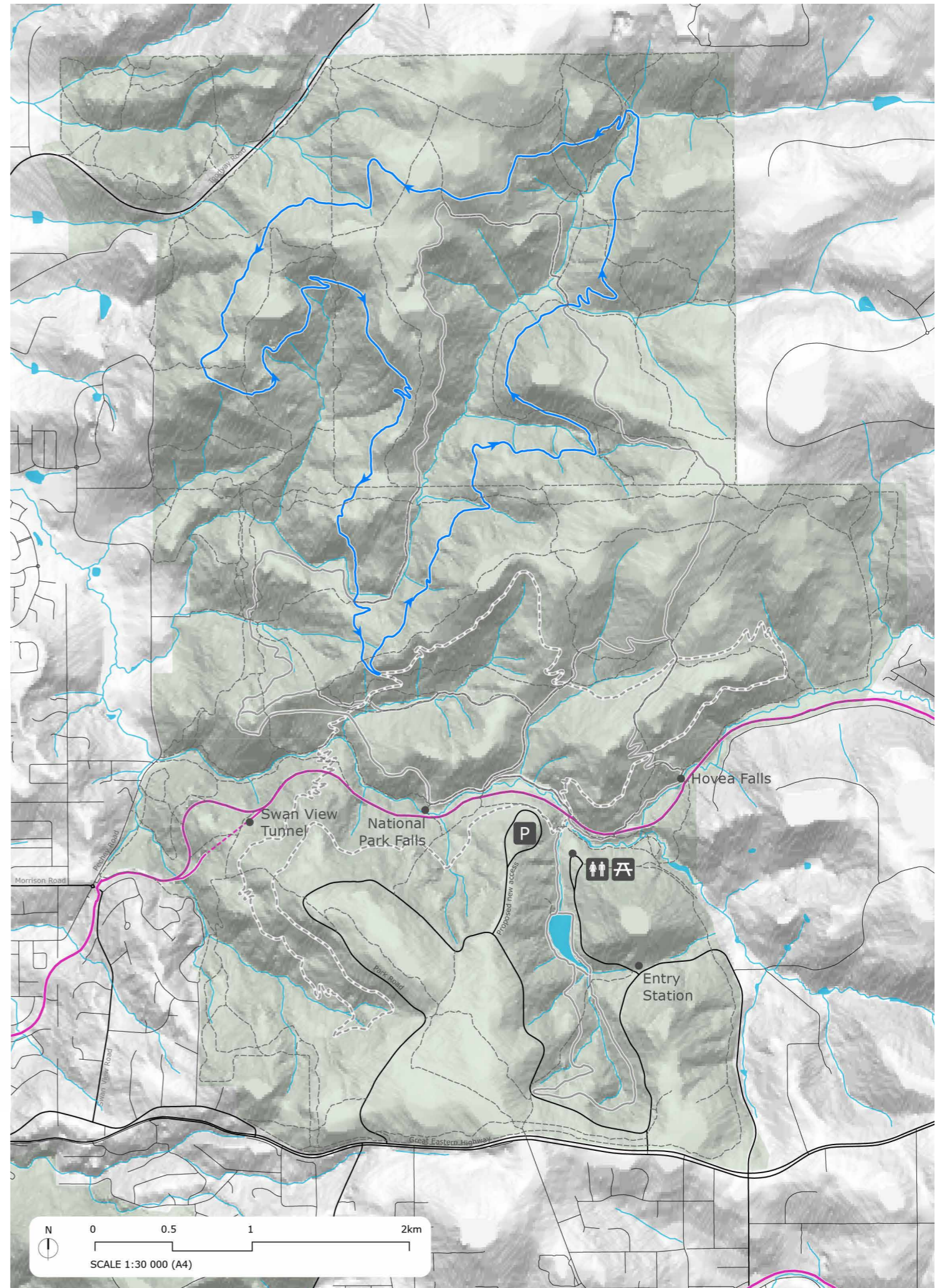
Classification	 Moderate - Blue Square
Trail Length	15,800m
Trail Type	Cross Country
Tread Width	0.6m
Use	Off Road Cycle
Direction	Single Direction (counter clockwise)
Total Ascent	248m
Total Descent	248m
Average Trail Gradient	3%



Legend

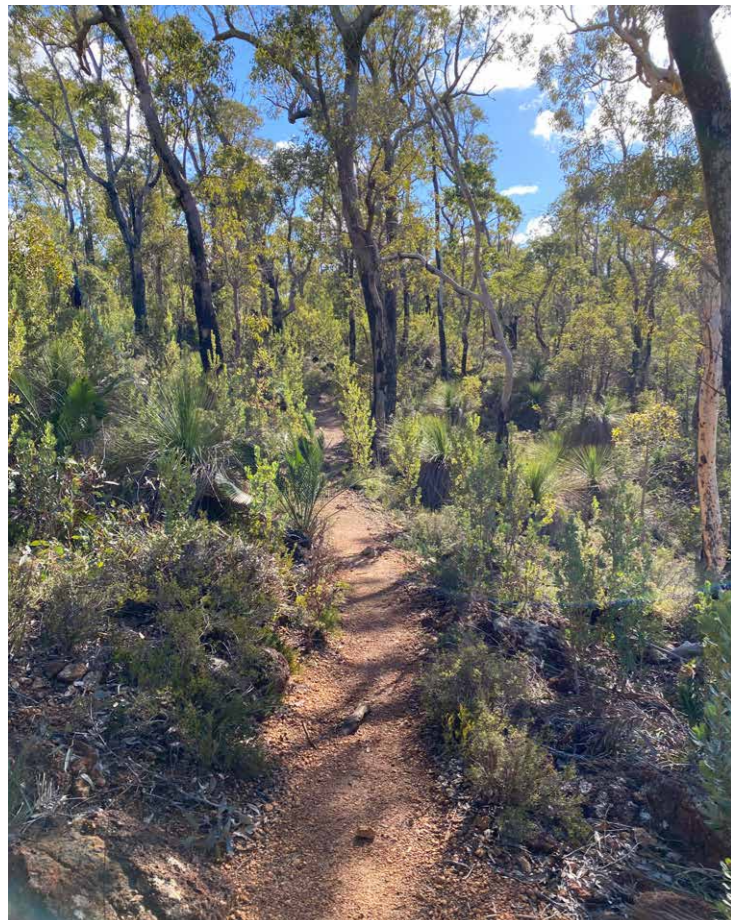
-  Railway Reserve Heritage Trail
-  Proposed John Forrest Blue Ride
-  Proposed Walk Trail
-  Proposed Off Road Cycle Trail

MAP 16 - John Forrest Blue Ride



Trail Running trails

Trail running has been catered for in the John Forrest Trail Network Concept with provision for trail runners to utilise all designated walk trails and the John Forrest Green Ride. Management tracks are also open to all trail users wishing to expand their route choice options. Map 17 outlines all proposed trails available for trail runners. Looping the Eagle View Trail and John Forrest Green Ride provides a 30km loop option, there are a multitude of other route choices open to trail runners wishing to run for shorter or longer duration utilising other walk trails and/or management tracks. The management tracks also provide opportunity to factor in steeper climbs featuring loose surfaces adding technical challenge. It is proposed that directional signage on all trails be upgraded and that consideration be given to identifying a series of route options for trail users to be displayed at the primary trailhead and potentially online.

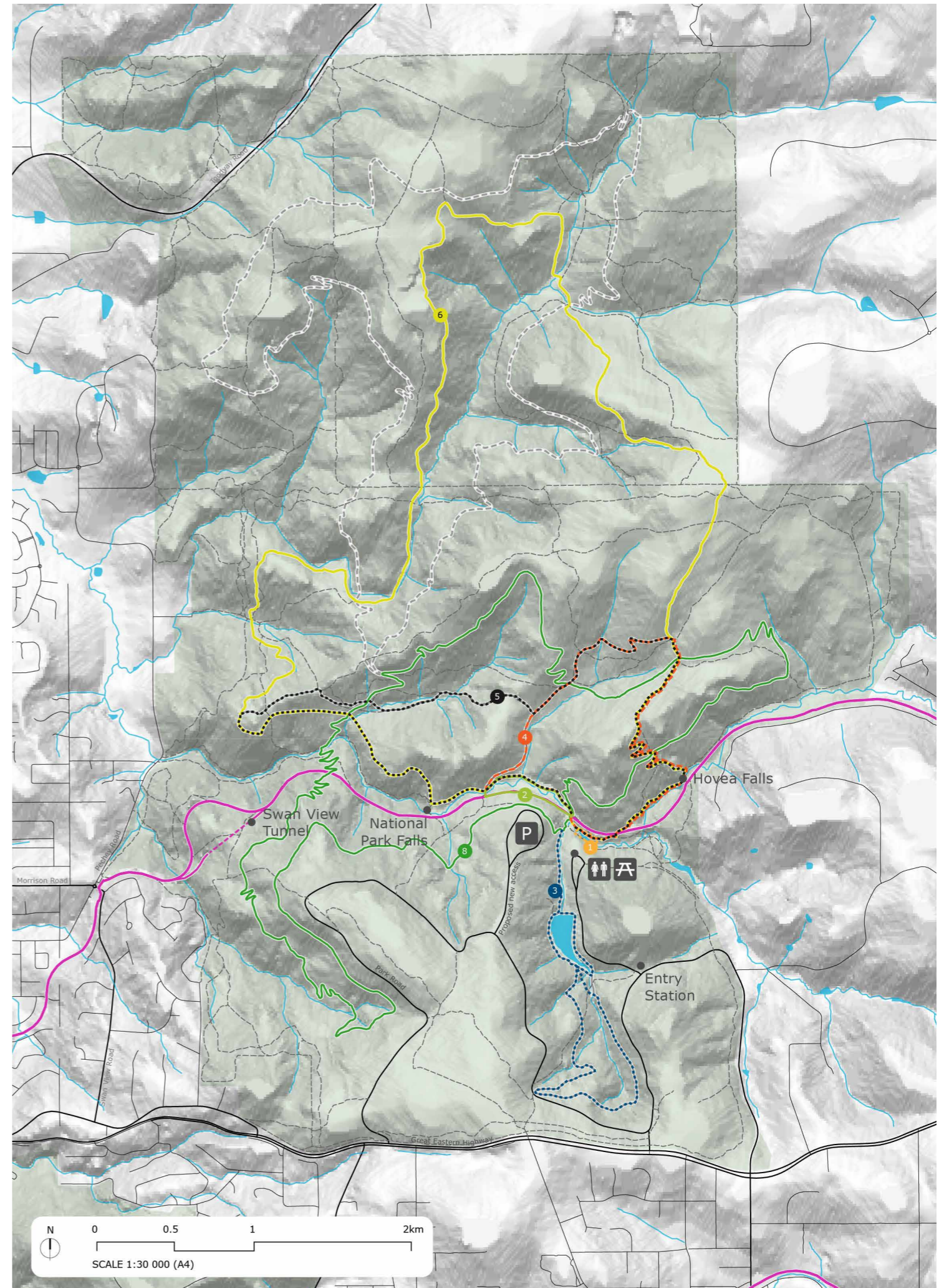


Eagle View Trail (source: Common Ground Trails)
John Forrest National Park Trail Network | Concept Plan

Legend

- Railway Reserve Heritage Trail
- o-o- Jane Brook Promenade
- e-e- National Park Falls Trail
- d-d- Glen Brook Dam Trail
- f-f- Wildflower Walk
- Little Eagle Walk Trail
- 6-6- Eagle View Walk Trail
- e-e- John Forrest Green Ride

MAP 17 - Trails available for trail running

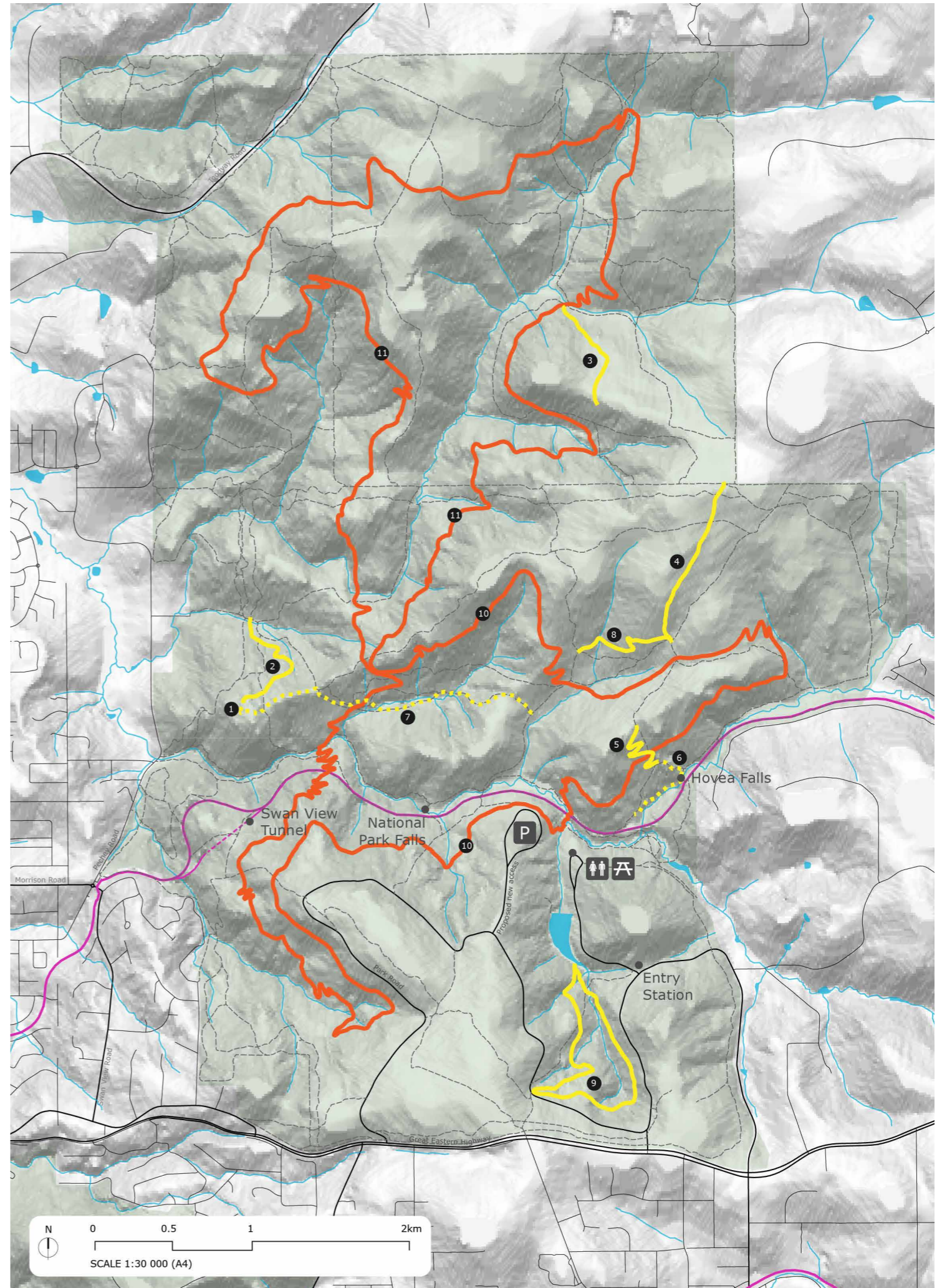


Trail Status

Table 3 below and Map 18 outline the sections of new trail and upgraded trail proposed in the trail network.

Table 3: Sections of new and upgraded trails

Sections of new and upgraded trail					
ID	Name	Description	New or Upgrade	Use	Length(m)
1	Eagle View 1	Addition of stairs to improve steep eroded alignment north of Eagle View Lookout	upgrade	Walk	95
2	Eagle View 2	Realignment to improve grade and trail sustainability	new	Walk	1,024
3	Eagle View 3	Realignment around steep eroded section on eastern edge	new	Walk	749
4	Eagle View 4	Realignment off Management Vehicle Track Eastern edge	new	Walk	1,110
5	Eagle View 5	Realignment creating switchbacks to mellow grade. (note also serves Little Eagle and Wildflower Walk)	new	Walk	707
6	Eagle View 6	Realignment to take in Hovea Falls	upgrade	Walk	660
7	Little Eagle 1	Realignment from Eagle View Lookout along ridge utilising existing goat tracks, small 200m section of new track required	upgrade	Walk	2,122
8	Little Eagle 2	Realignment off Management Vehicle Track to mellow grade (note also serves Wildflower Walk)	new	Walk	775
9	Glen Brook	New extended loop	new	Walk	2,964
10	John Forrest Green Ride	New Off Road Cycle Trail	new	Off Road Cycle	15,900
11	John Forrest Blue Ride	New Off Road Cycle Trail	new	Off Road Cycle	15,800
			Subtotal upgrade		2,877
			Subtotal new		39,029
			GRAND TOTAL		41,906



Legend
 — Proposed Walk Trail
 Proposed Upgrade of existing Walk Trail
 — Proposed Off Road Cycle Trail

MAP 18 - John Forrest Trail Network sections of new trail



PO box 122 Margaret River WA 6285
www.commongroundtrails.com
info@commongroundtrails.com