

# RidgeWalk - FAQ

Exploring Art & Landscape in the Dandenongs

## What is RidgeWalk?

RidgeWalk will express and celebrate the unique Dandenong Ranges cultural story of landscape and art along a 26km walking track. This story of national significance will be experienced through architectural nodes, permanent and temporary artworks, heritage interpretation and signage. RidgeWalk will physically connect townships in the region and establish new spaces for education, cultural expression and social gathering.

## ART & CULTURE

**What kind of art will there be?** A variety of permanent and temporary works from a range of media –styles which may be physical, sound based, light based or all three.

**How will visitors experience the cultural history?** Stories of national significance will be told through multiple art works that engage with the natural environment, heritage interpretation (images, text, panels, audio etc.) and new platforms for expression. Print or digital guides may also be available.

**Who conducted the cultural study and how will it be used?** The study was conducted in consultation with local historical groups by Bronwyn Hanna History & Heritage. It will be used to steer the development of the Master Plan and set the overall narrative for the project. It will provide content for heritage interpretation and be used to inform new public art works, educational materials and trail guides. It may also be adapted for digital or print publication.

**How can local artists get involved?** The involvement of local artists is important to the project and a work in progress. We are interested in ideas and encourage anyone with them to get in touch.

## MASTER PLANNING

**Who is working on the Master Plan?** Arterial Design, in collaboration with landscape architect firm Urban Initiatives will produce the Master Plan for RidgeWalk.

**What will be in the MasterPlan?**

(1) Detailed Map of the Route; (2) Infrastructure Plan and Design Concept; (3) Concept Designs for 3-4 key nodes and up to 12 intervention sites; and (4) Schematic Design

Note: A node is a stopping point. It may be interpretation, art, or information. Intervention sites are places where 'art' might happen- an artist or artists work in a space creating either temporary or permanent work.

**When will it be complete?** The Master Plan is scheduled to be complete by October 2018.

**Will I be able to see the Master Plan?** Once complete, it will be available on Council's website. Various elements of it will be shared and discussed with the community prior to completion.

## THE ROUTE

**What is the route?** The route will be determined during the Master Planning phase of the project.

**When will the route be determined?** By the end of April 2018.

**How will the route be determined?** The route will be decided upon by a combination of mapping, walking and consulting with residents and stakeholders. Key within this is the experience any proposed route offers from vistas to forest experience to villages and ultimately for cultural expression.

**Will there be new trails?** It is estimated that RidgeWalk will consist of 14km of new and upgraded trails, and will compliment and connect existing trails to create a continuous 26km network.

**Where will the trail begin and which townships will it connect?** It will likely connect Upper Ferntree Gully, Upwey, Tecoma and/or Belgrave to Montrose, through Ferny Creek, Sassafras, Olinda, Mount Dandenong and Kalorama, possibly Kallista and Sherbrooke. There will be multiple entry points.

**Will it be accessible?** Portions of RidgeWalk will be accessible and the Disability Advisory Committee will be consulted through the project. Intentions will be for guides, signage, art and interpretation to be designed in consideration of a range of abilities.

**Will there be signage?** There will be easy to read and navigate signage for RidgeWalk. Wayfinding will be designed with consideration of users with various linguistic, visual or literacy needs.

**Will there be maps, guidebooks or digital guides available?** There is an intention to have some guide materials available. The exact form of these is unknown.

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## INFRASTRUCTURE

### **Will there be new or upgraded infrastructure?**

A needs assessment and asset evaluation will occur early during the Master Planning. Plans for improvements, upgrades and new developments of infrastructure will be included in the Master Plan. They may include art walks, boardwalks, carparks, interpretation panels, seating etc.

**What about parking?** Parking solutions and the movement of people to and from entry points of the trail will be addressed in the Master Plan.

## ENVIRONMENT

**What will the environmental impact be?** RidgeWalk will have minimal environmental impact on the natural setting, existing vegetation and wildlife. There is no intention to disrupt the landscape the project is celebrating.

**Will trees be cut down?** There is no intention to cut down trees.

**Will there be concrete footpaths?** There may be some concrete footpaths to address accessibility. The intention is to keep paths consistent with the natural environment.

**Will there be board walks?** If they are required to assist in forest areas to protect the environment or to traverse difficult terrain then some boardwalks may be proposed.

## BUDGET

**How much will the project cost?** RidgeWalk has a current proposed budget of \$9.8m.

**Where is the money coming from?** \$2.3m has already been allocated by the Federal Government and additional funding will continue to be sought.

**How much is it costing Council?** Council is yet to allocate a sum to the project but has committed to matching funding from other tiers of government as they come on board.

## PROPOSED TIMELINE

Phase	Description	Timing
<b>Cultural Heritage Study</b>	Illustrated history and interpretation of artist response to set the overall narrative for the project.	July- Nov 2017
<b>Master Plan: Concept Design</b>	Documentation of route map, infrastructure requirements and designs, identification of key nodes and intervention sites with proposed plans for procurement and activation.	Jan – June 2018
<b>Engagement</b>	General information sessions, some online activity, and various targeted activities exploring art, history, transport, parking and tourism.	Jan – July 2018
<b>Master Plan: Detailed Design</b>	Workable plans for construction of pathway, infrastructure and other built components of project.	July – Oct 2018
<b>Design &amp; Construct</b>	Building, procuring and installing physical elements of the project, including infrastructure, pathways and public art.	From March 2019

## ENGAGEMENT

**How are residents being consulted?** Public engagement for RidgeWalk will be led by Council, and supported by the Master Planning consultants. Engagement will continue all of the way through the Master Planning process. It will consist of a series of information sessions, drop-ins with project staff, walks and workshops.

**How can I stay informed?** Regular project updates will be featured in the Yarra Ranges Local. [www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/ridgewalk](http://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/ridgewalk).

**How can I get involved?** Let us know how you would like to be involved. Contact [ridgewalk@yarraranges.vic.gov.au](mailto:ridgewalk@yarraranges.vic.gov.au)