

Crofton Downs Trails Preliminary Proposal October 2024

Introduction

In October 2024 we held some preliminary engagement to understand how Wellingtonians would like the Crofton Downs area of the Outer Green Belt, and its local track network, to be used and developed. We sought people's view on the existing track network in the Ngaio / Crofton Downs area – how well it works for all users and ideas for improvements, including new tracks or connections.

The engagement was in response to a preliminary proposal by Trails Wellington and Korimako Track Builders for new mountain biking and walking trails in the area.

We held a public meeting in Ngaio Town Hall and ran a feedback survey to gauge the level of support and gather comments and ideas. A summary of those results is available at [Proposed Crofton Downs walking and biking trails | Let's Talk](#).

Following that preliminary engagement, the initial plan was revised, and the public will be consulted on the revised proposal in May to June 2025.

This document outlines the main features and map of the preliminary proposal.

The initial proposal

The proposed trails were to be on the eastern side of Te Wharangi Ridge above the suburb of Crofton Downs, linking up to the Skyline Track that runs along the ridgetop.

The initial proposal was for:

- Two new Grade 5 descending bike-priority trails suitable for advanced and expert trail riders (Tracks 1 and 2 on the map below)
- A new Grade 4 priority trail suitable for advanced trail riders (Track 3 in the map below). This track was an existing informal tramping track, used by both walkers and bikers.
- A new shared dual direction walking/biking trail, suitable for easy walking and Grade 2 biking.

The trails would be mostly built by volunteers, with the cost of materials supplied by Wellington City Council. The estimated costs at the time of preliminary engagement that would be covered by Wellington City Council were approximately \$20,000 for environmental assessments and consenting, plus the cost of materials.

The proposals would be subject to detailed design with ecological and professional track building advice to minimise the environmental impact and an assessment of environmental effects would be done under the track assessment criteria in the council's Open Space Access Plan. Planting would be done to help mitigate visual and environmental impacts.

The completion of Tracks 1, 2 and 4 would depend on the land shown in the map as 'future reserve' coming into Council ownership, with unknown timing, subject to the landowner's development plans.

Map: Crofton Downs Trails Preliminary Proposal, October 2024

