

2019

Mt Stuart Mountain Bike Reserve Vision



*TOWNSVILLE ROCKWHEELERS
MOUNTAIN BIKE CLUB INC.*



Mt Stuart Mountain Bike Reserve Vision:

The proposed Mt Stuart Mountain Bike Reserve development is aimed as a crowning jewel to Townsville's existing mountain bike trails and with the vision to elevate Townsville to a trail town destination. The Mt Stuart site can accommodate 80km-100km of all mountain and gravity mountain bike trails, ranging from beginner (green) level to advanced (black) level and with the additional potential to attract National and International level events. The vision shares commonalities with the Councils Corporate Plan for the future of the city. Townsville has the opportunity to become the adventure capital of the north generating economic and social benefits through responsible environmental management of open spaces.



Photo compliments of Geoffrey Kerrisk Photography.

Common Goals:

The benefits mountain biking provides to the community are aligned to the vision and goals of Townsville City Council set out in the Corporate plan. mountain biking has the potential to:

- boost the local economy through tourism opportunities and creation of local jobs;
- increase the liveability of the city with facilities and recreational opportunities;
- create healthy communities through participation in fun physical activities and;
- offer appreciation of our unique natural environment through immersion in the outdoors.

The Mt Stuart Mountain Bike Reserve is an opportunity for the city of Townsville to take advantage of the economic, social and environmental benefits that mountain biking has to offer.



Townsville's Growing Outdoor Recreation Culture:

Mountain Biking in Townsville has experienced rapid growth in recent years. The Queensland Mountain Bike Strategy suggests there has been between 50% to 300% growth in mountain biking in the state since 2009. Townsville's number 1 mountain biking location the Douglas Mountain Bike Reserve is becoming congested. Preliminary data collected from trail counters installed at the Douglas Mountain Bike Reserve are projecting 50,000 plus mountain bike uses per annum. Walkers and runners on the trails, contribute to congestion with an additional 35,000 plus uses per annum. This highlights two factors:

- Mountain biking and other outdoor recreations at the Douglas Mountain Bike Reserve are very popular. The reserve receives significant usage from the Townsville Rockwheelers Mountain Bike Club (500 members) and the greater community;
- Future usage growth confined solely to the one location (Douglas Mountain Bike Reserve) is not sustainable on a social, economic and environmental level.

Townsville has a perfect climate for year-round outdoor adventure activities which enhances the potential for Townsville to become an adventure capital. The development of additional mountain bike trails at Mt Stuart is required to achieve the social efficient allocation of trails for residents and visitors of the city, furthermore enabling Townsville to become a trail town and an adventure tourism destination.

Mt Stuart Mountain Bike Reserve Vision in Detail:

A 330-hectare parcel of land currently zoned as recreation and open space, land Number 255320, has been identified as the location for the Mt Stuart Mountain Bike Reserve, next to the existing downhill tracks at Mt Stuart. See Figures 1 & 2. This land is a prime location for the development of a mountain bike park and could accommodate 80km-100km of all mountain and gravity trails. Additionally, there is the potential to expand into the adjacent 200-hectare site, the topography of which would be perfect for a Cross Country Olympic (XCO) course. The Mt Stuart Mountain Bike Reserve development would include:

- a one-way network for safety of riders;
- beginner (green) gravity trails to enable junior and beginner progression;
- a green climbing trail from trail foot to trail head and around the valley floor linking all trails at the bottom;
- a green/intermediate (blue) trail circumnavigating the ridge at the top of the valley, linking all the trails and taking in the magnificent views on offer;
- blue/advanced (black) gravity and all mountain trails and;
- a very advanced (double back) world class downhill trail.



Photo compliments of Geoffrey Kerrisk Photography.

A trail network of this calibre has the potential to attract national and world class downhill and gravity enduro events. This development, in addition to our existing infrastructure has the ability to put Townsville on the map as a trail town destination providing casual tourism year-round.

The Mt Stuart site is the perfect location for a mountain bike park due to:

- Road access allowing for shuttles of gravity trails;
- Road access also allows access at various points along the trails enabling quicker access to vistas and environmental aspects;
- Centrality, the motorway and port access road allow easy access from all areas of the city;
- The topography and location would make for great trails with postcard shots of the city and Magnetic Island;
- The sheer size of the area has the potential to create the amount of trail required to put Townsville on the map; and,
- The potential for other adventure activities using this area i.e. rock climbing and hiking transforming Mt Stuart into an adventure hub.

As outlined in the Queensland Mountain Bike Strategy the development of a mountain bike park of this size and in this location meets the criteria to be a gravity event location of national significance.

This is not achievable at existing ride locations in Townsville.

Townsville Rockwheelers Mountain Bike Club - Overview:

The Townsville Rockwheelers Mountain Bike Club is a not for profit incorporated club and has been in operation for over 25 years. In line with the growth in mountain biking identified in the Queensland Mountain Bike Strategy, Rockwheelers have grown from 130 member since 2009 to currently 500 financial members. This represents an average growth of 57 members per year, with mix of male and female members, half being between the age of 29 to 50, and a further quarter making up junior members under the age of 18. The Townsville Rockwheelers Mountain Bike Club Inc represents and supports mountain biking in the Townsville region, by being actively involved in land access issues and promoting responsible riding. The unstructured nature of mountain biking is one of its main attractions to most. This means that having access to a variety of trail networks on which to ride is one of the most important requirements for riders.



Photo from Rockwheelers archives.

Existing Mountain Biking Facilities:

The Townsville Rockwheelers Mountain Bike Club Inc currently maintains 3 facilities: Douglas Mountain Bike Reserve; Lake Ross Trails; and, Mt Stuart Downhill Trails. This is achieved through our successful volunteer adopt-a-trail program.

Douglas and Lake Ross are predominantly cross-country trails (approximately 56 Km in total).

Mt Stuart includes 2 downhill trails with a combined length of approximately 5km.

Rockwheelers fully utilises these facilities, catering for competitive and social riders alike, with a variety of regular club events. In addition, these facilities are utilized by the greater Townsville community and tourists enjoying regular recreational mountain biking. The need for the development of mountain biking facilities for competition and recreation was first recognised in the region by the Thuringowa and Townsville Regional Sports Planning Study of September 2004. Since then mountain biking and the region has grown significantly.

Figure 1: Concept Plan Stage One of MT Stuart MOUNTAIN BIKING Park.

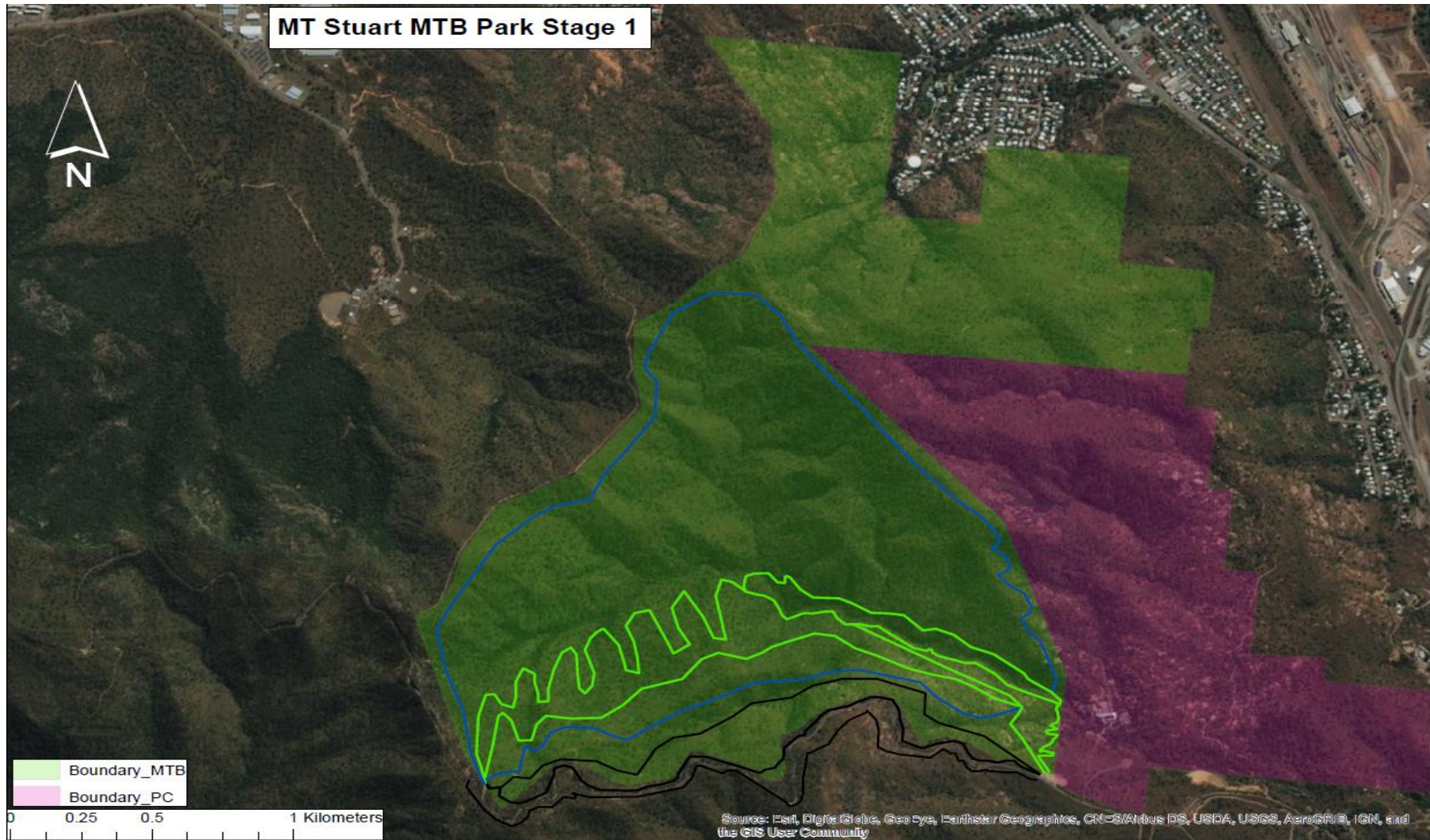


Figure 2 Townsville City Council Zoning Map.

