

A photograph of a mountain biker in mid-air, performing a jump over a dirt mound in a forest. The biker is wearing a white helmet, a light grey t-shirt with a black outline logo, and black shorts. The background shows a dense forest with many trees. Another biker is visible in the distance, also on a trail.

Smithfield Mountain Bike Park Expansion

MASTERPLAN SNAPSHOT

MORE TRAILS. MORE EXPERIENCES. MORE REASONS TO EXPLORE.

The Queensland Government is investing \$15.5 million to expand and enhance Smithfield Mountain Bike Park, building on its reputation as one of Australia's premier mountain bike destinations. The project will transform Smithfield into a nationally significant and internationally recognised mountain bike park, with improved trails, visitor facilities and experiences that support recreation, tourism and events while protecting the area's important environmental and cultural values.

A key initiative under Queensland's Destination 2045 tourism plan, the project will help strengthen Tropical North Queensland's reputation as a year-round adventure destination and support regional economic growth through nature-based tourism.

The expansion will increase the trail network from approximately 25 kilometres to more than 85 kilometres, creating more opportunities for riders of all skill levels while maintaining Smithfield's unique character and world-class riding experience.

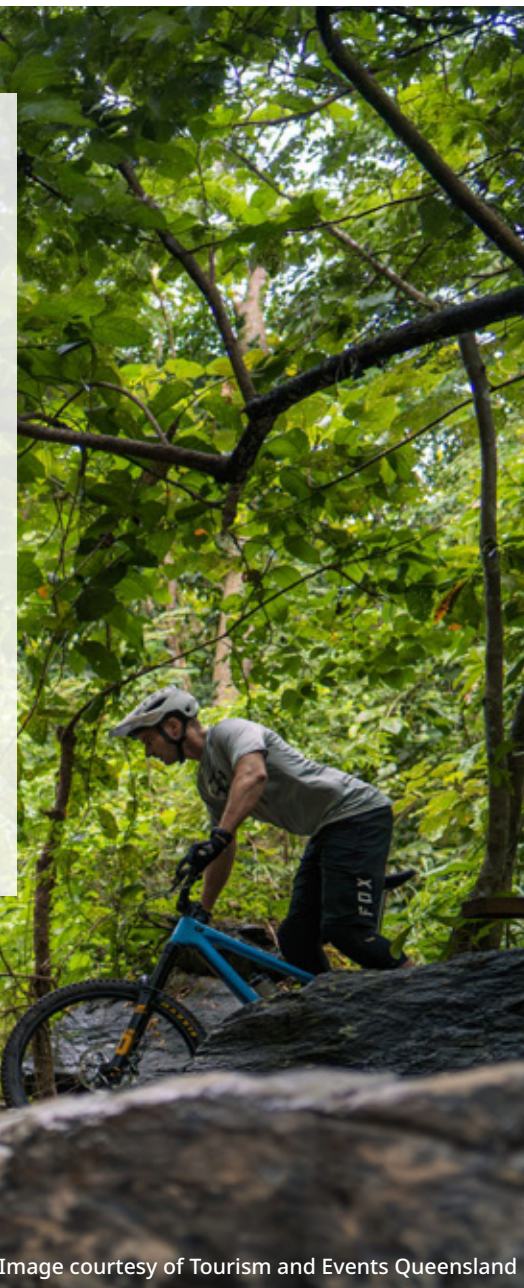


Image courtesy of Tourism and Events Queensland



OUR VISION

Deliver a nationally and internationally recognised and iconic ride destination with high-quality trails, services and governance that is financially sustainable and compliant within a protected area context.

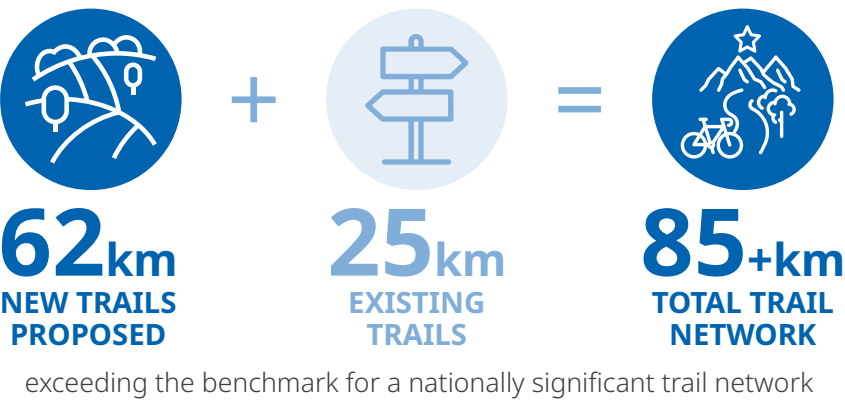
Legend

- Easy MTB Trail
- Intermediate MTB Trail
- Difficult MTB Trail
- Extreme MTB Trail
- Existing Service Roads
- Direction

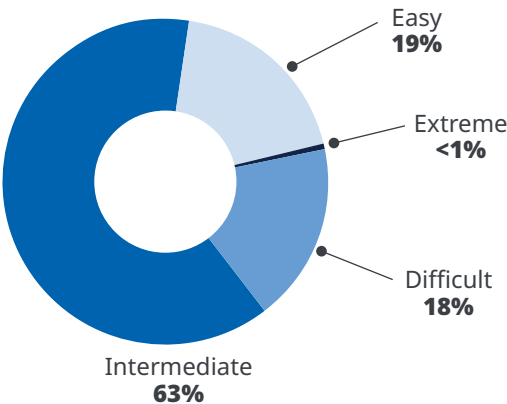
KEY FEATURES

The Masterplan establishes a clear vision and roadmap for the future development of Smithfield Mountain Bike Park. It brings together twelve months of planning, technical analysis and stakeholder consultation to identify priorities, guide future investment and provide a blueprint for transforming Smithfield into a world-class mountain bike park destination.

Key features of the Masterplan include:



TRAIL DIFFICULTY



A MOUNTAIN BIKE PARK PRECINCT

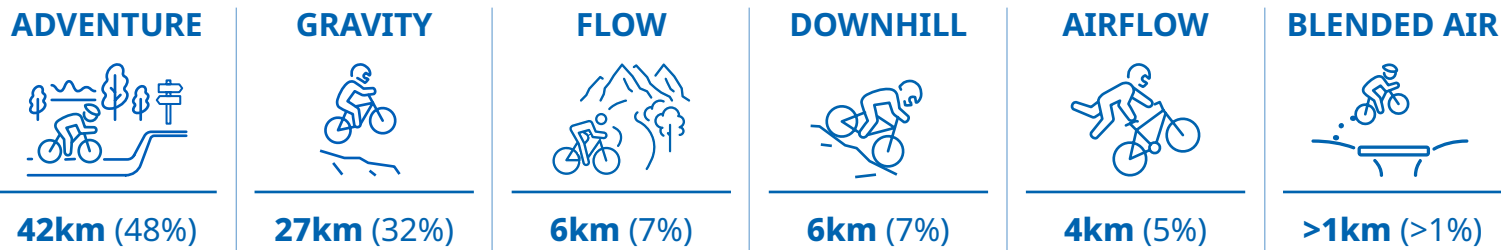
Creates a connected mountain bike destination with **enhanced access, visitor facilities, event spaces, and a staged framework** for future investment.



The trail expansion is projected to

INCREASE VISITORS TO
53,000–75,000
RIDERS ANNUALLY

TRAIL STYLES



TOP TO BOTTOM DESCENTS

2 with more than a **300M ELEVATION**

5 with more than a **200M ELEVATION**

10 with more than a **150M ELEVATION**

MIX OF ASCENTS AND DESCENTS



LONGER TRAILS



9 TRAILS @ 2KM OR MORE IN LENGTH,
LONGEST TRAIL: AN ADVENTURE INTERMEDIATE @ 5.1KM
(climbing 232m and descending 251m)



MAJOR EVENTS

Major events are a key economic driver and Smithfield is well positioned to continue supporting regional, national and international events across the expanded trail network.

The Masterplan identifies a future primary trailhead at the former Crankworx event site that will create a strong sense of arrival for visitors and serve as the gateway to Smithfield Mountain Bike Park. The precinct will function as the park's main arrival, orientation and event hub, supporting rider services, parking, amenities and shuttle operations.



SAFETY AND SIGNAGE

Rider safety is a high priority for the expanded Smithfield Mountain Bike Park. While mountain biking carries inherent risks, the project has considered emergency response requirements and incident management as part of the masterplan.

Emergency and incident management has been undertaken in consultation with local representatives from the Queensland Ambulance Service and Queensland Police Service. The use of location tools such as Emergency Plus and what3words will support accurate identification of incident locations and assist emergency response.

Signage and wayfinding will also play a key role in supporting rider safety, navigation and visitor experience. Trailheads, trail junctions and key decision points will be clearly signed, with trail names, difficulty ratings, emergency information and response protocols provided to help reduce confusion, improve orientation and support timely responses in the event of an incident.



PARK OPERATIONS

Maintaining mountain bike trails is critical to rider safety, environmental sustainability, trail longevity and a high-quality user experience. The Queensland Government has allocated \$1 million over four years to support trail operations and maintenance of the mountain bike park.



ADDITIONAL NETWORK FACILITIES

- Upgraded trailheads, an event-ready precinct, commercial activation opportunities, shuttle-access infrastructure and supporting facilities that enhance the rider experience, support long-term operational sustainability and strengthen tourism outcomes.
- Planning is also progressing for a **new primary trailhead** to cater for expected visitation growth, on the former Crankworx event site, on James Cook University land.
- **Car parking** requirements have been considered as part of project planning. Traffic engineering and modelling is being used to inform car parking spaces required at the primary trailhead in the interim, supported by the existing spaces at McGregor Road, which will receive a refresh. The Northern Access point will remain as available for trail access but will not include formal car parking.
- The proposed trail network has also been designed to support **shuttle-assisted** riding while remaining accessible by pedalling, with three proposed shuttle routes and six drop-off points across the expanded network.



CULTURAL HERITAGE

The Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation acknowledges the Djabugay Nation, comprised of the Djabugay, Bulway, Yirrganydji, Nyakali and Guluy Peoples, as the relevant Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Party for the Smithfield Mountain Bike Park expansion area. The project recognises, with respect and appreciation, the deep and continuing connection of Djabugay Nation people to this landscape, including its landforms, waters, stories, knowledge and ongoing cultural responsibilities.

The project will meet its obligations under the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* to protect Aboriginal cultural heritage. Next steps include site-based cultural heritage assessments and negotiation of an appropriate cultural heritage arrangement. These processes will help identify and appropriately manage cultural heritage values and may inform refinements to staging, trail alignment and delivery methodology as the project progresses.



ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Environmental management will be a core requirement during construction. The successful contractor will be required to prepare and implement a site-specific Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), setting out how environmental risks will be managed, legislative requirements met, and impacts avoided or minimised before, during and after construction.



Image courtesy of Tourism Tropical North Queensland

HOW WAS COMMUNITY FEEDBACK INCORPORATED?

The feedback received helped ensure the Masterplan balances rider experience, safety, environmental sustainability and future visitor needs while maintaining Smithfield's unique character.

Community engagement was conducted in the early stages of the project, including a survey by the Cairns Mountain Bike Club, which helped inform the concept design. Further engagement activities were undertaken on the concept design, which assisted in the development of a ground-truthed design.

Key changes made in response to feedback include:



More beginner-friendly riding opportunities through the addition of a new green loop trail and a net increase in beginner-friendly trails across the network.



Improved safety and navigation through a comprehensive signage and wayfinding system, and the identification of key trail junctions to support emergency access and rider decision-making.



More sustainable trail outcomes through refinement of trail alignments following detailed ground-truthing and environmental factors to improve constructability and resilience.



Enhanced rider facilities through planning for a new primary trailhead and event precinct, supporting amenities, parking, signage and rest areas throughout the network.



Image courtesy of Tourism and Events Queensland

2026

- Masterplan completed
- Environmental and cultural heritage investigations progressing
- Detailed designs completed and procurement for trail construction undertaken.

2027

- Planning and statutory approvals finalised
- Construction expected to commence, subject to approvals
- Stage 1 trail construction begins

2028

- Stage 2 trail construction

LATE 2028

- Network completion and final commissioning
- Expanded Smithfield Mountain Bike Park opens

HOW DO I FIND OUT MORE

Maps of the proposed expanded trail network are available online, outlining access, trail status, trail difficulty ratings, trail styles and south and north network maps with trail numbers and directional arrows.

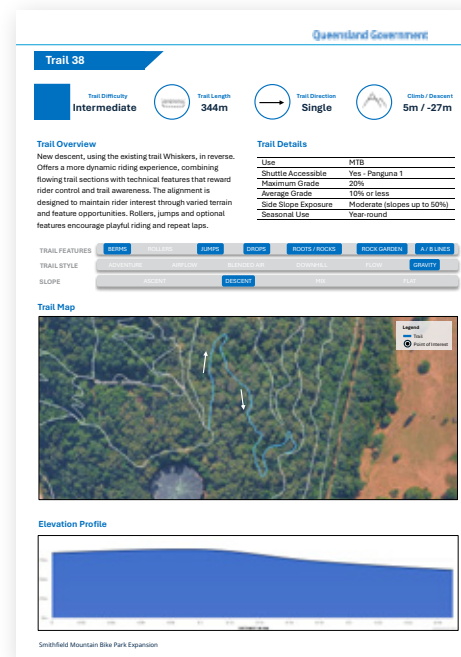
The **Interactive online map** helps explore the future of Smithfield Mountain Bike Park in both 2D and 3D. Designed to put the entire trail network at your fingertips, the interactive map makes it easy to explore trails, features, trailheads, viewpoints and key destinations from any smartphone, tablet or computer.

Individual trail data sheets have been produced for all trails in the Smithfield Mountain Bike Expansion. Each trail data sheet is colour-coded to its trail difficulty rating system rating and provides a snapshot of the trail including detailed elevation, trail type an expected experience users can look forward to.

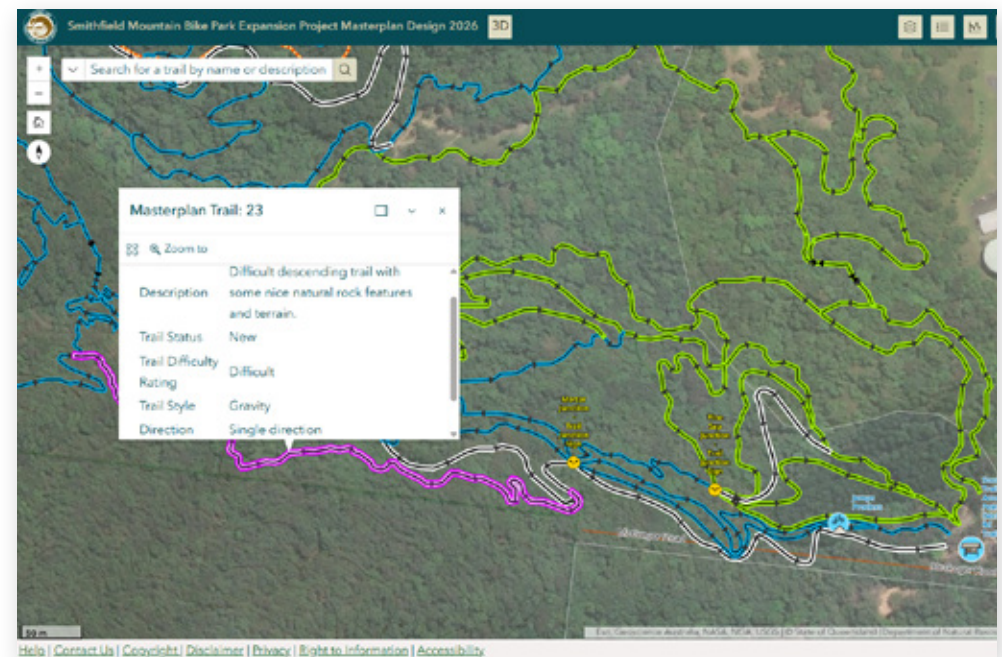
To find out more about the Smithfield Mountain Bike Park Masterplan, visit qld.gov.au/smithfieldproject.



Smithfield Mountain Bike Park Masterplan



Individual Trail Data sheet example



Interactive Online Map example

