

Lotterywest Building Community Funds Outdoors Great Southern Trails for Active, Connected Community

Outdoors Great Southern, formerly known as GSCORE, is the recipient of just over \$380,000 in Lotterywest funds for projects fostering social connection and volunteering in the Great Southern.

Labor MLA Rebecca Stephens announced the Building Community grant, which will contribute to two projects worth close to a million dollars, both slated to begin in November this year.

“This funding recognizes that the Great Southern offers so much more than just beaches and mountain ranges,” said Ms Stephens. “It provides us with a way to recognize the stories associated with the Aboriginal peoples of our diverse and vibrant rural landscape, while connecting our community through community history and storytelling.

“The projects funded by Lotterywest will not only enhance the quality of life and wellbeing of people in the Great Southern to access outdoor recreation activities, but it will also actively bring people together to document a shared heritage and to take an active role in caring for significant sites and the trails that lead to them,” said Ms Stephens.

Outdoors Great Southern Executive Director Dr Lenore Lyons said the grant provided opportunities for social connection and volunteering through two trail-related projects identified in the Great Southern Regional Trails Master Plan (RTMP).

“The funds will enable two great projects from the RTMP to become a reality,” Dr Lyons said.

“The first project, the Great Southern Treasures Bobtail Trail, is a route featuring 25 hiking, paddling and cycling sites spanning ten of the 11 Shires in the Great Southern. The grant will enable a community oral history project engaging seniors and Aboriginal Elders in recording local stories to be displayed on interpretive signage along that route.

Dr Lyons said while the first project would relate mainly to existing trails infrastructure, two new trails would be developed.

“Outdoors Great Southern will add value to two projects already planned by the Kent and Gnowangerup Shires, showcasing the Pingrup Grain Silos and Aboriginal stories on the Gnowangerup Heritage Trail.”

The Lotterywest funds will be used to employ two project officers to collect and collate stories, art, photos and cultural to a written regional resource and a comprehensive signage plan.

Dr Lyons said the second project would encourage community participation in trail maintenance at the Bald Head Trail in Torndirrup National Park, and on City of Albany trails.

“The Trail Carers program is a pilot between Outdoors Great Southern, DBCA, the City of Albany, and the Albany Mountain Bike Club (AMTBC), engaging people from the community to participate as volunteers in basic trail maintenance activities.

“The Lotterywest funds will be used to employ a project officer to coordinate recruitment, training and supervision of a volunteer Trail Care crew to assist with activities such as identifying maintenance needs, light pruning, rubbish collection, erosion control and re-vegetation,” Dr Lyons said.

“The project aims to foster a sense of community connection and belonging for an active and engaged group of volunteers with a shared sense of purpose. It’s a way to reconnect people with each other and with the outdoors, reducing social isolation while improving the quality of the trails experience.”

Dr Lyons said there was also potential for participants to pick up new skills, leading to increased confidence, an improved sense of self-worth and enhanced job-readiness.

“We’re looking forward to helping grow capacity for environmental stewardship in the community, enhancing the connection that residents have with trails and their local environment.”

Dr Lyons said it was hoped that, over the longer term, the pilot would address a need for a sustainable model of trail maintenance across the region.

“The aim is to expand this pilot to grow the volunteer base and the number of trails maintained.”

Outdoors Great Southern is ready to talk to anyone interested in participating in the program. For more information, please email Karl Hansom on a Monday or Tuesday via trails@gscore.com.au or call 0427 533 132 anytime.

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Outdoors Great Southern is a peak regional not-for-profit organisation dedicated to improving the capacity and opportunity for people to participate in active, outdoor recreation in the Great Southern of Western Australia.

Our collective vision is for more people in the region to be enjoying the outdoors safely, sustainably and responsibly through activities such as hiking, trail running, mountain biking and kayaking.

In 2021, we were named WA’s Outstanding Outdoor Organisation at the WA Outdoor Recreation Sector Awards. We have a proven record of leading and delivering collaborative regional projects after developing the Great Southern Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2019-2021 and the Great Southern Regional Trails Master Plan 2020-2029, documents which were endorsed by ALL Great Southern local government authorities.

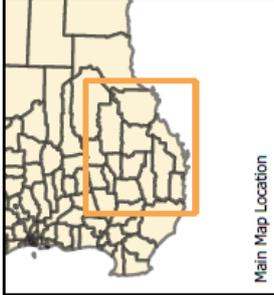


GREAT SOUTHERN TREASURES BOBTAIL TRAIL

Great Southern Regional Trails Master Plan

Great Southern Treasures Recreation Circuit

- Node
- N New
- Great Southern Treasures Drive Trail
- State Road
- National Parks and Nature Reserves



Main Map Location

