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| 7 | Intro 1.1 | With over 25% of Canberra’s population living within 100 metres, and almost 50% living within 500 metres of a reserve, Canberra Nature Park makes a significant contribution to the ACT’s landscape character and is highly valued for nature-based recreation, including walking, running, dog walking, cycling, mountain biking, horse riding, and group activities such as orienteering and rogaining. |
| 12 | SoS 1.3 | Many Canberra Nature Park reserves provide for a range of nature-based experiences and have high levels of use for walking and running, cycling and mountain biking, dog walking, horse riding, bird watching, orienteering and rogaining. These recreational and tourism opportunities contribute significantly to the health and well-being of the community. |
| 92 | Chapter 7 | Horse riding – only on designated equestrian trails. |
| 94 | 7.1 Welcoming visitors and managing impacts | With an increasing population and the development of new suburbs in Canberra, the recreational pressure on Canberra Nature Park will continue to increase over coming years. In meeting this challenge, management approaches outlined in this plan include: - limiting disturbance in areas that are of high value and/or sensitive to impact - restricting horse and mountain bike riding to identified tracks - restricting dog walking (on leash) to tracks and trails in identified reserves, and maintaining all other areas as ‘dogs prohibited’ |
| 97 | 7.4 Nature-based activities Canberra Nature Park provides Canberra residents and visitors with an | In addition to providing a venue for social activities such as picnics or other social gatherings, the park’s reserves are commonly used for active pursuits such as running or walking, cycling, mountain biking, dog walking, horse riding, orienteering, rogaining and geocaching. |
| 100 | BOX 3 Dog walking—best practice | Do not lead your dog when riding a horse or bicycle |
| 101-103 | 7.4.4 Horse riding | The ACT has an extensive network of equestrian trails, including sections of the Bicentennial National Trail that extends from Cooktown in Queensland to Healesville in Victoria. Many ACT Government horse holding paddocks are adjacent to Canberra Nature Park reserves and equestrian trails are generally located in close proximity to these paddocks to facilitate accessible and pleasant riding experiences.  It is an offence under the Nature Conservation Act for a person to take a horse into a reserve, unless there is an Activities Declaration (see Glossary) in place which declares horse riding to be a restricted activity, and the person is complying with the directions and requirements stated in the declaration. Activities Declarations that permit horse riding on identified trails are in place for several Canberra Nature Park Reserves, listed in Table 7.1.  Restricting horse riding to identified trails helps to limit environmental impacts, which can include damage to vegetation, soil compaction and erosion, introduction of weed species, and accidental transport of pathogens. This restriction also helps minimise conflicts with other users and reduces risks to the riders and their animals. Horse riders in Canberra Nature Park should follow best practice as outlined in Box 4.  Other horse riding areas outside the ACT reserve system include Stromlo Forest Park, Majura Pines, Isaacs Pines, the National Arboretum and sections of the Bicentennial Trail.  While balancing the needs of recreational horse riders with those of other users and the conservation of natural and cultural values, the Parks and Conservation Service will trial the provision of additional horse riding access on defined trails in a small number of Canberra Nature Park reserves.  Proposals for new equestrian trails in Canberra Nature Park will consider such factors as: » reserve zoning » avoiding areas that have important values: for example, sensitive wildlife habitat, or threatened, rare or uncommon species » physical constraints such as grade, slope-alignment angle, soil type and soil moisture, type of tread construction, surfacing and drainage » trail design—which should focus on side-hill trail alignments with limited grades and frequent grade reversals to minimise soil erosion, muddiness and tread widening » connections with the existing horse trail network » avoiding conflict with other reserve users » horse and rider safety. |
| 102 | BOX 4 Horse riding—best practice | Horse riding—best practice » Stay on identified equestrian trails. » Do not take short cuts or make new tracks; they damage plants and wildlife habitat. » Avoid riding during or immediately after wet weather conditions. » Avoid spreading weeds by ensuring that horses have access to clean feed. » Ensure horses are under control at all times. » Do not allow horses to graze on vegetation while within Canberra Nature Park. » Do not allow horses into dams or watercourses. » Be considerate of other reserve users and avoid conflict with other visitors, such as people walking dogs or riding bicycles. |
| 105-106 | TABLE 7.1 | Reserves where dogs, horses and cycling are permitted/prohibited |
| 113 | Action 57 | Trial the provision of additional horse riding access to defined trails in a small number of reserves |
| 119 | 8.3 Neighbours | The location of most Canberra Nature Park reserves within an urban setting means that a large number of residential properties and other land uses are immediately adjacent, or close to reserve boundaries. Neighbours include: » residential neighbours » institutional neighbours, including Transport Canberra and City Services and other government agencies » horse paddocks and agistment areas » ACT Rural Landholders Association, Landcare groups and rural leaseholders. Rural leases have been issued over some areas of Canberra Nature Park (Kowen Escarpment, Rob Roy, Tuggeranong Hill, Urambi Hills, Crace Grasslands, West MacGregor Grasslands and Kinlyside) and some rural leases adjoin reserves |
| 133 | 10.4 Domestic animals | Dog walking and horse riding are permitted as restricted activities through Activities Declarations only in reserves indicated in Table 7.1 |
| 150 | Mt Ainslie Reserve | The reserve is heavily used by walkers, runners, cyclists and horse riders and for organised events. The Centenary Trail passes through the reserve and the scenic lookout is a popular tourist destination. Dogs are permitted on leash on a track or trail. Horse riding is permitted on identified equestrian trails. |
| 152 | Mt Majura Reserve | Mount Majura is heavily used by walkers, runners, cyclists and horse riders, and for organised events. The Centenary Trail passes through the reserve. Dogs are permitted on leash on a track or trail. Horse riding is permitted on identified equestrian trails |
| 156 | Mulligans Flat Reserev | The reserve is heavily used for walking and cycling, including on the Centenary Trail. Horse riding is permitted only on the Bicentennial National Trail along the southern edge of Little Mulligans. |
| 158 | Nadjung Mada Nature Reserve (Kenny) | Horse riding is permitted on identified equestrian trails. Biycles are only permitted on Old Well Station Road |
| 164 | Crace Grasslands Nature Reserve | Horse riding and cycling are permitted only on the identified equestrian trail. |
| 166 | Dunlop Grasslands Nature Reserve | Horse riding and cycling are permitted only on the Bicentennial National Trail, which crosses the reserve from east to west and runs along the southern edge. |
| 170 | Jarramlee/West MacGregor Grasslands  Nature | The Bicentennial National Trail crosses the reserve on the north-eastern end.  Horse riding is permitted only on identified equestrian trails. |
| 190 | Cooleman Ridge Nature Reserve | Cooleman Ridge has high recreational use including walking, running, cycling, dog walking, horse riding and bouldering. The Centenary Trail and Bicentennial National Trail pass through the reserve. Dogs are permitted on leash on a track or trail. Horse riding is permitted only on identified equestrian trails |
| 192 | McQuoids Hill Nature Reserve | The Bicentennial National Trail passes through the western side of the reserve. Horse riding is permitted on identified equestrian trails. |
| 194 | Mount Painter Nature Reserve | The Bicentennial National Trail passes along the northern edge of the reserve and through the Wildflower Triangle in the eastern section. Horse riding is permitted on this trail and the identified equestrian trail on the eastern perimeter of the main section of the reserve. |
| 196 | Oakey Hill Nature Reserve | Horse riding is permitted on the identified equestrian trail along the eastern boundary of the reserve. |
| 198 | The Pinnacle Nature Reserve | The Bicentennial National Trail passes through the reserve, along the northern and southern boundaries. Horse riding is permitted only on identified equestrian trails. |
| 200 | Urambi Hills Nature Reserve | Horse riding is permitted on the Bicentennial National Trail, which passes through the reserve along the northern boundary. |
| 212 | Farrer Ridge Nature Reserve | Horse riding is permitted on identified equestrian trails. |
| 214 | Isaacs Ridge Nature Reserve | Horse riding is permitted on identified equestrian trails. |
| 220 | Mount Taylor Nature Reserve | Horse riding is permitted on identified equestrian trails. |
| 224 | Wanniassa Hills Nature Reserve | Horse riding is permitted on a section of identified equestrian trail, which passes along the eastern section of the northern boundary. |
| 244 | 7. NATURE-BASED EXPERIENCES Nature-based activities | Trial the provision of additional horse riding access to defined trails in a small number of reserves. High Priority |