Capability
Statement

Leaders in sustainable
trail management

B1G1 BUSINESS FOR GOOD

BLUE SKY TRAILS

DREAM • BUILD • SUSTAIN

Who are Blue Sky Trails?

Blue Sky Trails are on the path to becoming global leaders in sustainable trail management.

We create, manage and maintain recreation trail networks, ensuring the right trail is in the right place, for the right reasons. Our expertise, strategies, and tools help build and sustain trails that benefit communities and connect people to nature.

We equip councils, land owners, builders and volunteer organisations with strategic frameworks, data, and trail specific knowledge for them to create and manage world-class trails that grow communities and sustain economic growth. We offer strategies for addressing stakeholder needs throughout a trail project and for effectively managing and maintaining trails once they are completed.

As passionate cyclists and nature lovers, we understand the challenges of creating sustainable trails. We're here to help you manage your existing trails as assets, and design future trails that minimise environmental impact and can be enjoyed for generations.

Our trail management services help you with stakeholder strategies, conflict resolution, and risk management. We provide trackable data that allows you to visualise trail usage and monitor conditions, making it easier to identify and prevent risks. Our data enables you to make clear and transparent decisions, and communicate effectively with your stakeholders, minimising chances of conflict. This will also help you allocate budgets for maximum impact.

We are an independent consultancy, giving you confidence that the expertise and information we provide is neutral and aligned to national and international standards. Our training programs ensure land owners, managers, and their communities are on the same page with a shared understanding for their trail's future.

Explore our key services below to see how we can help you create, develop and manage outstanding trails.

Strategic Services

Building trails is just the start. Great trails need great governance, to generate revenue, and to be managed and maintained. Learn how our strategic services can assist you in successfully managing your trails.

> Project Management

Project management for recreational trail projects presents distinct challenges that differ from the approaches used in civil infrastructure projects. A thorough understanding of the intricacies involved in planning and constructing trails is essential for the successful delivery of these projects.

What's Involved:

- Developing robust project governance frameworks, management plans, programs, and budgets to effectively control the delivery of the project.

- Managing and overseeing trail construction activities to ensure project objectives are being met and a quality trail is being constructed.

- Developing tender packages, selecting and engaging 'best for project' contractors and consultants to deliver the project or project elements.

- Monitoring and reporting on project progress, budgets, cashflow, risks, and issue resolution.

> Trail Concept and Master Planning

The success of recreational trail networks depends on their ability to meet user expectations while remaining sustainable for long-term management. Investing in comprehensive trail concept and master planning processes is crucial for achieving this success. The goal is to ensure that the right trails are built in the right locations for the right reasons, with effective management systems in place.

What We Do:

- Work collaboratively to define the vision for your trail network and what success looks like for the target users and ultimate trail experience.

- Establish critical parameters, constraints, opportunities, and risks associated with the trail network.

- Undertake due diligence assessments, desktop evaluations, and ground truthing to validate and refine trail alignments, designs, and specifications.

- Integrate accessibility elements into trail head facilities and planning and developing trail networks that cater for inclusive user experiences.

- Work with stakeholders, user groups, traditional owners, and interested parties to deliver holistic planning outcomes.

- Identify commercial opportunities to support the ongoing maintenance and management of trails, including events and shuttle facilities.

- Capture, evaluate, report, and present evaluation outcomes to gain consensus on trail alignments, trail difficulty ratings, segmentation of trails, construction methodologies and budgets, and ongoing operation and maintenance requirements.

- Our up-to-date knowledge of trail development methods, specifications, and associated costs prevent you from having budgets fall short or time-lines extended. The expertise within Blue Sky Trails ensures you achieve value for money outcomes for trail related plans and projects.

- Review trail concept plans, trail masterplans, and project cost estimates to confirm plans are realistic, sustainable, and meet your requirements.

> Trail Management Frameworks

Trail management is about optimising sustainable trail outcomes to deliver world-class user experiences and ensuring trails are operated and maintained in a holistic manner. Our trail management frameworks offer clear guidance, build accountability, and create an environment that supports making decisions that are in the best interest of the trail.

What's Involved:

- Logical structure of roles, resources, systems, processes, and tools to effectively operate and manage a trail network.

- Identifying and evaluating trail related risks and establishing appropriate mitigation strategies, including the development of emergency response plans.

- Integrating trail management frameworks into corporate asset management and safety management systems to allow seamless reporting and financial analysis.

- Robust methodology for evaluating and considering trail risks and issues before trails are opened to ensure a trail provides the targeted user experience while managing any inherent trail risks.

- Evaluating ongoing trail management requirements and developing resourcing structures and budgets to deliver best practice operation and maintenance outcomes.

> Trail Management System Auditing

Trail management systems are essential for ensuring effective trail oversight, providing organisations with confidence that their trails are being managed properly, and offering staff clear guidance on trail management decisions. As trails and their users evolve, we regularly review these systems to incorporate new methodologies, techniques, specifications, and legislative updates.

What We Do:

- Review management systems used to plan, develop, construct, maintain, and manage trails and trail networks.

- Update management systems to reflect best practice trail management methods.

- Develop and implement change management processes to embed management systems across affected teams.

Telling Compelling Stories through Data

We gather trail-based data to understand current trail conditions and integrate this information into a governance framework, facilitating informed decision-making. This data not only supports credible funding applications but also underpins the success of ongoing projects. Our trail audits keep managers informed about trail conditions, identifying potential risks, safety issues, or environmental degradation before they become costly to address.

> Trail Audits and Risk Assessments

Trail auditing and risk assessments are central to best practice trail management, serving as the primary methods for capturing, analysing, calibrating, and reporting trail data and information.

What's Involved:

- Developing trail audit and risk assessment plans and methodologies to ensure the correct data is collected in the most efficient way.
- Performing trail audits and risk assessments on trails and associated infrastructure.
- Trail audits and risk assessments are performed using the Trail Vision© mobile App and associated trail asset management software.

- Collating and analysing trail audit and risk assessment data to provide clear trail insights, define trends, develop benchmarks, and define budget requirements.
- Developing interactive reports tailored to the intended audience, we present trail audit and risk assessment data in a manner that is easy to consume, understand, and apply to improve trail outcomes.

> Trail Management Software

Trail Vision is the bridge between your trails and your desk, providing accurate data on how your trails are being used and the condition they are in. This helps Trail Managers make evidence based decisions.

Our software is ideal for in-field and in-office trail managers to avoid risk events to trail users, unnecessary waste of resources and maximise the impact of budgets and skills out on the trail. It makes decision making easier and underpins compelling stories for funding and grant applications.

Defining the return on investment and delivering successful user experiences becomes easy to share and communicate.

- Easy to use Collector App for field use, and a Web Portal to store, analyse, and present trail data.
- Integrates with corporate asset management and GIS software packages.
- A demonstration of the software can be provided as required with more information available here www.trailvision.com.au .

Professional Learning & Development

> Trail Construction and Maintenance Training

The way trails are constructed and maintained is a specialised activity that requires a thorough understanding of the principles of sustainable trail design, and how they can be applied to specific terrain and soil types to deliver a trail that is safe, sustainable, and meets user expectations.

What your Team will Learn:

- Fundamentals of sustainable trail design, construction, and maintenance methodologies.
- Practical in-field elements including plotting sustainable trail grades, corridor clearing, trail tread construction, technical trail feature construction, rock pitching, step construction, trail repairs, trail realignments, trail inspections and auditing.

- Theory elements including development phases, principles of sustainable trail development, trail difficulty rating systems, signage, technical trail features, frequently encountered issues, inspections and auditing, construction and maintenance techniques, team management, and safety.

> Trail Management Training

The success of any trail network is directly linked to the knowledge, capability, and capacity of the team responsible for planning and managing the trails. Ensuring that all team members align on trail outcomes ultimately drives better trails and better user experiences.

What Your Team will Learn:

- Awareness and capacity to manage recreational trails, communicate effectively with stakeholders and contractors, and better understand the requirements of trail users.
- Practical in-field elements to carry the theory into practice and identify trail issues and clarify management actions to address them.

- Theory elements including development phases, governance frameworks, stakeholder engagement strategies, principles of sustainable trail development, trail difficulty rating systems, signage, technical trail features, frequently encountered issues, conducting inspections and auditing.

> Business Ready Workshops

Our workshops help business owners understand and identify the opportunities trail based visitors can present to their business. Who the people are that come to enjoy the trails and their needs and expectations. We work extensively with small to medium enterprises to help them identify ways to grow and create value for their future trail based visitor market.
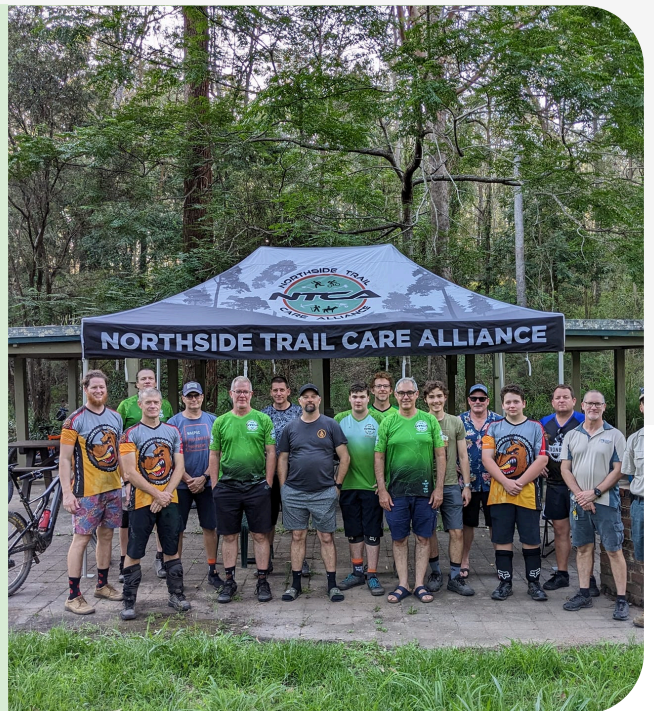

Our workshops are designed with a customer centric approach, assisting business leaders to think empathetically about the needs of their new market. This enables them to discover ways to adapt their existing business and create new business opportunities.

These sessions are fast paced and interactive. We demonstrate customer insights and case studies so that participants leave feeling confident, informed and inspired. Our activities help participants develop skills they can take away with them and apply within their own businesses.

> Volunteer Trail Care Session Planning and Management

Volunteers are a significant contributor to trail maintenance across Australia. We provide support to trail managers who rely on and utilise volunteer resources to maintain their trails. We ensure these activities are aligned to the success of the trail network and operate smoothly and ensure long term sustainability. While volunteers are happy to give back by maintaining their trails, they also have an expectation that trail care activities are planned and managed effectively to justify their commitment of time and sweat equity.

How We Can Help your Volunteer Management:

- Work with your organisation to develop and implement a volunteer trail care program.
- Identify work areas to align with volunteer skillsets and duration of the sessions
- Undertake volunteer inductions and safety briefings.

- Lead and manage volunteer groups undertaking trail care activities.
- Proactively address trail construction quality issues and group dynamic issues.
- Capture and report on work completed and hours of work.

Other Cool Things...

> Stakeholder Conflict Resolution

When undertaking a project to build or maintain trails, it's important to consider the perspectives of various stakeholder groups. Sometimes, there may be disagreements or conflicts between stakeholders in trail related decisions. For example, this can include unauthorised trails being built, or differing ideas of budget. We can help you to manage stakeholder relationships, resolve conflicts, and find a way forward.

How We Can Help:

- Assist your staff to liaise with stakeholders to address issues or conflicts.
- Research and understand the issue at hand before the meeting.

- Attend a site with your staff to undertake stakeholder consultation.
- Document outcomes of consultation and agreed way forward.

We are a Business for Good

At Blue Sky Trails, we want to ensure that philanthropy is a core element of our business.

This is why we have partnered with B1G1 – Buy 1, Give 1 – to allow us to give to those who need it the most by doing the things we do every day.

B1G1 allows us to give a percentage of our revenue to worthy projects, so that you can help make the world a better place without going out of your way.

At the moment, we are giving to a charity that helps save and protect the Daintree rainforest, and a project which provides computer access and training for Indigenous children in remote communities.

Why Blue Sky Trails?

Blue Sky Trails is your trail management business partner.

We provide the knowledge, skills, and experience to ensure you achieve your trail goals. We believe in evidence based decision making using data to help inform and accelerate the future of sustainable recreation trails.

We work with Land Managers to plan, develop, and launch world class trail networks, while growing and developing their own capabilities to effectively operate and maintain their trails.

Our team is agile and adaptive, comfortably working into small upgrades or new destination networks. We are currently providing client side project management services for $11M worth of trail projects across Australia, including several multi-million dollar trail projects.

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