



REQUEST FOR INPUT: SANPARKS EQUESTRIAN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

What is this about?

The Equestrian Management Plan (EMP) for equestrian recreational activity in the Table Mountain National Park (SANParks) has been in the process of being updated for some time.

The EMP is a SANParks plan that is required for each of the different activities that fall under the Activity Permit system. In the Table Mountain National Park, these activities include horse-riding, mountain biking and dog walking. The EMP seeks to manage the environmental impact of each activity, provides for a code of conduct for each user group, and determines how and where the Park can be used.

Part of the Equestrian EMP is a set of maps with approved trails for Hout Bay, Cecilia, Tokai, Noordhoek and Redhill.

Find the Draft EMP and more about the background to this process on www.tmef.co.za

Can you help with these trail queries?

The co-ordinators of the EMP have been asked by SANParks to provide more detail on some aspects of the maps of riding trails in various areas. We would really appreciate the opinions and insight of people with knowledge of these especially if they ride them currently.

Please note: There will still be an official public participation process with comment invited from everyone. Details of when this will be, and how to comment with deadlines, will be widely shared. However, SANParks wants to update the maps with this information before the public participation process.

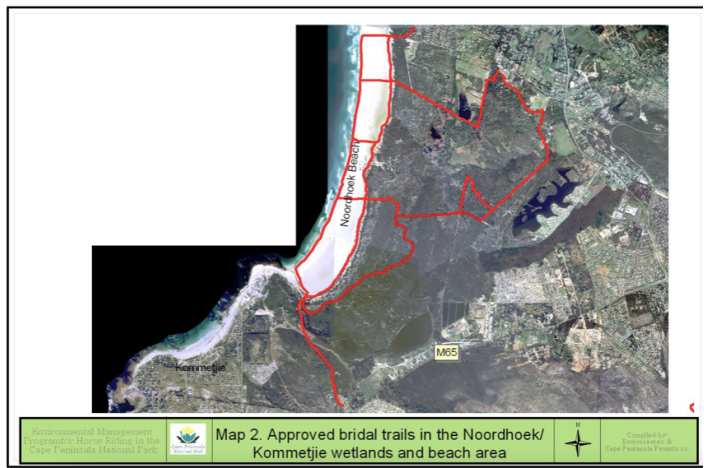
NOORDHOEK/REDHILL

1: Kommetjie area trail

These maps are the 2018 map of existing and proposed trails and the approved 2004 EMP map for Noordhoek/Kommetjie. The SANParks team would like to know the following:

The 2018 map shows only two trails, one on the beach and the second along the dune edge. In the old 2004 map, a third trail is shown even further from the beach. Is this third trail (bulging inland) still in existence, currently being used by riders or has it been left off the 2018 map because it isn't viable, safe or desired as a track? Or should it be added back into

the map? Bear in mind, that it would be irresponsible to put bridle paths on an approved map that are not safe for local or visiting riders to use or would cause injury to their horses.



2: Access points to SANParks land

On the map access points where riders connect with SANParks land are shown as green dots. The question is at what point to riders from areas such as Sea Cottage Drive enter the trails? There are currently no access points shown further south than NRC until you get to Kommetjie.

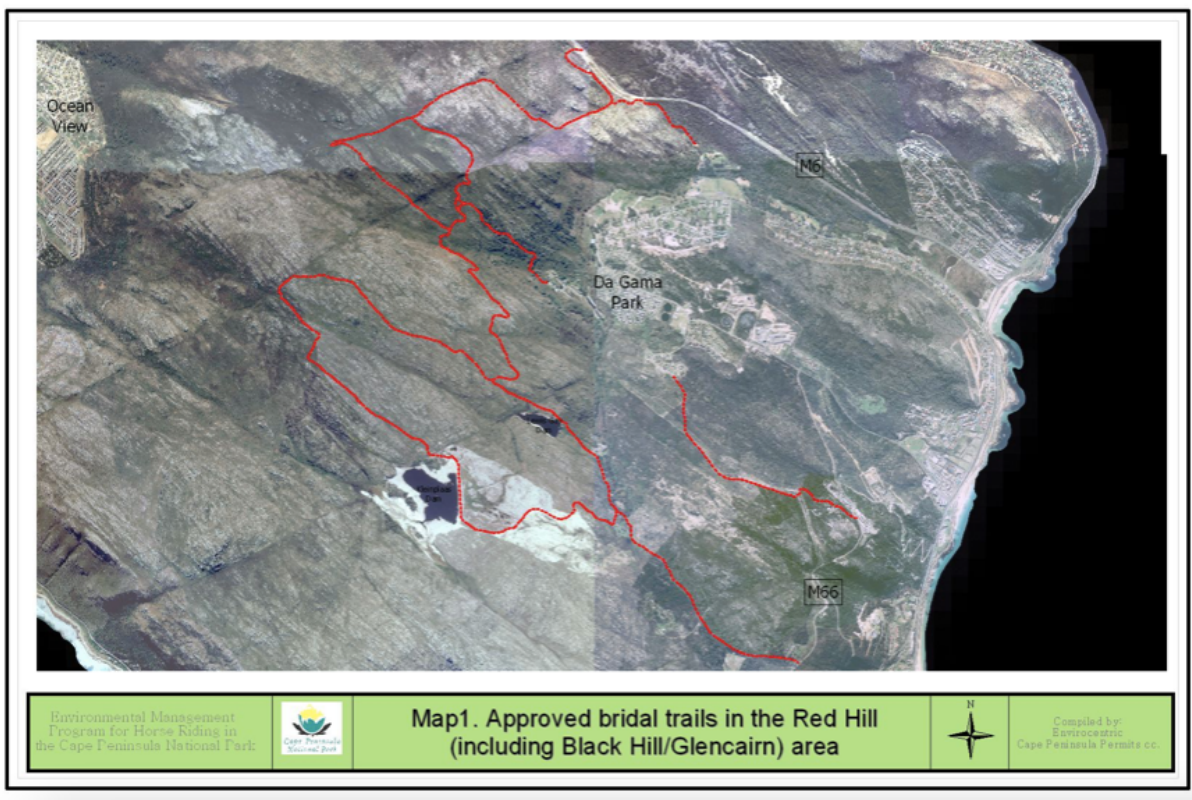
3: Horse-box parking

SANParks want to indicate on the maps where riders (possibly from other areas) would be able to park horseboxes to enjoy a ride on the beach or in the wetlands. These would not be official parking areas (unless they are actually on SANParks land), but we would like to know where suitable places are, or are currently being used to offload?

4: Glencairn/Redhill

Please compare the 2018 map (which was drawn up with input from riders in the area in 2017/2018) with the map of approved trails from 2004. SANParks wants to know if the circular part of the trail around the top dam is a viable track still being used by riders. Similarly, for the loop on the trail nearer Glencairn. Any input about the current status of these old tracks would be most welcome.





CECILIA

1. Concrete Road to back table

Prior to the pines being removed and the road being concreted, a ride to the top of the mountain was possible. SANParks are querying whether this should be shown as an equestrian route for recreational riders as they do not think it is safe due to vehicles going up and down this steep road being unable to stop or pull over for a horse. Removing this as a riding trail would not limit proposals for tourism horseback trails on an organised basis, as the EMP only covers recreational riding.

Question: Has anyone ridden up the concrete road recently, and what is their opinion?

Please send your comments **as soon as possible or by Thursday 17 November** to info@tmef.co.za or leave them on the comment form on www.tmef.co.za or if all else fails copy to my personal address sarah@string.co.za

Thank you so much.
Sarah Hetherington
EMP coordinator