

The Sydney Green Ring and Southern Sydney Tourism Trails

The Sydney Green Ring (map 1) was inspired by the Sustrans(1) model of active transport corridors for walking, cycling and horse riding trails and that incorporated the best quality public art.

Many Local Councils have recently published social strategies and listed the need for identifying and publicising Tourist Trails, iconic routes which would be a focal point for the promotion of cycling. Other national governments have recognised the importance of cycle tourism as part of the tourism mix, e.g. the German National Tourism Board site(2) and the San Francisco Bay Trail(3), etc.

The NSW state government has increasingly recognised the importance of cycling for recreation and as a viable transport initiative in the NSW Government Metropolitan Strategy as well as the Premier's Council on Active Living. Cycle tourism is a small but potentially growing niche market for local and international tourism.

The Sydney Green Ring intersects with the Global Arc, housing and business developments such as Green Square, and refurbishment of the Sydney Airport, Darling Harbour, Callan Park, Cooks Cove, etc. These developments will see massive increases in the numbers of residents and/or commuters to these areas.

At the local BUG level, members of BikeSydney have been addressing issues identified in the 2006 Social Initiatives(3), in the interrum to these becoming part of the CoS Council's regular operations. Tasks include the creating of informative social rides through the city environs, many themed on public art. The provision of pocket maps and information to accompany these rides and for those who chose to pursue self-guided tours, available in pdf form from Massbug www.massbug.org.au

The Green Ring Ride follows the green corridor that exists within a 5km radius of Erskville, see the map on Bikely(5). The Green Ring as presently outlined is 36 km in length and parts of which cannot be ridden without trespassing on Sydney Water and Sydney Airport land or riding illegally on footpaths in areas where the traffic is exceedingly fast or heavy. *The requirement for all BikeSydney and Massbug rides is to comply with existing laws, i.e. that a 12 year old cyclist could be safe riding the mapped route using the public streets and shared paths. This is not possible on some roads on this route at present.* There are alternative routes available and these will be posted soon.

Trails with tourism potential include:

- The Parramatta River Foreshore Trail, from Woolloomooloo to Parramatta, that includes Sydney Foreshore Trail, the Bay Run and Homebush Bay (almost complete).
- The Iron Cove to Cooks River GreenWay (half complete).
- The Cooks River Cycle Path (complete and being upgraded)
- The Coastal Trail from South Head to Cape Banks (La Perouse).
- The Botany Bay Trail from Kurnell to Cape Banks (La Perouse).
- A Centennial Park to Botany Walking and Cycle Trail (proposed)
- The RTA regional route via Pymont to the Iron Cove Bridge (complete).

It is proposed that the BUGs champion the idea of a Tourism Trail Network and to advance the idea to BNSW, Local Councils, the SSROC, The NSW Tourism Board, and NSW Government.

As per the models cited, cultural destinations, recreation and accommodation are the key features, to compliment the present focus on commuting paths. Most of the infrastructure for the Tourism Trail Network is existing, being upgraded or planned. This project identifies some of these resources which can be promoted to encourage cycling and cycling tourism.

(1) Sustrans <http://www.sustrans.org.uk/>

(2) German National Tourism Board http://www.germany-tourism.de/cycling/route_finder.htm

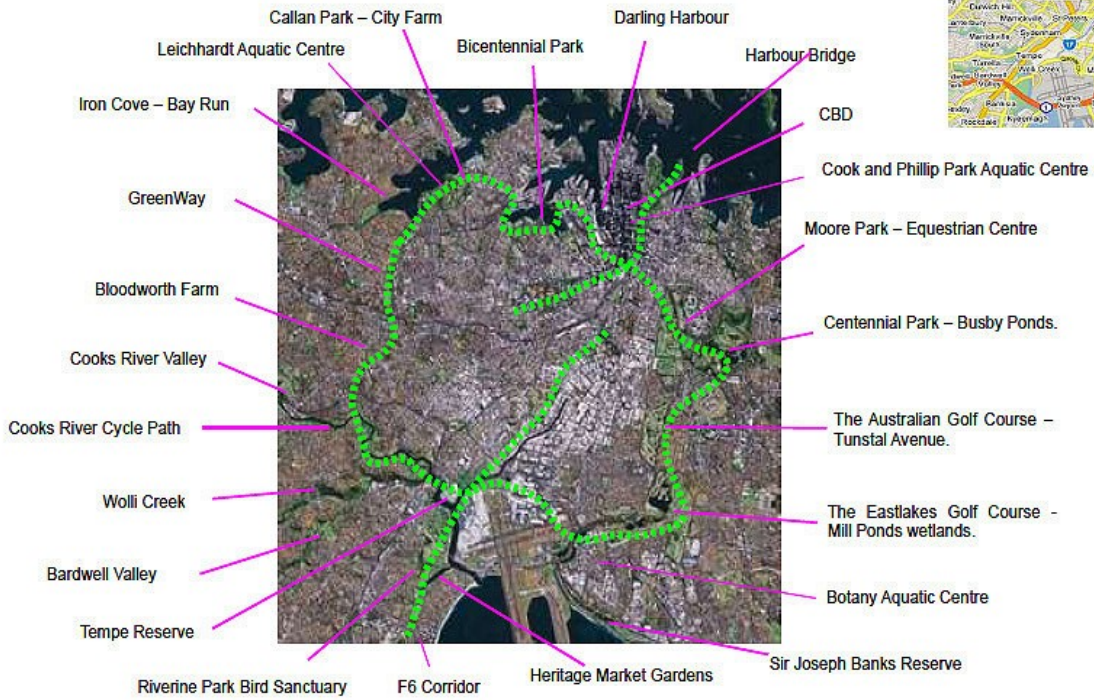
(3) San Francisco Bay Trail <http://www.abag.ca.gov/bayarea/baytrail/>

(4) The City of Sydney Draft Cycle Strategy and Master Plan 2006 – 2016 Attachment A (July 2006)

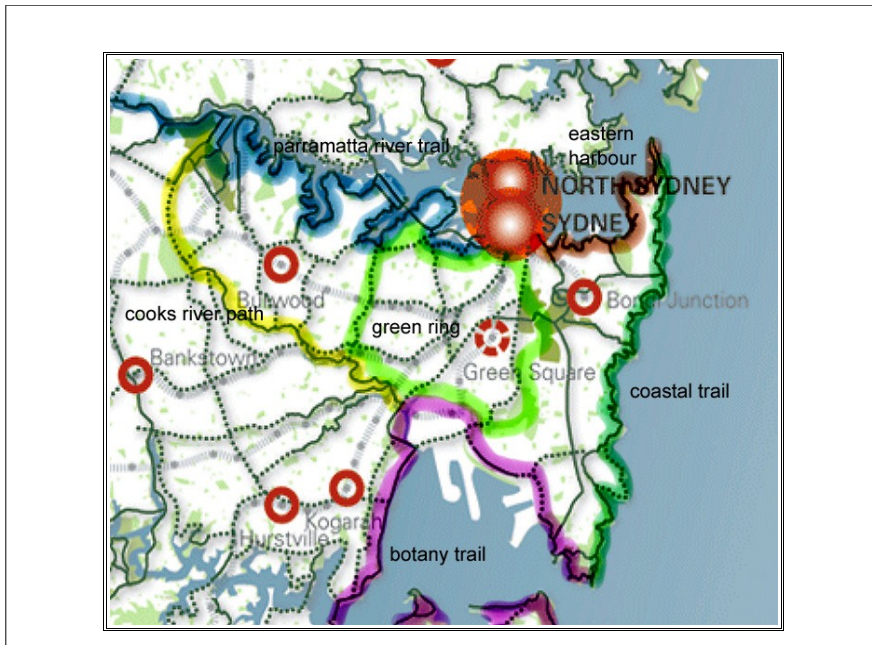
(5) Sydney Green Ring <http://www.bikely.com/maps/bike-path/Sydney-Green-Ring>

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SYDNEY GREEN RING AND TOURIST TRAIL



Map 1 - Concept Map available on Bikely at <http://www.bikely.com/maps/bike-path/Sydney-Green-Ring>



Map 2 – Metropolitan Strategy 2007, Cycle Trails. For illustration purposes the Parramatta River Foreshore Trail incorporates Sydney Foreshore Trail, Bay Run, etc. Green Ring incorporates the GreenWay. The M5 East Lineal Park is not shown due to the incomplete link between Bexley North Station and Tempe Station