On the right track

Wanora to Fernvale

7.6 km

For more information
Blackbutt Visitor Information Centre
Hart Street, Blackbutt 07 4163 0633

Esk Visitor Information Centre
82 Ipswich Street, Esk 07 5424 2923

Futures and Visitor Information Centre
1483 Brisbane Valley Highway, Fernvale 07 5427 0200

Ipswich Visitor Information Centre
14 Queen Victoria Parade, Ipswich 07 3281 0555

South Burnett Energy and Visitor Information Centre
Corner Drayton and Henry Street, Nanango 07 4171 6871

www.brisbanevalleyrailtrail.org.au
Trail summary

Location

The Brisbane Valley Rail Trail, when completed, will be a 148 kilometre recreation trail from Wulkuraka to Blackbutt. It will follow the old Brisbane Valley railway line and provide walkers, touring cyclists and horse riders with an opportunity to experience the history and landscape of the Brisbane Valley.

The 7.6 kilometre Wanora to Fernvale section of the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail is northwest of Ipswich and Brisbane along the Warrego and Brisbane Valley Highways. Wanora is approximately eight kilometres south of the township of Fernvale which is 30 kilometres northwest of Ipswich or just under one hour’s drive from the Brisbane CBD.

Landscape heritage

Sites of interest along this section of the trail are the various historical sites in the township of Fernvale such as the Memorial Park, Savages Crossing and the Fernvale Cemetery.

Use

The trail is for walking, cycling and horse riding only. The trail surface is gravel and unsuitable for road bicycles or personal mobility vehicles. No motorised vehicles of any type are allowed.

Sections of the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail are classified:

- Easy grade: even surface
- Moderate grade: surface may be rough
- Advanced grade: rough surface

On trail signage indicates classifications between Wanora and Fernvale. The distance and trail facilities make this section suited to people with a moderate fitness level. Walking shoes or light hiking boots are required and horses must be shod.

Services

Public toilets, picnic facilities, post office, convenience stores, cafes and bakeries are located in Fernvale. Trail users have accommodation in Fernvale including the Fernvale Hotel/Motel and Rangeview Outback. Horse accommodation and facilities are available at the Fernvale Recreation Grounds. Mobile phone coverage is good. There are no services on the trail or at Wanora.
Heritage—Indigenous

The Jagera, Yuppera and Ugarapul peoples are the Traditional Owners of the Brisbane Valley district. Prior to European settlement in 1824, the landscape of South East Queensland (as elsewhere is Australia) was influenced and protected by millennia of Aboriginal stewardship. Indigenous use and management of the landscape maintained a balance between the land and human needs.

Heritage—European

The original railway line through the Brisbane Valley was built in the 1880s and was used during the early years of the last century to transport supplies to the growing number of small farmers in the valley and milk products, timber and stock to Brisbane markets. The last rail motor service on the line occurred in 1989 and the railway line was finally closed later that year. Brisbane Valley Heritage Trails Inc. has a wealth of old photos from the early days of the Brisbane Valley Line as well as the stories of working people including the railway men.

Originally two towns called ‘Stinking Gully’ and ‘Harrisborough’ made up the area now known as Fernvale. In the 1860s the area was the centre of cotton farming in the Brisbane Valley but floods soon made the industry obsolete. The spot became a regular camping place, and in 1875 it became known as Fernvale.

Distance

Wanora – Fernvale Futures Complex:
7.6 kilometres
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Do your part by modelling appropriate behaviour and leaving the trail as you found it. Please respect other users, the natural environment and the privacy of adjacent landholders. Before you use the trail, make sure you educate yourself and obtain trail maps and information, check the weather forecast and plan clothing, equipment, and supplies accordingly.

Sharing

- Park cars and trailers in designated areas.
- Please leave all gates as found.
- Observe local signs and regulations.
- Do not obstruct the trail. Cyclists must alert other users on approach and pass at a reduced speed.
- Approach horses with care.
- Keep dogs under control and on a lead.

Environment

- Keep on the trail.
- Do not interfere with native plants or animals.
- Please dispose of all rubbish and animal waste appropriately.
- Do not light fires.
- Clean bikes, walking boots and other equipment after your trip to minimise the spread of plant and animal pests and diseases.
For your safety and comfort

- Be cautious at all road and creek crossings.
- Cyclists and horse riders must wear approved safety equipment and ride in control.
- Do not approach or feed pets or livestock in adjacent properties.
- Carry drinking water and light snacks.
- Wear appropriate clothing for the conditions.
- Maintain your equipment, and carry repair and first aid kits in case of emergencies.
- Where possible, don’t travel by yourself.
- Let a responsible person know where you are going and when you expect to return before you go.

Emergencies

Call 000

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The Brisbane Valley Rail Trail is one of three regional recreation trails funded by the Queensland Government until 2012 and being delivered through a partnership between the Department of Infrastructure and Planning, Ipswich City, South Burnett and Somerset Regional Councils.

Through Growth Management Queensland, the Queensland Government is protecting more land for public recreation to help shape tomorrow’s Queensland.