

National Outdoor Recreation Strategy Public Consultation

Fields marked with * are mandatory.



**An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail**
Department of Rural and
Community Development

#OurRuralFuture

Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys, T.D. has launched a public consultation seeking the views of stakeholders and the public to inform the Government's new National Outdoor Recreation Strategy, which is currently being developed by Comhairle na Tuaithe (The Countryside Council).

We are interested in your views on outdoor recreation in Ireland to help develop the Strategy. By 'outdoor recreation', we mean activities that take place in the natural environment, such as walking, canoeing and wild swimming. It does not include activities that take place outdoors on confined courses or pitches (such as golf, football, show jumping) nor motorised activities (such as quads).

Please complete the short survey where you will have an opportunity to share your views on a range of topics. We are very keen to understand what is important to you, get your ideas on potential solutions and identify any areas we may have overlooked in our thinking so far. The information gathered will be confidential and anonymous. If you choose to supply an email address, the information will still be anonymised, but we will be able to contact you for further consultation.

We appreciate your time in contributing to this process and value your input. This is the first stage of a two-stage consultation process, so you will have a second opportunity to contribute your views later in the year.

Thank you.

*** 1. Please select the option that best describes the capacity in which you are responding to this survey:**

- Frequent participant in outdoor recreation
- Occasional participant in outdoor recreation
- Representative of a community group or organisation
- Private landowner
- Representative of a club or a national governing body
- Employee of a public landowning body
- Employee of government or a state body
- Employee of a local authority - planning/engineering
- Employee of a local authority - other

- Employee of a local development company
- Outdoor activity provider / outdoor education
- * Other (please detail)

* If you selected 'other', please provide details here:

150 character(s) maximum

If you selected the following options please answer Section A:

- Frequent participant in outdoor recreation
- Occasional participant in outdoor recreation
- Representative of a community group or organisation
- Private landowner

If you selected the following options please answer Section B:

- Representative of a club or a national governing body
- Employee of a public landowning body
- Employee of government or a state body
- Employee of a local authority - planning/engineering
- Employee of a local authority - other
- Employee of a local development company
- Outdoor activity provider / outdoor education
- Other

Section A

*** 2. What do you think are the main opportunities and strengths of outdoor recreation in Ireland, and how could we best take advantage of these?**

1500 character(s) maximum

*** 3. What do you think are the main issues and challenges facing outdoor recreation in Ireland, and how could these be addressed?**

1500 character(s) maximum

4. The following ideas have been suggested for the Strategy. Please rate how important you believe each one to be.

	Very important	Somewhat important	Not very important	Not important
* Increasing participation in outdoor recreation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Greater inclusion of people from underrepresented communities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Better protection of the environment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Better information for people on where to go and what to do	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Development and management of infrastructure such as trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Coordination between different bodies involved in outdoor recreation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Solution for landowners regarding liability concerns	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Education on how to respect the outdoors	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Increase in funding and investment in the sector	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Address ground erosion at busy locations and on fragile terrain, e.g. blanket bog	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Gathering evidence of the value of outdoor recreation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Improve access to private and public land	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Promoting outdoor recreation opportunities available in Ireland	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Create opportunities for rural communities and landowners to benefit from outdoor recreation activity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Better opportunities to develop skills in outdoor recreation activities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* * Other (please detail)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* If you selected 'other', please provide details:

150 character(s) maximum

*** 5. To what extent do you agree that the following statement sums up what the ambition for the new Strategy should be?**

“The National Outdoor Recreation Strategy will lead, guide and facilitate the sustainable development and management of outdoor recreation and increased participation, in order to realise social, health and economic benefits. We will do this whilst respecting the custodians of the land, caring for the environment and promoting responsible recreation.”

- Strongly Agree
- Slightly Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Slightly Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- Don't know

Please comment

500 character(s) maximum

6. If you have any additional observations to inform the new Strategy, please add your comments (you will also have a second opportunity to input on the detail of the Strategy during the second stage of consultation)?

1500 character(s) maximum

If you would like to be kept informed of the next stage of consultation and Strategy launch, then please enter your email address below.

Your email address will only be recorded for the purposes of communication regarding the development of this Strategy.

Section B

2. The following themes have been suggested for the Strategy. Please rate the importance of each theme

	Very important	Somewhat important	Not very important	Not important
* Participation & Inclusion	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Planning (trails and infrastructure) and Environment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* Communication, Education and Promotion	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Leadership and Coordination of the sector	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Access to land	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Funding and Resources	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* * Other (please detail)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* If you selected 'other', please provide details.

150 character(s) maximum

The next section explores in more detail each of these key themes.

3. Participation and Inclusion

The following objectives have been suggested for the Strategy. Please rate the importance of each objective.

	Very important	Somewhat important	Not very important	Not important
* Continue to grow participation in outdoor recreation nationally	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Engage people from under-represented groups	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Develop local outdoor recreation opportunities for communities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Develop a local community trail plan for each county	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Increase investment in participation programmes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Increase levels of engagement with the natural environment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* * Other (please detail)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please add any comments on how these objectives might be achieved, or any additional objectives, in the box below.

1500 character(s) maximum

4. Planning (trails and infrastructure) and Environment

The following objectives have been suggested for the Strategy. Please rate the importance of each objective.

	Very important	Somewhat important	Not very important	Not important
* Protect the environment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Address ground erosion at busy locations and on fragile terrain, e.g. blanket bog	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Forward plan where infrastructure would be best located	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Plan for amenities and supporting infrastructure, not just trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Increase focus on maintenance of existing infrastructure	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Improve visitor management at overcrowded sites	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Agree procedure for development of local community green/blue spaces and trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* * Other (please detail)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please add any comments on how these objectives might be achieved, or any additional objectives, in the box below.

1500 character(s) maximum

5. Communication, Education and Promotion

The following objectives have been suggested for the Strategy. Please rate the importance of each objective.

	Very important	Somewhat important	Not very important	Not important
* Better information for people on where to go and what to do	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Engage people from under-represented groups	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* Educate on Leave No Trace and good practice in the outdoors	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Develop skills of new and existing participants in outdoor recreation activities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Promote the benefits of outdoor recreation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* * Other (please detail)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please add any comments on how these objectives might be achieved, or any additional objectives, in the box below.

1500 character(s) maximum

6. Leadership and Coordination of the sector

The following objectives have been suggested for the Strategy. Please rate the importance of each objective.

	Very important	Somewhat important	Not very important	Not important
* Increase collaboration across government departments/public bodies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Improve coordination between different bodies involved in outdoor recreation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Make clear the roles, responsibility, and accountability of stakeholders	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Develop an outdoor recreation plan for each county	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Create an outdoor recreation forum for each county	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Develop training programmes for all those involved in developing and managing outdoor recreation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Improve communication to and between all stakeholders	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* * Other (please detail)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please add any comments on how these objectives might be achieved, or any additional objectives, in the box below.

1500 character(s) maximum

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7. Funding and Resources

The following objectives have been suggested for the Strategy. Please rate the importance of each objective.

	Very important	Somewhat important	Not very important	Not important
* Coordinate and redesign funding from government departments	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Increase funding for outdoor recreation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Ensure collaboration between local stakeholders	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Gather evidence of the value of outdoor recreation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Develop models of volunteering to support trail development and maintenance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Create opportunities for rural communities and landowners to benefit from outdoor recreation activity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* * Other (please detail)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please add any comments on how these objectives might be achieved, or any additional objectives, in the box below.

1500 character(s) maximum

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8. Funding for outdoor recreation covers many elements such as building infrastructure, funding staff who manage and develop our green/blue spaces.

Please indicate in what order funding should be prioritised for these elements (where 1 is the most important priority and 7 is the least important priority)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
* Human resources (e.g. RROs, development officers, wardens)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Planning and managing outdoor recreation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* New infrastructure	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Maintenance of existing infrastructure	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* Activation programmes (introducing people to the outdoors)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Education and promotion (encouraging responsible recreation)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Protection of the environment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

9. Access to land

The following objectives have been suggested for the Strategy. Please rate the importance of each objective.

	Very important	Somewhat important	Not very important	Not important
* Improve access to private and public land	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Retain current model based, in the main, on permissive access provided by landholders	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Consider other models not based on permissive access e.g. purchase-by-agreement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Examine options to integrate access in farm /environmental/forestry payment schemes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Explore how to address concerns of landholders	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Explore solutions to land access issues based on legislative change	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Explore solutions to land access issues based on insurance and indemnity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Review the approach to land access in other countries and consider what can be learned in an Irish context	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Develop a framework to secure access for the development of local community trails and green /blue spaces	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* * Other (please detail)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please add any comments on how these objectives might be achieved, or any additional objectives, in the box below.

1500 character(s) maximum

*** 10. To what extent do you agree that the following statement sums up what the ambition for the new Strategy should be:**

“The National Outdoor Recreation Strategy will lead, guide and facilitate the sustainable development and management of outdoor recreation and increased participation, in order to realise social, health and economic benefits. We will do this whilst respecting the custodians of the land, caring for the environment and promoting responsible recreation.”

- Strongly Agree
- Slightly Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Slightly Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- Don't know

Please comment to explain your answer.

500 character(s) maximum

11. Is there anything additional that you would like to comment on (you will also have a second opportunity to input on the detail of the Strategy during the second stage of consultation)?

1500 character(s) maximum

If you would like to be kept informed of the next stage of consultation and Strategy launch, then please enter your email address below.

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