



Plean Aeraíochta do Chontae Mhuineacháin

2025 - 2030



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Sliabh Beagh Way County Monaghan, Courtesy of Fáilte Ireland

Réamhrá

An gá le Plean Aeraíochta do Chontae Mhuineacháin

In 2022, sheol an Roinn Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail (RFTP) straitéis aeraíochta náisiúnta ‘Ag baint sult as an saol amuigh faoin spéir in Éirinn 2023 -2027’. Luadh Pleananna Aeraíochta Contae a fhorbairt ar fud na hÉireann go sonrach sa straitéis:

“Ar leibhéal an chontae, is é ár mian ná cur chuige níos pleanáilte agus níos comhordaithe a bhaint amach idir an iliomad páirtithe leasmhara, trí Choiste Aeraíochta an Chontae a thabhairt isteach agus Plean Aeraíochta a fhorbairt do gach contae.”

Seachas an mhian náisiúnta, tá comhaitheantas i gContae Mhuineacháin i measc na bpríomhpháirtithe leasmhara go dtugann forbairt plean contae deis chun cur chuige níos comhoibrithí i dtreo tionchair dhearfacha aeraíochta a bharrfheabhsú.

Céard is Aeraíocht ann?

Is éard is brí le haeraíocht gníomhaíochtaí a dhéantar sa timpeallacht nádúrtha amhail siúl, canúail, rothaíocht sléibhe, treodóireacht agus snámh fiáin. Ní chuimsítear le haeraíocht gníomhaíochtaí a dhéantar amuigh faoin aer ar chúrsaí nó ar pháirceanna cúnga (cosúil le galf, peil, seóléimneach) nó le gníomhaíochtaí mótair (cosúil le cuadrothair/rothair streachailte) ach amháin i gcás áiseanna soghluaisteachta mótair. Tá sainmhíniú iomlán agus liosta gníomhaíochtaí le fáil sa straitéis ‘Ag baint sult as an saol amuigh faoin spéir in Éirinn 2023 -2027’

Buntáistí na hAeraíochta

Rinneadh forbairt na straitéise náisiúnta agus infheistíocht airgeadais mhór mar fhreagra ar aitheantas ar na buntáistí iomadúla a thugann gníomhaíochtaí aeraíochta do phobail na hÉireann, lena n-áirítear buntáistí meabhairshláinte agus sláinte choirp, chomh maith le buntáistí eacnamaíocha agus sóisialta. Sa straitéis ‘Ag baint sult as an saol amuigh faoin spéir in Éirinn’, tugtar fianaise ar mhéadú an éilimh ar aeraíocht agus ar na buntáistí móra a bhaineann léi.

- Chaith cuairteoirí ó thar lear a ghlac páirt san aeraíocht €1.7 billiún in 2019
- Mhéadaigh líon na gcuairteoirí ar fhoraoisí Coillte beagnach faoi dhó idir 2018 agus 2021
- Cosnaíodh 97,000 cás de ghalar in Éirinn mar gheall ar rannpháirtíocht i ngníomhaíocht choirp in 2019, rud a shábháil breis is €405 milliún i gcostais.
- Is í siúlóid mar chaitheamh aimsire an spórt nó gníomhaíocht choirp is mó a nglactar páirt inti in Éirinn go mór fada.

Forbairt an Phlean

Bhí Outscape i gceannas ar fhorbairt an Phlean seo idir Deireadh Fómhair 2024 – Márta 2025 thar ceann Fhoireann Tionscadail de pháirtithe leasmhara aeraíochta i gContae Mhuineacháin. Lean an próiseas an treo a leagtar amach in ‘Treoirlínte d’Fhorbairt - Pleananna Aeraíochta Contae’ a d’fhorbair DRCD (2024). Áiríodh na heintitis seo a leanas san Fhoireann Tionscadail:

- Foghrúpa an Fhórait Turasóireachta agus Áineasa Chomhairle Mhuineacháin
- Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin
- Comhpháirtíocht Spóirt Mhuineacháin
- Coillte
- Fáilte Ireland
- Uiscebhealaí Éireann
- Iascaigh Intíre na hÉireann
- Forbairt Chomhtháite Mhuineacháin CTR

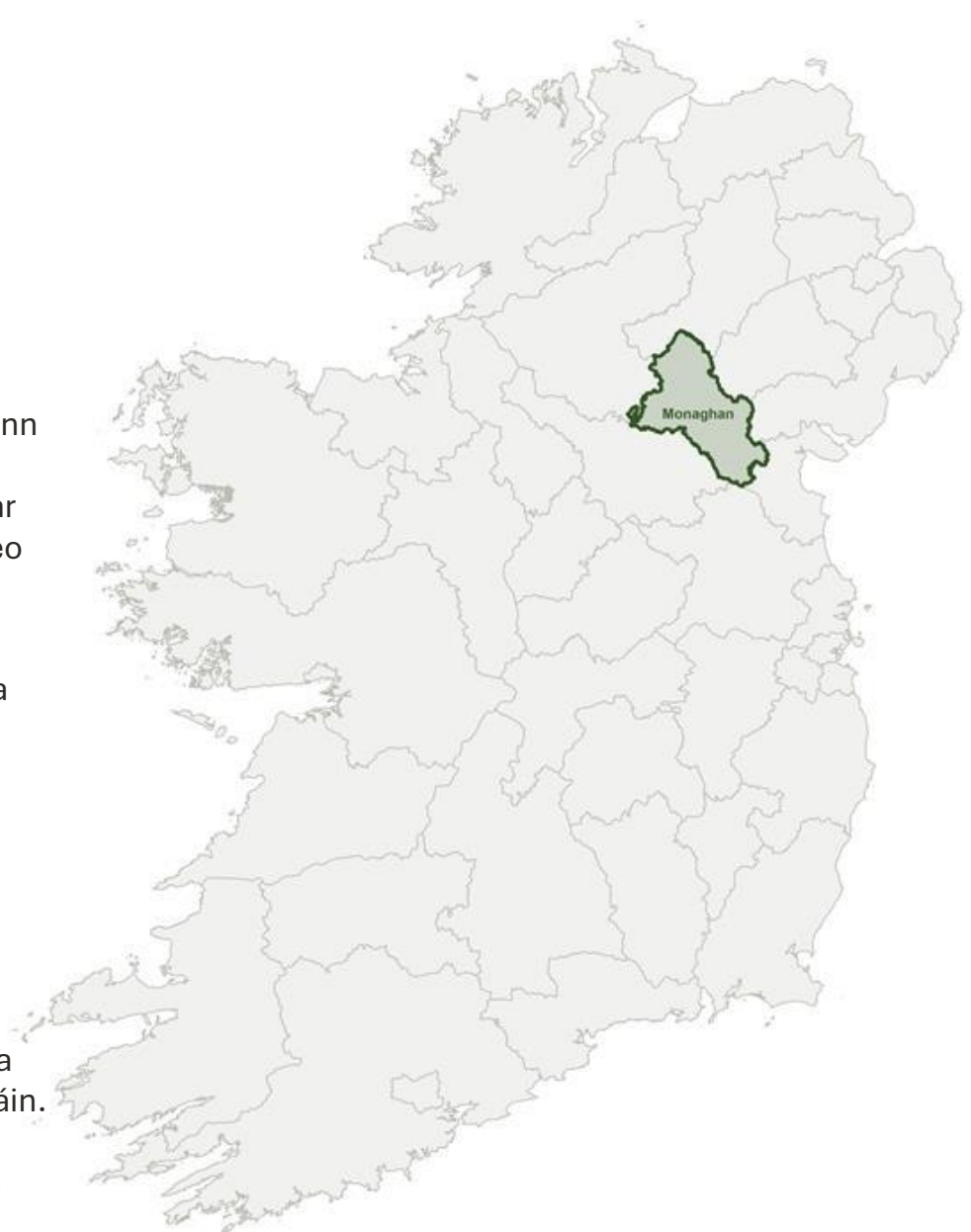
Ag teacht leis na treoirlíní náisiúnta, stiúir Foireann an Tionscadail an treo a forbraíodh an Plean, ag teacht ar chomhdhearcadh ar thosaíochtaí agus ar ghníomhaíochtaí straitéiseacha tar éis na rudaí seo a leanas a dhéanamh:

- Deasc taighde, léarscáiliú GIS, agus cuairteanna suímh
- Comhairliúcháin leis na príomhpháirtithe leasmhara
- Imeachtaí comhairliúcháin phoiblí ar an láthair
- Suirbhé ar líne poiblí

Is achoimre é an doiciméad seo ar thorthaí an phróisis forbartha agus leagtar amach ann na tosaíochtaí agus na gníomhaíochtaí straitéiseacha don chéad chúig bliana eile i gContae Mhuineacháin.

Tá an Plean seo faoi réir SEA/Scagadh le haghaidh Measúnacht Chuí.

Tacaíodh leis an bplean ag An Roinn Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail.



Strategic context

Embracing Ireland’s Outdoors

The Government of Ireland’s strategy for outdoor recreation, ‘Embracing Ireland’s Outdoors’, is a key deliverable under ‘Our Rural Future’ The Rural Development Policy 2021-2025.

The Strategy aims to strengthen the sustainable development of the sector and drive significant economic and health benefits to communities, while protecting landscapes, habitats and built heritage.

The objectives and actions of the Strategy are fundamental considerations in the development of this County Outdoor Recreation Plan. Several actions have been adopted as a direct response to the Strategy including the establishment of a County Outdoor Recreation Committee (CORC) and a county-wide Stakeholder Forum. This Plan has also been organised under the six themes as set out in the national strategy.

Other national strategies

Several other national strategies have also informed this Plan, including:

- National Landscape Strategy 2015-2025
- National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030
- Tourism Policy Framework 2025–2030
- Child and Youth Participation Strategy 2019–2023
- National Physical Activity Plan for Ireland (2016, reviewed 2020)
- Sport Ireland Policy on Sport and Physical Activity in the Outdoors (2020)
- Sport Ireland Participation in Sport by People with Disabilities 2017
- Coillte Strategic Vision 2022

Regional and local strategies

The development of this Plan has also been shaped by regional and local strategies including:

Monaghan County Development Plan 2025-31 (draft): The following strategic objective is particularly relevant to outdoor recreation, “To protect and nurture the County’s rich natural resources, heritage, tourism assets and amenities along with the environmental quality of the natural and built environment in both the urban and rural areas.”

Fáilte Ireland Monaghan Destination and Experience Development Plan (DEDP) 2022-2026: Ireland’s Ancient East Regional Tourism Development Strategy 2023-27 has six strategic development focus areas, several of which relate specifically to outdoor recreation such as developing ‘*Destination Hubs*’, ‘*Linking and Developing the Outdoors*’ and ‘*Developing Monaghan hero sites*’ including Sliabh Beagh, Muckno Estate, Rossmore Forest Park and the Ulster Canal and Greenway.

Monaghan County Council Tourism Strategy 2023-28: The Strategy aims to provide a confident, evidence-based and forward-looking roadmap to guide future tourism development across the county through six development pillars which include:

- Enhanced access and links to the great outdoors of Monaghan.
- Supporting ongoing tourism product development / hero projects.

Monaghan Local Sports Plan: A Local Sports Plan is currently being developed by Monaghan County Council which will supersede the Monaghan Sports Partnership Strategic Plan.

Other plans and strategies

These strategies address themes of rural and economic development, sports participation and environmental issues, as well detail existing masterplans and development proposals:

- Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Northern and Western Regions 2020-2032
- Ireland's Ancient East Regional Tourism Development Strategy 2023-2027
- Fáilte Ireland Monaghan Destination and Experience Development Plan (DEDP) 2023
- Waterways Ireland Corporate Plan 2023-2025 (draft)
- Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025
- Monaghan County Development Plan 2025-2031 (draft)
- Monaghan Local Economic & Community Plan 2023-2029
- Monaghan County Council Tourism Strategy 2023-2028
- Monaghan Biodiversity & Heritage Strategic Plan 2020-2025
- Monaghan Walking and Cycling Strategy 2021-2026
- Monaghan Play and Recreation Strategy 2024-2030 (draft)
- Monaghan Sports Partnership Strategic Plan 2019-2023
- Rossmore Forest Park Masterplan 2016
- Sliabh Beagh Masterplan 2019

Key trends

A number of national and global trends have also informed the development of this Plan and include:

Increase in demand: A growth in interest and participation in outdoor recreation in Ireland and globally.

Activities: Soft activities, such as walking and cycling, represent the most significant segment of outdoor recreation and consumer demand for soft activities is set to continue.

Rise in new activities such as open water swimming and Stand Up Paddleboarding (SUP).

Ageing population: The population in Ireland is getting older and the number of older people taking part in outdoor recreation is expected to increase, along with a growth in multi-generational participation in outdoor recreation.

Closer to home: People are seeking opportunities to participate in outdoor recreation ‘closer to home’.

Sustainability: People are increasingly concerned about the environment and behaving more sustainably.

Wellbeing: The global trend to improve our physical and mental wellbeing is driving a desire to integrate health and wellbeing into leisure and tourism choices.

Consultation

An extensive consultation process with stakeholders and the wider public took place to inform and guide the development of the Plan.

National stakeholder consultation

Relevant national organisations' governing bodies, including sport governing bodies, were informed of the Plan development process and given the opportunity to take part in consultation. One-to-one consultation took place with representatives of the following organisations:

- Irish Creamery Milk Supplies Association
- Leave No Trace Ireland
- Ireland's Association for Adventure Tourism
- Active Disability

Local stakeholder consultation

One-to-one consultation took place with the following organisations, many of whom sat on the Steering Group:

- Monaghan County Council
- Coillte
- Fáilte Ireland
- Waterways Ireland
- Monaghan Integrated Development CLG
- Monaghan Sports Partnership
- Inland Fisheries Ireland
- An Taisce
- Monaghan Public Participation Network
- Comhairle na nÓg

Public consultation

Three ‘drop in’ public consultation events were held in Monaghan town, Clones and Castleblayney. These events provided members of the public an opportunity to find out more about the Plan process and input their thoughts and ideas into its development.

Representatives from local clubs, activity providers, councillors and the local community were in attendance and highlighted the following points:

- Potential to develop recreation hubs across the county and capitalise on the various assets and facilities the county has to offer.
- Lack of off-road cycling facilities and the potential to develop mountain biking trails and pump tracks aimed at getting people of all ages cycling.
- Lack of awareness regarding which lakes and rivers people are permitted to use for water sports, open water swimming and angling.
- Lack of outdoor recreation provision within the Carrickmacross area. This is the only large town in the county without ‘doorstep’ access to a forest or green space.
- Importance of connecting people to facilities through active travel routes, off-road trails and public transport e.g.. Ulster Canal Greenway as an active travel spine through the county.
- Need for more rigorous water quality testing of bathing waters, publication of this information and advice on how to protect bathing waters.
- Disappointment in the quality of recent works at Hollywood Lake which failed to address some of the key site requirements.

Online survey

An online survey capturing public opinion collected 248 responses over a period of 6 weeks.

75% of those who answered the survey were local residents or landowners with 25% of respondents, visiting the county for outdoor recreation.

Responses were received from a good spread of age groups.

Those who responded were mainly from north Monaghan, potentially due to south Monaghan having fewer settlements and a more dispersed population and a lack of outdoor recreation facilities particularly around Carrickmacross.

The most popular sites for recreation were identified as Rossmore Forest Park, Lough Muckno Leisure Park, local quiet roads, Ulster Canal Greenway and Sliabh Beagh.



Photo from public consultation event in Castleblayney

Walking was noted as the most popular activity amongst the respondents with 77% indicating that they participate whilst angling was the second most popular activity amongst respondents at 34%. Of those participating in angling, 14% are residents and 20% visitors. Notably over half of all visitors coming to County Monaghan visit specifically for angling.

Just over a quarter indicated that they use some of the 130+ lakes across the county for angling, paddlesports and open water swimming.

Respondents indicated that the areas in need of greatest improvement included;

- Quantity/quality of public toilets, accessible toilets, changing facilities and accessibility.
- Public transport provision, directional signage and availability of information online.
- Shops and equipment hire, accommodation and motorhome/camping facilities.

Regarding future priorities, respondents reiterated many of the suggestions identified at the drop-in events and the following additional priorities:

- Improved access to angling sites, sustainability of fish stock and promotion of angling.
- Promotion of existing opportunities and responsible use of the outdoors messaging.
- Development of water trails, restoring Ulster Canal navigation and utilising Clones Marina fully.
- Sensitive development of Dartrey, Annaghmakerrig and Castleshane Forests.

Staid Reatha



Environment

Drumlins, lakes, rivers, forests and estates provide a rich landscape which defines the characteristic of the county’s outdoor recreation offering.

Environmental designations are not widespread throughout Monaghan, with only one designated area along the northwest border, Sliabh Beagh.

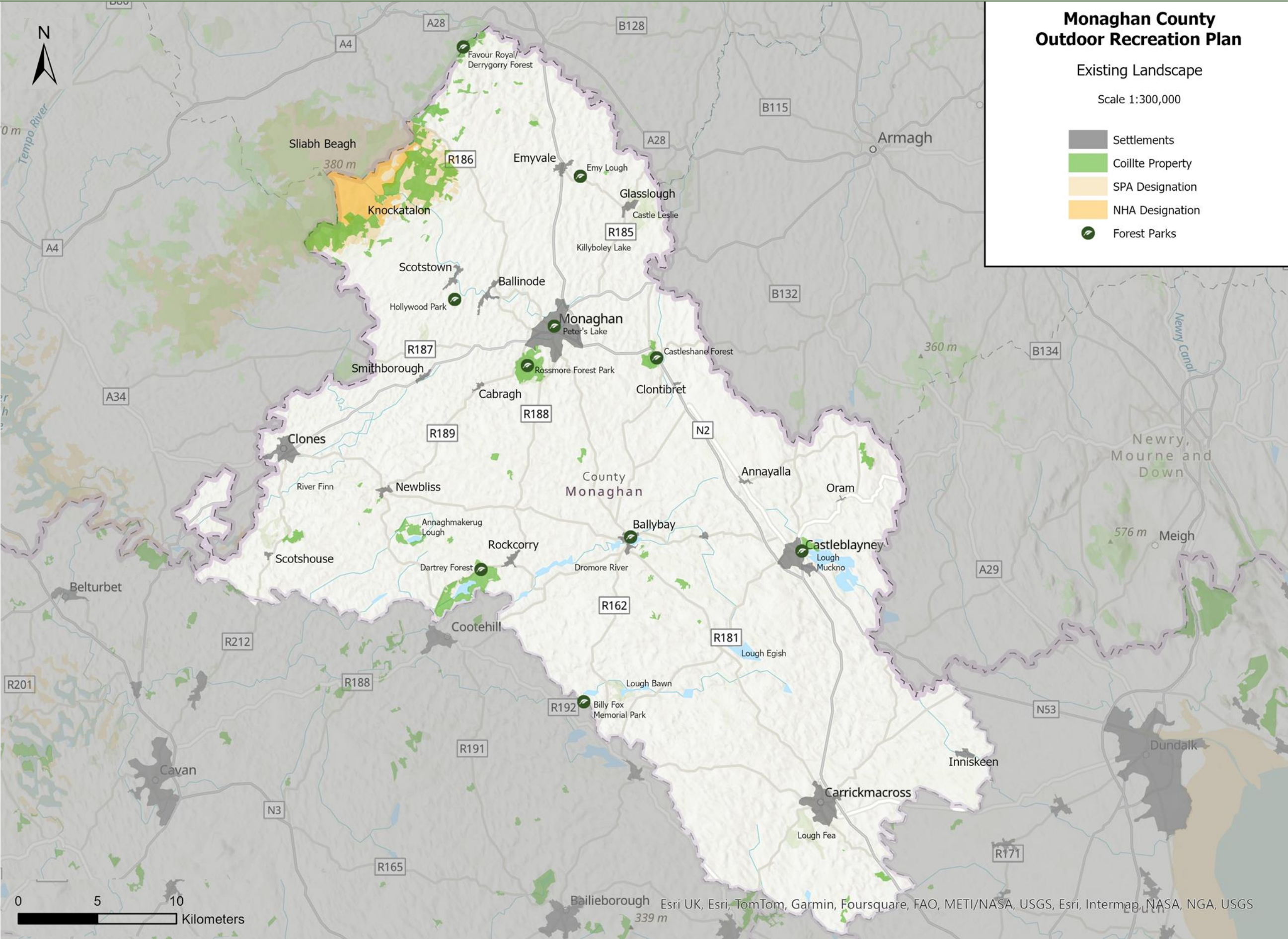
Sliabh Beagh is designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for European priority species of birds e.g.. Hen Harrier. Eshbrack Bog within Sliabh Beagh is designated as a Natural Heritage Area (NHA) for national priority habitat and species.

The Sliabh Beagh Eco-Tourism Project completed in 2024 focused on developing the area as a sustainable tourism destination, with environmental protection and enhancement as a key focus of all recommendations.

Recommendations for recreation development included enhancements to the Sliabh Beagh Way to protect the landscape from further erosion and reduce trail braiding, and short new-build sections to link existing trails and create enhanced linkages and looped walking and gravel cycling opportunities.

Ecological Impact Assessments (EcIA) and a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) were completed for all new build sections.

Regardless of the size of Monaghan's environmental designations, environmental integrity is considered priority throughout all stages of future outdoor recreation projects together with identifying and implementing, where appropriate, biodiversity enhancements.



Infrastructure and access

Existing offering

Forests and lakes are Monaghan's primary outdoor recreation assets. Walking is the most popular activity followed by watersports and angling which take place in the county's 130+ lakes and rivers.

Walking, the National Trails Register & Walks Scheme: Although there are many waymarked trails across the county, only 5 are included on the Sport Ireland Outdoors National Trails Register (NTR). These include three historic trails within Rossmore Forest Park, the Ulster Canal Greenway around Monaghan town and the recently upgraded Monaghan Way from Iniskeen to Castleblayney.

The Monaghan Way from Iniskeen to Castleblayney is the only trail on the Walks Scheme. The Walks Scheme which enables landowners to receive payments for trail upkeep and repairs is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) and administered locally by the Rural Recreation Officer through the Monaghan Integrated Development CLG.

There is an opportunity to enhance existing trails by improving the quality of trail infrastructure, providing visitor information, installing signage and waymarking and ensuring effective management and maintenance in accordance with the Sport Ireland Walking Trails Criteria. Not only would this improve the quality and sustainability of existing trails, but it would also facilitate and encourage wider promotion and participation across the county.

Other Walking Trails: There are several waymarked walking trails within the Sliabh Beagh area including the Sliabh Beagh Way, a long-distance walk between Lisnaskea and Aughnacloy, and the Knockatalon Looped Walks.

Waymarked walking trails also exist within several Coillte sites including Rossmore Forest Park, Derrygorry Forest / Millenium Wood, Black Island within Lough Muckno Leisure Park, Dartrey Forest and Senator Billy Fox Memorial Park.

Similarly, there are waymarked walking trails within Monaghan County Council sites including but not limited to Ballybay Town Park and Peter’s Lake.

The trails at Derrygorry Forest / Millenium Wood, Senator Billy Fox Memorial Park and Hollywood Park were developed and are maintained by the local community. In addition, over a dozen community trails have been developed by communities at local sports grounds across the county.

This demonstrates strong community desire to play an active role in developing and maintaining recreation sites and strong collaboration between landowners, land managers and stakeholders.

Castleshane Forest, owned by Coillte and Annaghmakerrig Forest, owned by the Tyrone Guthrie Centre, currently have no formal recreation provision but each have their own unique character and potential for recreation.

Cycling: Monaghan has a variety of promoted on-road cycling trails including the Ulster Canal Trail, Kingfisher Trail, The Hill Way Trail, Knockatalon Loops and Sliabh Beagh Cross Border Trails.

However, there is extremely limited off-road cycling provision within the county aside from the family cycle trail in Rossmore Forest Park and the Ulster Canal Greenway, a shared multi-use path.

Plans to enhance cross-border links and develop a variety of trails suitable for walking and gravel cycling within the Sliabh Beagh area form part of the Sliabh Beagh Eco-Tourism Project.

Watersports: Monaghan’s 130+ lakes and several rivers provide a significant opportunity for watersports. However, it is not widely known which locations are permitted for such activities.

There are several lakes and rivers known to be used for canoeing and kayaking including Lough Muckno, Dromore River, River Finn and River Blackwater. Several projects are underway which will significantly enhance the opportunities for watersport participation including;

- The Dromore River Blueway: Currently being developed by Monaghan County Council to create a 12km paddling trail from Ballybay to Lisnalong.
- The Ulster Canal from Clones to Castle Saunderson: Currently being restored by Waterways Ireland. Phase 2 completed in 2024 restored 1km of canal between Clones and Clonfad. Phase 3 will restore 10km of canal between Clonfad and Castle Saunderson and develop an adjoining walking and cycling trail over the next 5-10 years.

Angling: County Monaghan is known for its abundance of lakes suitable for a variety of different types of coarse angling including Pike, Carp, Tench, Bream and Rudd.

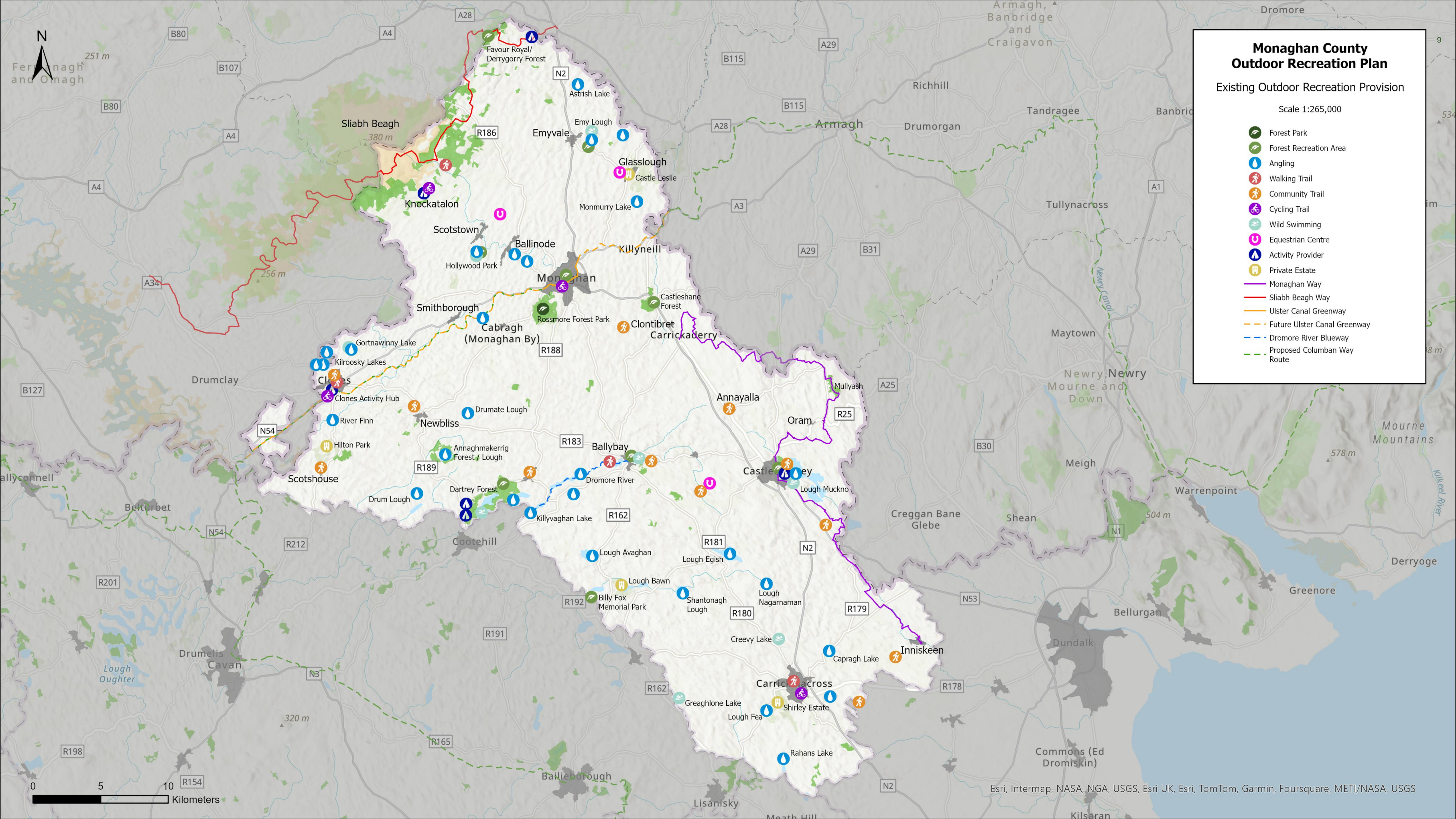
The county has previously hosted prestigious competitions and festivals including the FIPSeD Club World Champions in 2023 at Lough Muckno, renowned as one of Europe’s premier coarse angling fisheries.

There is significant potential to develop the angling product across the county and promote more widely to the international market.

Swimming: There are several lakes known to be used for open water swimming by the local community. Although these are not ‘designated bathing waters’, Monaghan County Council test the following locations monthly for water quality between June and September:

- Creevy Lake
- Emy Lough
- Gortnawinny Lake
- Greaghlone Lake
- Halton’s River (Dromore Lake System)
- Hollywood Lake
- Lough Major
- Lough Muckno including Black Island Point and Lough Muckno Water Sports Area

Water quality results are published on the Monaghan County Council website.



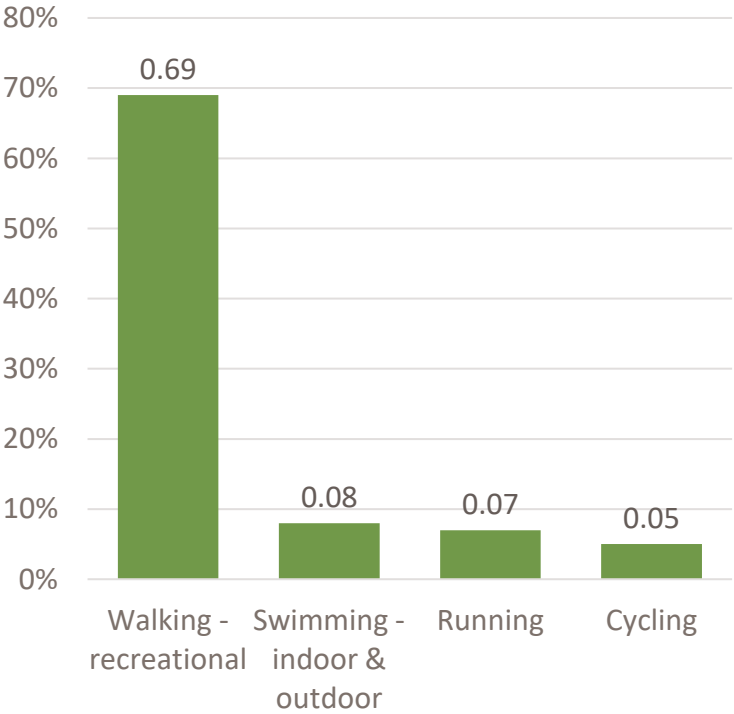
Opportunity and awareness

Opportunity

Whilst there is no specific activity data available for County Monaghan from the Irish Sports Monitor and limited visitor counter data, anecdotal evidence supported by the online survey indicates that walking is the dominant outdoor activity, followed by angling, running, hiking, cycling, paddlesports and open water swimming.

These activities are supported and promoted by the associated clubs and commercial activity providers as well as the programmes and events led by Monaghan Sports Partnership in conjunction with National Governing Bodies.

Participation in outdoor recreation activities and sport in Ireland in 2023



Source: Irish Sports Monitor, 2023

There are a variety of walking, running, cycling, angling and water sports groups and clubs across the county as well as a range of activity providers including horse riding centres and outdoor activity and adventure centres.

Tanagh Outdoor Education & Training Centre provides water and land-based adventure activities for everyone from schools, youth groups and corporate days out to outdoor activity instructor training and other leadership and skills courses.

One of the biggest barriers facing private activity providers across Ireland at present is securing affordable insurance. This has resulted in activity providers across the country having no choice but to cease trading which is negatively impacting outdoor recreation opportunities.

Awareness

Monaghan's outdoor recreation offering is promoted primarily through the Monaghan Tourism website and by Fáilte Ireland as part of Ireland’s Ancient East activity tourism proposition.

The GoMonaghan website promotes sustainable travel and active travel opportunities, as well as walking and cycling trails.

The Sport Ireland ‘Get Ireland Active’ interactive map details clubs, trails and activity locations across Ireland with the focus on helping people find the right activity, in the right place at the right time and at the right level to meet their needs.

Promotion of Monaghan’s outdoor recreation assets and opportunities to date has largely been focused on the key activity tourism sites and as a result many local people are unaware of other equally valuable but lesser-known local recreational sites.

This was evidenced through the online survey where most respondents indicated that they visit Rossmore Forest Park, Lough Muckno Leisure Park, Ulster Canal Greenway and Sliabh Beagh area for outdoor recreation. These key sites were followed by local quiet roads, the abundance of lakes and several community developed facilities.

Walking: Although walking has been identified as the most popular activity, there are only five trails on Sport Ireland Outdoors National Trails Register and consequently ‘Get Ireland Active’ map. Registering trails on the Sport Ireland Register is encouraged as it ensures the mechanisms are in place to secure consistent quality through inspection, maintenance, promotion and insurance.

With so few trails registered or promoted outside the key sites, many people are unaware of the full extent of the walking opportunities that exist across the county.

The online survey confirmed this with almost all respondents agreeing that improving promotion of existing opportunities should be a priority going forward.



Angling: Angling was identified through the online questionnaire as the second most popular outdoor activity with over half of visitors to county Monaghan travelling specifically to participate in angling. Consultation did however indicate that there is significant untapped potential and an opportunity to grow both participation and angling tourism.

Paddlesports: Consultation identified a lack of awareness of which locations are safe and can be accessed for paddlesports across the county. There is significant potential to tap into the potential of the abundance of lakes and rivers for paddlesports.

The survey indicated an interest in water trails and the development of the Dromore River Blueway, whilst also identifying a need for more information and equipment hire to facilitate these activities.

Open Water Swimming: The popularity of open water swimming is on the rise with many getting involved in swimming or dipping over the last few years during the COVID-19 pandemic. Water quality however is ever decreasing, which poses a significant problem for the participation in all water-based activities.

The online survey also identified a lack of awareness that Monaghan County Council currently test ten ‘non-designated bathing waters’ for water quality monthly throughout the summer period.

Other awareness topics: Notably, 'responsible use' of the outdoors, education and messaging was identified through the survey as being the highest priority going forward.

Standout assets

There are several standout landscapes and natural assets which to date have been the focus of County Monaghan's activity tourism offering. These sites provide a variety of recreation opportunities for both visitors to the County and local communities.

Lough Muckno: Lough Muckno is an Angling Centre of Excellence and renowned as one of Europe's premier coarse angling fisheries. Lough Muckno Leisure Park is also home to a variety of trails, play-park and Castleblayney Outdoor Adventure Centre.

Sliabh Beagh: Sliabh Beagh is a beautiful remote unspoilt and designated upland landscape, home to the county's high point and 'three county hollow'. It provides a series of waymarked walks and cycles within the area including, the Sliabh Beagh Way.

Rossmore Forest Park: One of Coillte's high value recreation areas, with the most recorded annual visitors 2021-2024. Visitors come from across the county and all over Ireland to experience the various trails, play-park and giant sculpture trail. Rossmore Forest Park is also within walking distance of the Ulster Canal Greenway and Monaghan town.

Clones Marina / Ulster Canal: Waterways Ireland is currently restoring the Ulster Canal from Clones to Castle Saunderson. Phase 2 was completed in 2024 restoring 1km of canal and creating an accessible trail between Clones and Clonfad as well as developing a marina, car park and service block in Clones.



Stakeholders

Monaghan has an engaged and motivated group of stakeholders and community groups who play an active role in the development, management, promotion and activation of outdoor recreation sites.

However, there is a collective recognition that the development of this Plan provides an opportunity for a more collaborative approach towards optimising the positive impacts of outdoor recreation.

County Monaghan does not currently have a County Outdoor Recreation Officer to lead on the development, management and promotion of outdoor recreation. In the absence of a dedicated staff resource, the development of this Plan has been led by the Monaghan Tourism Unit.

A sub-group of the recently formed Tourism & Recreation Forum was established to bring together key statutory stakeholders and develop this Plan.

This stakeholder map outlines the primary stakeholders involved in outdoor recreation in Monaghan and their roles and responsibilities.

Users	
Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wide range of residents from local communities and visitors
Groups/Clubs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Variety of groups and clubs across various activities• Variety of events, festivals and competition e.g.. World Club Feeder Championships 2023 at Lough Muckno
Tourists	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Domestic visitors• International visitors

Tourism/Promotion Organisations	
Fáilte Ireland	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ireland’s Ancient East
MCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monaghan Tourism website• GoMonaghan website
Sport Ireland	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• National Trails Register• ‘Get Ireland Active’ National Database

Environment	
NPWS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No District Conservation Officer or Ranger in post

Development, Management & Maintenance Organisations	
MCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sub-group of the Tourism & Recreation Forum• Municipal Districts (MDs), Tourism, Environment etc.• ORIS applications
Monaghan RRO	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Administer Walks Scheme• ORIS applications for community owned/managed trails
Community groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development of 12+ walks• Maintain several sites including Hollywood and Emy Lake
TII/Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ulster Canal Greenway
Coillte	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop, manage and maintain recreation sites
Fáilte Ireland	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development of recreation sites
Inland Fisheries	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conservation of fish stock
Waterways Ireland	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ulster Canal• Clones Marina

Participation Organisations	
Monaghan Sports Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Driving participation
Activity Providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 11 promoted

Landowners	
Coillte	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9 designated recreation areas• Rossmore Forest Park – One of Coillte’s high value recreation areas, with the most recorded annual visitors 2021-2024
Private landowners	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 walking trail on Walks Scheme (Monaghan Way)• Dromore River Blueway• Castle Leslie Estate• Lough Bawn Estate• Over 75+ angling locations
Waterways Ireland	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ulster Canal• Clones Marina
MCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Peter’s Lake• Ballybay Town Park etc.
An Taisce	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eshbrack Bog
Inland Fisheries Ireland	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Majority of angling stands

Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges

The primary strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges of outdoor recreation in County Monaghan were identified with the Steering Group and through the consultation process.

Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Challenges
Highly motivated stakeholders involved in outdoor recreation	Only 5 existing walks on the Sport Ireland Register	Significant activity tourism development opportunities at Lough Muckno, Rossmore Forest Park, Sliabh Beagh, Convent Lands and Clones Marina/Ulster Canal including the Ulster Canal Greenway	Funding to secure dedicated staff resource to drive outdoor recreation and coordinate/oversee implementation of the CORP
Sub-group of the Council's Tourism and Recreation Forum already in place bringing together key stakeholders	Limited off-road cycling opportunities		Funding to deliver on ongoing management and maintenance of existing recreational sites
Several stand out assets which are the focus of County Monaghan's activity offering	Limited data on number/profile of those using outdoor facilities	Development of the Dromore River Blueway	Funding for capital works associated with projects identified as opportunities
Excellent variety of recreation sites and trails which are free to access and geographically spread across the county	No interactive overview map detailing all opportunities on the Monaghan Tourism website		Obtaining planning permission for new outdoor recreation developments
Monaghan Tourism website provides good information on outdoor recreation opportunities	No dedicated staff resource to lead outdoor recreation development, management and promotion	Development of quality recreation hubs with a focus on the local community at Dartrey Forest, Castleshane Forest and Annaghmakerrig Forest	Obtaining affordable insurance for private sector activity providers
Participation opportunities increased through a variety of informal groups, formal clubs, events/festivals and activity providers	No dedicated staff resource in the form of a county Outdoor Recreation Officer to co-ordinate the CORC and drive forward the implementation of the CORP		
MSP delivers comprehensive participation programme to underrepresented groups	No county-wide Outdoor Recreation Stakeholder Forum	Capitalise on the county's existing angling product and promote to the international market	
	Quality of some recreation sites below users' expectations		
	Physical accessibility of some recreation sites limited		

Tosaíochtaí straitéiseacha agus pleananna gníomhaíochta



Contae Mhuineacháin, saol lán de ghníomhaíochtaí do chách

Ráiteas ar thosaíochtaí straitéiseacha:

An tosaíocht aeraíochta i gContae Mhuineacháin thar na cúig bliana amach romhainn ná eispéiris ardchaighdeáin, ionchuimsitheacha agus inbhuanaithe a fhorbairt dár gcónaitheoirí agus dár gcuairteoirí araon, rud a spreagfaidh iad a bheith páirteach, rannpháirteach agus taitneamh a bhaint as an saol amuigh faoin aer.



Leadership and collaboration

Why is this important?

Across Monaghan there are numerous organisations involved on a day-to-day basis in the planning, development, management, maintenance and promotion of outdoor recreation.

These include public and private landowners who own or manage land on which outdoor recreation takes place. Public landowners include Monaghan County Council, Coillte, Waterways Ireland and Inland Fisheries Ireland. In addition, Monaghan Sports Partnership and several private sector businesses are involved directly in facilitating participation in outdoor recreation activities, whilst Fáilte Ireland is involved in promoting the area as part of its 'Ireland's Ancient East' proposition.

With so many organisations involved, it is essential that everyone works together collaboratively to learn from each other, prevent duplication of effort, and maximise scarce resources. This will ensure that those using the outdoors will be rewarded with the best outdoor recreation experience possible.

County Monaghan already has an engaged and motivated group of stakeholders and community groups represented through the Council's Tourism and Recreation Forum Sub-Group, who play an active role in the development, management and promotion of outdoor recreation sites.

However, to sustainably grow the outdoor recreation offering and continue to develop quality experiences additional resource and strengthening of relationships is vital.

What is our ambition?

Our ambition is to ensure that those involved directly or indirectly in outdoor recreation work together in a supportive and collaborative way to provide a seamless approach across the county to outdoor recreation.

As set out in the national strategy 'Embracing Ireland's Outdoors' each county in Ireland is required to set up a

- County Outdoor Recreation Committee (CORC)
- County-wide Stakeholder Forum

The CORC will ensure co-operation and collaborative working between the key stakeholders directly or indirectly involved in outdoor recreation planning, development, management, promotion, education, training and participation whilst the Stakeholder Forum will provide a mechanism to allow wider stakeholder representation in decision-making.

In the absence of a dedicated County Outdoor Recreation Officer to coordinate and act as Secretariat to the CORC and Stakeholder Forum, in the short-term, this responsibility will be spread among relevant council staff, with oversight from the Tourism Unit.

In addition to help us reach our outputs for the period of this Plan, a full-time Rural Recreation Officer (RRO) to help develop, manage and maintain existing and future outdoor recreation facilities and develop Walks Scheme opportunities will be appointed imminently.

To create a more coordinated, cohesive approach across Monaghan to ensure best use of our resources

Ceannaireacht agus comhoibriú

Cuspóir: Cur chuige níos comhordaithe agus níos comhtháite a chruthú ar fud Mhuineacháin chun an úsáid is fearr a bhaint as ár n-acmhainní.				
Uimh.	Gníomh	Amscála	Príomheagraíocht Seachadta	Páirtithe Leasmhara
1.1	<p>Maoiniú a fháil chun Oifigeach Aeraíochta Contae (CORO) a cheapadh chun Coiste Aeraíochta an Chontae (CORC) agus Fóram na bPáirtithe Leasmhara a threorú agus a chomhordú agus cur chun feidhme Phlean Aeraíochta an Chontae (CORP) a chur chun cinn.</p> <p>In éagmais post tiomnaithe sa ghearrthéarma, dáilfear an fhreagracht i measc fhoireann na comhairle ábhartha de bharr riachtanais, le formhaoirseacht ón Aonad Turasóireachta.</p>	Gearrthéarmach	Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin (MCC)	Foghrúpa an Fhórait Turasóireachta agus Áineasa
1.2	Ballraíocht ar an nGrúpa Stiúrtha CORP reatha a mhéadú i.e. foghrúpa d’Fhóram Turasóireachta agus Aeraíochta na Comhairle, chun ról Choiste Aeraíochta an Chontae (CORC) a sheachadadh agus cur chuige comhordaithe a chinntiú maidir le haeraíocht a bhainistiú agus a fhorbairt amach anseo.	Gearrthéarmach	MCC – Turasóireacht, Forbairt Pobail	Foghrúpa an Fhórait Turasóireachta agus Áineasa
1.3	Fóram Páirtithe Leasmhara Aeraíochta Mhuineacháin a bhunú chun ionadaíocht níos leithne páirtithe leasmhara a éascú sa chinnteoireacht.	Gearrthéarmach	MCC – Turasóireacht, Forbairt Pobail	CORC
1.4	Oifigeach Aeraíochta Tuaithe (RRO) lánaimseartha a cheapadh chun an Scéim Siúlóidí a bhainistiú agus chun deiseanna siúil a fhorbairt amach anseo.	Gearrthéarmach	Comhlacht um Fhorbairt Chomhtháite Mhuineacháin MCC – Turasóireacht, Forbairt Pobail	CORC
1.5	Bunachar sonraí saoráidí a fhorbairt a chothaíonn an acmhainn léarscáile idirghníomhach dhigiteach atá beartaithe (féach 4.1) agus lena gcuimsítear faisnéis mhionsonraithe ar gach láithreán aeraíochta ar fud an chontae lena n-áirítear; úinéireacht talún, bonneagar, seirbhísí cuairteoirí, eagraíocht atá freagrach as bainistíocht agus cothabháil leanúnach srl. Athbhreithniú agus nuashonrú a dhéanamh go bliantúil ar a laghad chun a chinntiú go bhfuil an fhaisnéis iomlán agus cruinn.	Meántéarmach	MCC – Turasóireacht	CORC
1.6	Eolas agus rochtain ar na deiseanna maoinithe go léir a uasmhéadú.	Meántéarmach	Comhlacht um Fhorbairt Chomhtháite Mhuineacháin MCC – Turasóireacht, Forbairt Pobail	CORC
1.7	Tabhairt faoi athbhreithniú meántéarmach ar Phlean Aeraíochta an Chontae le measúnú a dhéanamh an bhfuil gá le mionathrú ar ghníomhaíochtaí, i bhfianaise nádúr dinimiciúil na haeraíochta.	Meántéarmach	MCC – Turasóireacht	CORC

Environment

Why is this important?

Enjoying time in our natural landscapes and connecting with nature is a core motivator for outdoor recreation participation. The provision of outdoor recreation and the social and economic benefits which it brings fundamentally relies on a healthy and sustainable natural environment.

It is therefore imperative that the environment is at the heart of any recreation development.

Monaghan has an extensive and diverse resource base comprising forests, woodlands, upland blanket bog, rivers, and lakes all of which lend themselves to the provision of a wide range of outdoor recreation activities for both the local community and the increasing number of visitors.

All stakeholders have a shared responsibility to protect Monaghan’s diverse resource base. This extends to a legal obligation to protect the natural environment within designated areas such as Sliabh Beagh Special Protection Area (SPA) and Eshbrack Bog Natural Heritage Area (NHA).

Sliabh Beagh SPA has conservation objectives that require the protection of priority species under the EU Birds Directive including the Hen Harrier. Whilst Eshbrack Bog NHA is designated as a protected conservation area for wildlife within Ireland.

Conserving, protecting and managing Monaghan's outdoor environment for future generations, whilst encouraging an appreciation and enjoyment of its resources is key to this Plan.

What is our ambition?

To ensure the integrity of Monaghan's environment and heritage is not compromised moving forward, environment and biodiversity considerations will be woven into the fabric of all future recreation development.

All recreation development should seek to complement, enhance and connect people to natural landscapes, having a positive effect on habitats and species, as well as local communities and businesses.

To achieve sustainable recreation development, it is important that public transport and active travel opportunities are developed to connect local people and visitors to recreation sites. This will not only reduce the carbon footprint of recreational users but provide greater connectivity between people and places and encourage healthier communities.

Developing Sliabh Beagh as an Eco-Tourism Destination provides an opportunity to develop a sustainable trail network and attractions that allow visitors to spend time engaging with and appreciating this unique natural environment and the protected habitats and species which thrive in it.



To protect
Monaghan’s
environment
and heritage
through better
planning and
development
of outdoor
recreation

Timpeallacht

Cuspóir: Timpeallacht Mhuineacháin a chosaint trí phleanáil agus forbairt níos fearr a dhéanamh ar an aeraíocht, ag teacht le dea-chleachtas bainistíochta ar thírdhreacha agus gnáthóga.				
Uimh.	Gníomh	Amscála	Príomheagraíocht Seachadta	Páirtithe Leasmhara
2.1	Na moltaí comhshaoil a sheachadadh i dTuarascáil Staidéir Féidearthachta Éiceathurasóireachta Shliabh Beatha (2024) lena n-áiríodh uasghráduithe ar chonairí reatha chun creimeadh a bhainistiú chomh maith le feabhas a chur ar bhithéagsúlacht conairí nua agus cinn a bhí ann cheana amhail bratphortach ardtalún a athchóiriú trí dhambaí móna, boscaí iora rua srl.	Meántéarmach	MCC – Turasóireacht agus Bithéagsúlacht RRO	Comhairle Ceantair Lár Uladh (MUDC), Comhairle Ceantair Fhear Manach & na hÓmaí (FODC), Coillte, An Taisce, Seirbhís Foraoiseachta Thuaisceart Éireann (FSNI), Fáilte Éireann, Grúpaí Pobail Áitiúla
2.2	Inbhuanaitheacht, oideachas comhshaoil agus feabhsuithe bithéagsúlachta a thabhairt isteach i ngach tionscadal aeraíochta amach anseo nuair is féidir m.sh. crainn dhúchasacha a chur, léirmhíniú ar fhlóra agus fána, boscaí éan a shuiteáil srl.	Ag dul ar aghaidh	MCC – Bithéagsúlacht, Comhshaol RRO	An tSeirbhís Páirceanna Náisiúnta agus Fiadhúlra (NPWS) agus an Ghníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil (EPA)
2.3	Bearnaí a aithint sa soláthar iompair phoiblí chun nascacht agus inrochtaineacht ar phríomhláithreáin aeraíochta a fheabhsú agus a chinntiú go soláthraítear faisnéis iompair phoiblí nuair a bhíonn láithreáin nua á bhforbairt agus á gcur chun cinn.	Meántéarmach	MCC – Ceantair Bhardasacha, Bóithre	Bonneagar Iompair Éireann (TII) agus Iompar d’Éirinn (TFI)
2.4	Leanúint de bheith ag déanamh tástála cáilíochta uisce ar ‘uiscí snámha neamh-ainmnithe’ agus na torthaí a scaipeadh mar aon le hoideachas agus teachtaireachtaí a sheoladh go freagrach trí na bealaí cuí. An cumas atá ann a mheas chun príomhshuíomh amháin a fhorbairt mar ‘uisce snámha ainmnithe’	Meántéarmach	MCC – Comhshaol	Uisce Éireann agus an Ghníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil(EPA)

Access and infrastructure

Why is this important?

Monaghan's diverse landscapes and waterscapes currently provide a wealth of outdoor recreation opportunities including a variety of signature sites, recreational hubs, recreation trails, community hubs and community trails which are free to access and geographically spread across the county. Access is provided by both public and private landowners.

Over the last decade however trends in outdoor recreation have changed significantly including:

- growth in participation, including increased numbers of older people taking part and growth in multi-generational participation.
- people wishing to participate in a range of outdoor recreation activities e.g.. walking, cycling, adventure play etc.
- people seeking opportunities ‘closer to home’ to participate with friends and family
- notable rise in new activities such as open water swimming.

Understanding and providing for these trends in consumer behaviour is key to ensuring that future outdoor recreation development and visitor servicing across the county is targeted appropriately.

In addition, as public land is limited across the county strengthening relationships with private landowners going forward is essential especially for the Monaghan Way, the county’s only trail on the Walks Scheme.

Currently communities play an active role in developing and maintaining recreation sites across the county e.g., Senator Billy Fox Memorial Park, Hollywood Park and Emyvale Lough. Given the on-going challenge of having no staff resource dedicated within the Council to outdoor recreation, continuing to build capacity within communities to undertake these roles in the future will be key to delivering the actions within this Plan.

What is our ambition?

Our ambition is to deliver high quality, accessible, enjoyable and sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities and experiences across the county, supported by visitor servicing facilities where appropriate, for both local people and visitors.

We hope to do this by:

- continuing to support the development of the current visitor experience at Rossmore Forest Park and expanding the outdoor recreation opportunities at Lough Muckno Leisure Park, the Convent Lands in Monaghan.
- increasing the number of recreational hubs with a focus on the local community at Dartrey Forest, Castleshane.
- scoping, planning and developing a variety of water-based facilities e.g.. canoe trails, open water swimming sites, angling sites.
- designing and developing opportunities for family off-road cycling.

- ensuring ‘accessibility’ is at the forefront of all future development especially for those with physical, sensory and intellectual disabilities.
- working with private landowners to secure and increase access agreements.
- addressing regional gaps in recreation infrastructure and opportunities e.g. in and around Carickmacross.
- ensuring management and maintenance is prioritised and built into future development.
- Continuing to actively support local communities in developing, managing and maintaining green and blue space in their localities.

To protect and improve access to Monaghan’s outdoors, for the benefit of all

Rochtain agus Bonneagar

Cuspóir: Rochtain ar allamuigh Mhuineacháin a chosaint agus a fheabhsú, ar mhaithe le cách				
Uimh.	Gníomh	Amscála	Príomheagraíocht Seachadta	Páirtithe Leasmhara
3.1	Sliabh Beatha a bhunú mar cheann scríbe éiceathurasóireachta trí na moltaí aeraíochta a chuimsítear i dTuarascáil Staidéir Féidearthachta Éiceathurasóireachta Shliabh Beatha (2024) a sheachadadh.	Meántéarmach/fadtéarmach	MCC – Turasóireacht, Bithéagsúlacht	MUDC, FODC, Coillte, An Taisce, FSNI, Fáilte Éireann, grúpaí pobail áitiúla
3.2	Leanúint de bheith ag tacú le forbairt eispéireas na gcuairteoirí ag Páirc Foraoise Ros Mór	Meántéarmach/fadtéarmach	MCC – Turasóireacht, Ceantar Bardasach Coillte	Friends of Rossmore, grúpaí pobail áitiúla, IFI
3.3	Na moltaí aeraíochta ábhartha a chur chun feidhme i Máistirphlean Loch Mucnú atá á ullmhú faoi láthair (2025-2026)	Meántéarmach/fadtéarmach	MCC – Pleanáil, Turasóireacht	Friends of Rossmore, grúpaí pobail áitiúla, IFI
3.4	Tailte an Chlochair i mbaile Mhuineacháin a fhorbairt mar mhol áineasa.	Meántéarmach/fadtéarmach	MCC – Athghiniúint Baile, Pleanáil, Turasóireacht, Ceantar Bardasach	Grúpaí pobail áitiúla, scoileanna
3.5	Athbhreithniú a dhéanamh ar an soláthar aeraíochta atá ann cheana féin agus Staidéar Anailíse agus Deiseanna a dhéanamh do Pháirc Hollywood, ag féachaint ar an suíomh go hiomlánaíoch agus béim á leagan ar áiseanna áineasa ardchaighdeáin, inrochtaineacht agus naisc a sholáthar do phobail agus lonnaíochtaí áitiúla	Meántéarmach	MCC – Ceantar Bardasach	Cumann Forbartha Hollywood
3.6	Tacú le forbairt leanúnach ar loingseoireacht Chanáil Uladh agus cosán tarraingthe idir Cluain Eois agus Caisleán Saunderson chun deiseanna áineasa uisce agus cosán easbhóthair sábháilte agus inrochtana a chur ar fáil atá oiriúnach do shiúlóirí, rothaithe agus iad siúd a bhfuil a soghluaisteacht teoranta, ar a bhfuil lagú radhairc srl.	Fadtéarmach	Uiscebhealaí Éireann	MCC and Comhairle Contae an Chabháin (CCC), FODC
3.7	Tacú le forbairt leanúnach ar Ghlasbhealach Chanáil Uladh idir Cluain Eois agus teorainn Chontae Ard Mhacha agus tríd an bpróiseas seo an cumas a aithint chun naisc a fhorbairt idir pobail agus spásanna glasa nó gorma.	Fadtéarmach	MCC – Turasóireacht, Bóithre	TII
3.8	Triail a bhaint as Bóthar an Rothair nó ‘bóthar ciúin’ a reáchtáil idir Baile an Fhóid agus Baile an Scotaigh chun soláthar siúil agus rothaíochta sábháilte a chur ar fáil agus má mheastar go n-éiríonn leis, an coincheap a athdhéanamh ar fud an chontae chun pobail a nascadh le spásanna glasa nó gorma mar is cuí.	Meántéarmach	MCC – Ceantar Bardasach, Bóithre	Úinéirí talún príobháideacha
3.9	Pobail a spreagadh agus tacú leo chun saoraidí aeraíochta a aithint, a fhorbairt, a bhainistiú agus a chothabháil ina gceantar féin, ag díriú orthu siúd a bhfuil droch-rochtain acu ar dheiseanna siúlóide easbhóthair.	Meántéarmach/fadtéarmach	MCC RRO	Cumainn Forbartha Pobail agus úinéirí talún príobháideacha
3.10	Aontú ar aistriú talún agus na moltaí laistigh de Mháistirphlean Eanach Mhic Dheirg a sheachadadh chun áit pháirceála, cosán timpeall imlíne an locha agus seastáin slatiascaireachta a fhorbairt.	Meántéarmach / fadtéarmach	MCC i gcomhpháirtíocht, Coillte agus Ionad Tyrone Guthrie	Cumainn Forbartha Pobail

Rochtain agus Bonneagar (ar leanúint)

Cuspóir: Rochtain ar allamuigh Mhuineacháin a chosaint agus a fheabhsú, ar mhaithe le cách.				
Uimh.	Gníomh	Amscála	Príomheagraíocht Seachadta	Páirtithe Leasmhara
3.11	Críoch a chur le Máistirphlean Spáis Ghlas Chnoc na Gall, Máistirphlean Áineasa Loch Chraobhaigh, agus Máistirphlean Coincheapa Tírdhreacha Thailte an Chlochair a fhorbairt agus ina dhiaidh sin, faoi réir maoiniú riachtanach a fháil, na hidirghabhálacha a shainaithnítear sna Pleananna seo a chur chun feidhme	Meántéarmach / fadtéarmach	MCC agus RRO	Cumainn Forbartha Pobail agus úinéirí talún príobháideacha
3.12	Deiseanna a aithint chun ‘conair rothaíochta teaghlaigh’ a fhorbairt i bhForaois Dhartraí a úsáideann na bóithre foraoise atá ann cheana agus a chomhlánaíonn an soláthar áineasa atá ann cheana.	Meántéarmach / fadtéarmach	MCC i gcomhpháirt le Coillte	Cumainn Forbartha Pobail, Cumann Forbartha Cheantar Mhuinchille, Ionad Oideachais Allamuigh Thamhnach
3.13	Plean Anailíse agus Deiseanna a fhorbairt d’fhoraois Chaisleán na Seana a bhreithneoidh áit pháirceála, cosáin, comharthaíocht, léirmhíniú, marcáil bealaigh agus beochan conairí agus forfheidhmigh moltaí an Phlean seo.	Meántéarmach/fadtéarmach	MCC i gcomhpháirt le Coillte	Cumainn Forbartha Pobail
3.14	Dearadh coincheapa a fhorbairt do ‘chonair sléibhe agus rian caidéal de ghrád gorm’ laistigh de Fhoraois Mhullach Meata lasmuigh de bhaile Mhuineacháin a thacaíonn le dul chun cinn scileanna easbhóthair agus chun gur féidir le daoine de gach aois agus cumas rothaíocht sléibhe a thríail.	Meántéarmach/fadtéarmach	MCC i gcomhpháirt le Coillte	Rothaíocht Éireann/Uladh
3.15	Déan Staidéar Scópála chun Bealach Mhuineacháin a thógáil idir Baile na Lorgan agus easbhóthair Mhullaigh Aise agus siúlóidí lúbtha áitiúla a fhorbairt.	Meántéarmach/fadtéarmach	MCC – Ceantar Bardasach RRO	Cumainn Forbartha Pobail agus úinéirí talún príobháideacha
3.16	Cead pleanála a fháil d'fhorbairt/feabhsú na bpointí rochtana/dul amach riachtanacha chun Gormbhealach Abhainn an Droma Mhóir a fhorbairt. Nuair a bheidh sé bunaithe, é a chur chun cinn agus a ghníomhú trí chláir MSP, soláthraithe gníomhaíochta, cíos trealaimh srl., agus smaoinigh ar naisc le conairí atá ann cheana agus nuafhorbartha sa cheantar.	Meántéarmach/fadtéarmach	MCC –Turasóireacht, Ceantar Bardasach	Úinéirí talún príobháideacha, soláthraithe gníomhaíochtaí, an pobal áitiúil, Comhpháirtíocht Spóirt Mhuineacháin (MSP)
3.17	Plean Anailíse agus Deiseanna a fhorbairt le haghaidh príomhshuíomhanna áineasa uisce lena n-áirítear ‘uiscí snámha neamhainmnithe’, aibhneacha agus lochanna a úsáidtear le haghaidh spóirt céaslóireachta snámha lasmuigh, agus garbh-iascaigh iontacha ‘speicis sonrach’. Na moltaí atá sa Phlean seo a sheachadadh chun an acmhainn is fearr a bhaint as áineas uisce ar fud an chontae do mhuintir na háite agus do chuairoteoirí araon	Meántéarmach / fadtéarmach	MCC Snámh Éireann Aontas Canúala na hÉireann IFI	Cumainn Forbartha Pobail agus úinéirí talún príobháideacha
3.18	Cinntiú go gcomhlíonfaidh tionscadail aeraíochta amach anseo, nuair is féidir, caighdeáin inrochtaineachta do chách, agus aird chuí á tabhairt ar threoidhoiciméid náisiúnta.	Ag dul ar aghaidh	MCC	Coillte, lascaigh Intíre na hÉireann, Uiscebhealaí Éireann

Awareness

Why is this important?

Providing information on 'where to go' and 'what to do' is essential in encouraging use of Monaghan's outdoors by both residents and visitors.

Information needs to be accurate, current, accessible and preferably provided in one place to make it easy for the user.

Currently Monaghan's outdoor recreation offering is well promoted through the Monaghan Tourism website, 'More to Monaghan', by Fáilte Ireland, as part of Ireland's Ancient East activity tourism proposition and through a range of unofficial channels e.g.. Strava, Komoot, social influencers etc.

An over-concentration on promoting Monaghan's four signature activity tourism sites however is currently to the detriment of many other lesser-known excellent local recreational sites. In addition, given that only five trails are on Sport Ireland Outdoors National Trails Register and consequently 'Get Ireland Active' map, local people are unaware of the full extent of the opportunities that exist.

Marketing and promotion should not only encourage awareness of where and how to participate in activities, but how to behave responsibly in the outdoors.

What is our ambition?

Our ambition is to create a coordinated and consistent approach to marketing and promoting all the recreation opportunities that Monaghan has to offer to both locals and visitors and to ensure all who participate in outdoor recreation across the county do so in a responsible way.

The Monaghan Tourism website will be updated to provide a more visual and interactive visitor platform, with one central digital resource that details all recreation opportunities and inspires both visitors and the local community to believe that there truly is 'More to Monaghan'.

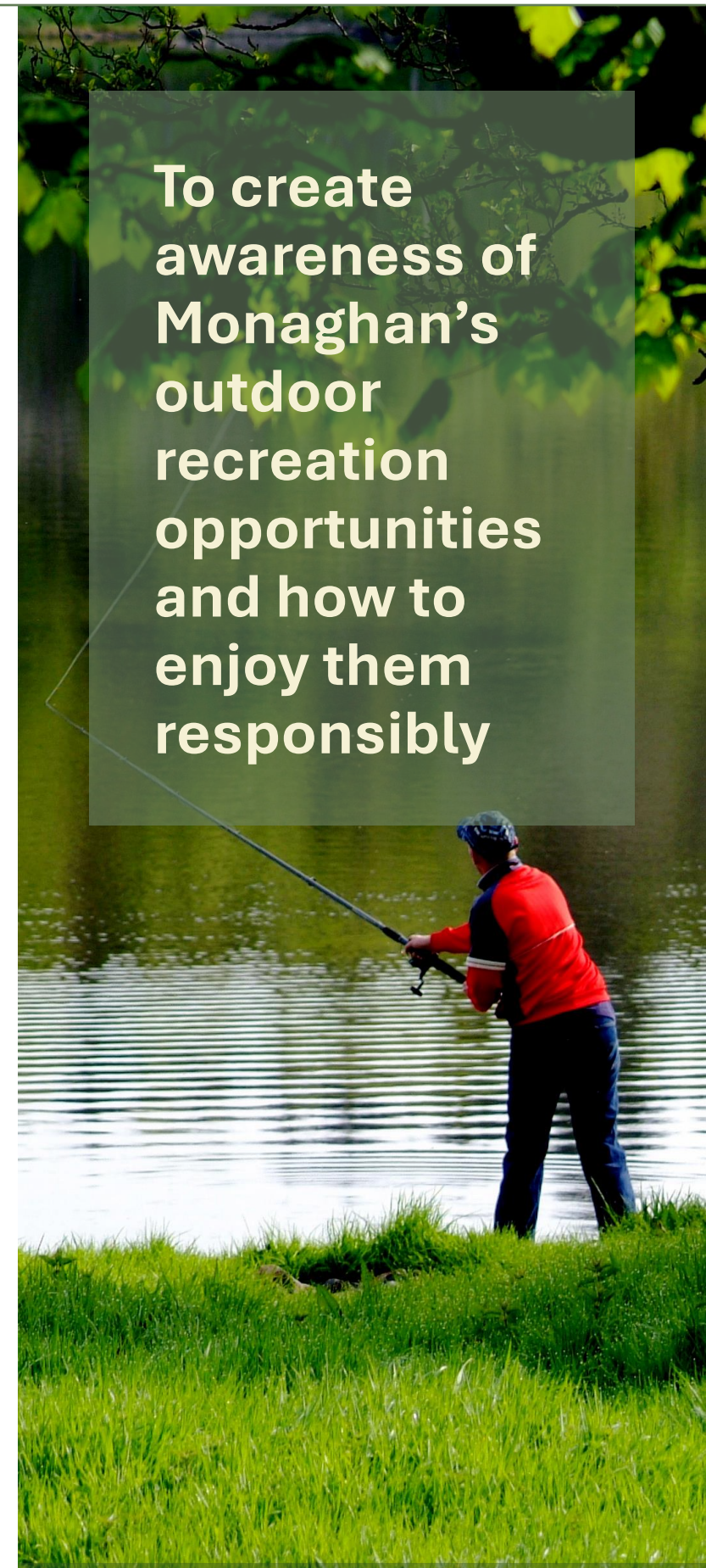
This digital resource should feed into the 'Get Ireland Active' map to ensure that all opportunities are consistently promoted across all platforms.

Increased promotion and marketing of all outdoor recreation activities will take place through a range of appropriate channels including targeted social media campaigns.

We will work to ensure that all walking, cycling and water trails across the county meet accreditation standards to allow inclusion in the Sport Ireland Outdoors National Trails Register. This will not only provide promotion and exposure but ensure safe, consistent and quality trail experiences.

Support the roll out of the national 'Responsible Use of the Outdoors' campaign at a local level in partnership with Leave No Trace Ireland.

To create awareness of Monaghan's outdoor recreation opportunities and how to enjoy them responsibly



Feasacht

Cuspóir: Feasacht a chothú ar dheiseanna aeraíochta Mhuineacháin agus conas taitneamh a bhaint astu go freagrach.				
Uimh.	Gníomh	Amscála	Príomheagraíocht Seachadta	Páirtithe Leasmhara
4.1	Léarscáil dhigiteach idirghníomhach a fhorbairt a shonraíonn na láithreacha agus na conairí áineasa go léir ar fud an chontae agus a leabú ar shuíomh gréasáin Thurasóireacht Mhuineacháin chun a éascú do mhuintir na háite agus do chuairteoirí iad féin a threorú agus tacú le forbairt leanúnach ar bhunachar sonraí digiteach náisiúnta Get Ireland Active mar ghníomh sa Bheartas Spóirt Náisiúnta.	Gearrthéarmach	MCC – Turasóireacht	RRO
4.2	Cur chun cinn agus margaíocht na ndeiseanna aeraíochta go léir a mhéadú do mhuintir na háite agus do chuairteoirí ar ardáin chuí lena n-áirítear feachtais spriocdhírithe ar na meáin shóisialta.	Ag dul ar aghaidh	MCC – Turasóireacht	Coillte, An Taisce, Cumainn Forbartha Pobail
4.3	Creidiúnú Spórt Éireann a lorg do gach conair shiúlóide, rothaíochta agus uisce chun ionchuimsitheacht agus cur chun cinn a éascú ar Chlár Conairí Náisiúnta Spórt Éireann agus ar Bhunachar Sonraí Get Ireland Active.	Meántéarmach/fadté armach	MCC – Turasóireacht RRO	Spórt Éireann, Eagraíochtaí Bainistíochta Conaire (TMOs)
4.4	Tacú le feidhmiú céimneach an fheachtais náisiúnta ‘Bí Freagrach agus tú Amuigh faoin Aer’ ar leibhéal áitiúil agus teachtaireachtaí náisiúnta a chomhtháthú i ngach cumarsáid ábhartha.	Meántéarmach/fadté armach	MCC LNT Éireann RRO	Coillte, An Taisce, NPWS, IFI, MSP

Opportunities

Why is this important?

Spending time in the outdoors and participating in outdoor activities brings a multitude of benefits to individuals and society. By providing opportunities for people to get active outdoors:

- their physical health improves as they become more physically active
- their mental health improves as time spent outdoors, increases the levels of happiness and life satisfaction
- their social well-being improves as they gain opportunities for social interaction reducing feelings of loneliness, isolation and improving overall quality of life
- the environment improves as more people accessing and connecting with their environment ultimately results in greater awareness and care for it
- the economy benefits as increased participation provides direct economic benefit to the wider economy through activity tourism and wider savings to the health service.

It is acknowledged however that there is unequal access to the outdoors across society with multiple social and economic barriers preventing people engaging in outdoor recreation. In particular there is under-representation from women and girls, older adults, young people, people with disabilities, ethnic minorities, unemployed and those from areas of high social need.

What is our ambition?

Our ambition is to ensure that as many local people as possible across Monaghan have the opportunity to enjoy its outdoor spaces and avail of the many benefits from doing so. We want to encourage and increase participation from those local groups that are currently under-represented.

In addition to providing opportunities for local people, we want to welcome visitors to County Monaghan's outdoor spaces and grow the tourism offering.

We will achieve this by:

- delivering outdoor recreation participation programmes to those of all ages and abilities and increasing participation in water-based activities.
- making it easier for people to know where they can go, what they can do and how they can do it when they get there.
- build capacity with town teams, businesses, activity providers, clubs and the community to develop visitor services and experiences.

To increase and support the number of people active in the outdoors across Monaghan, especially young people and under-represented groups

Deiseanna

Cuspóir: Tacú le líon na ndaoine atá gníomhach amuigh faoin aer ar fud Mhuineacháin agus an líon seo a mhéadú, go háirithe daoine óga agus grúpaí faoi ghannionadaíocht.				
Uimh.	Gníomh	Amscála	Príomheagraíocht Seachadta	Páirtithe Leasmhara
5.1	Trí cheannaireacht agus oideachas agus oiliúint scileanna-bhunaithe i siúl, rothaíocht, snámh amuigh faoin aer agus treodóireacht srl., cur leis an gcumas laistigh de phobail chun gníomhaíochtaí aeraíochta a sheachadadh agus a bheith rannpháirteach iontu.	Meántéarmach/fadté armach	MSP	Comhlachtaí Rialaithe Náisiúnta Allamuigh de réir mar is cuí
5.2	Rannpháirtíocht an phobail i ngníomhaíochtaí aeraíochta a éascú do chách lena n-áirítear grúpaí faoi ghannionadaíocht amhail mionlaigh eitneacha, daoine faoi mhíchumas, daoine fásta níos aosta, daoine dífhostaithe, mná agus cailíní agus daoine óga trí chláir áitiúla agus tionscnaimh náisiúnta ar nós ‘HER Outdoors’ srl.	Meántéarmach/fadté armach	MSP	Comhlachtaí Rialaithe Náisiúnta Allamuigh de réir mar is cuí, IFI
5.3	Leanaí óga a chur i dteagmháil leis an dúlra trí shúgradh nádúrtha agus trí eachtraíocht agus tacú le tionscnaimh náisiúnta ar nós ‘An Lá Náisiúnta Súgartha’.	Meántéarmach/fadté armach	MSP	Coiste Cúraim Páistí Chontae Mhuineacháin, Gréasán Náisiúnta Óige Mhuineacháin
5.4	Tacú le cláir agus tionscnaimh rannpháirtíochta náisiúnta amhail an clár Mná sa Spórt, an Tionscnamh Eachtraíochta Uirbeach, agus na Tionscnaimh Get Ireland Walking, Get Ireland Cycling, Get Ireland Running agus Get Ireland Swimming agus, faoi réir maoinithe, breithniú cuí a dhéanamh ar earcú Oifigigh Ghníomhaíochta / Forbartha a bhaineann leis na straitéisí seo	Meántéarmach/fadté armach	MSP	Sléibhteoireacht Éireann, Get Ireland Walking, Rothaíocht Éireann / Uladh, Snámh Éireann
5.5	Ag brath ar mhaoiniú do thionscadal trasteorann “Siúlóid do Chách”, oifigeach WFA a earcú agus an clár 3 bliana a rolladh amach.	Meántéarmach/fadté armach	MSP	Spórt Éireann, Outscape, Sléibhteoireacht Éireann, Get Ireland Walking
5.6	Tacú le tionscnaimh a dhíríonn ar mheabhairshláinte agus folláine feabhsaithe mar thoradh ar ghníomhaíocht choirp i spásanna ‘glasa’ agus i limistéir lasmuigh agus iad a éascú m.sh. Coillearnacha don tSláinte agus cláir eile atá bunaithe ar an nádúr.	Meántéarmach/fadté armach	MSP	Meabhairshláinte Éireann, Seirbhísí Meabhairshláinte FSS, Seirbhísí Oideasaithe Shóisialta
5.7	Tacú le foirne bailte, gnólachtaí agus an pobal deiseanna aeraíochta a fhorbairt agus tacú le seirbhísí cuairteoirí m.sh. conairí pobail, trealamh ar cíos, lóistín, veain champála/áiseanna campála srl.	Meántéarmach/fadté armach	MCC	Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil, Fáilte Éireann, Cumainn Forbartha Pobail, Soláthraithe Turasóireachta

Expertise

Why is this important?

Over the past number of years, there has been a significant increase in government support for outdoor recreation, including the availability of significant funding for capital projects through DRCD's Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme. This is expected to continue, as set out in the National Outdoor Recreation Strategy. Concurrently, the number of organisations involved in developing, maintaining and promoting outdoor recreation from statutory organisations and community groups has also grown.

To date however, there has been limited investment in capacity building to support those involved. This has resulted in varying levels of awareness and practice of:

- holistic site development through master planning.
- trail design and construction standards.
- accessibility considerations in relation to information and infrastructure.
- effective management and maintenance.

This has resulted in a small number of poor practice examples in trail development and management across Monaghan.

Knowing the numbers participating in an outdoor recreation site is important to both justify previous capital expenditure and evidence future investment. At present there are only three visitor counters across Monaghan, making it difficult to evidence success and justify future investment.

What is our ambition?

The development of this Plan presents an opportunity to improve skills and knowledge in planning, developing and maintaining trails and outdoor recreation facilities, so that poor practice can be improved and avoided in the future.

Actions will be taken to ensure land managers, trail management organisations and those responsible for developing trails and outdoor recreation facilities are equipped to operate with sufficient knowledge, skills and expertise. This will include training and support from statutory organisations and relevant professional bodies.

To help us understand more fully the number of people using our sites which will in turn help us prioritise sites for future development and maintenance, we will include visitor monitoring as part of all future outdoor recreation development across the county.

To improve
the
knowledge,
skills, and
expertise of
Monaghan's
stakeholders
and partners

Saineolas

Cuspóir: Eolas, scileanna agus saineolas páirtithe leasmhara agus comhpháirtithe Mhuineacháin a fheabhsú.				
Uimh.	Gníomh	Amscála	Príomheagraíocht Seachadta	Páirtithe Leasmhara
6.1	Monatóireacht ar chuairteoirí a chur san áireamh mar chuid d’fhorbairt aeraíochta amach anseo chun úsáid a thuiscint, cabhrú le díriú ar chur chun cinn agus tacú le maoiniú na gcostas forbartha agus cothabhála agus an fhaisnéis seo a roinnt le Coiste Aeraíochta an Chontae.	Ag dul ar aghaidh	MCC – Turasóireacht	Coillte, Cumainn Forbartha Pobail, RRO
6.2	Treoirlínte náisiúnta agus dea-chleachtas a bhaineann le pleanáil, forbairt, bainistíocht agus cothabháil aeraíochta a leanúint agus cur le scileanna, eolas agus saineolas na ndaoine a sholáthraíonn tionscadail aeraíochta trí rannpháirtíocht i réimse imeachtaí arna stiúradh ag Spórt Éireann.	Meántéarmach/fadté armach	MCC – Forbairt Pobail RRO	Coillte, Cumainn Forbartha Pobail

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