

MARCH
2025



Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council



Embracing Tipperary's **Outdoors**

Outdoor Recreation Plan for County Tipperary 2025 – 2030

Prepared for: **Tipperary County Council**



This report has been prepared on behalf of Tipperary County Council following guidance provided by the Department of Rural & Community Development and Sport Ireland, under the provisions of the National Outdoor Recreation Strategy '*Embracing Ireland's Outdoors*' 2023-2027.

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March 2025



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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

- **Outdoor Recreation:** Refers to non-motorised activities that take place in the natural environment, such as walking, hiking, angling, kayaking/ canoeing, wild swimming, cycling/ pedal-assist e-biking¹, orienteering and nature-based activities such as birdwatching. The term ‘Outdoor Recreation’ does **not** include pitch-based sports such as hurling, football, tennis, golf, soccer, athletics or equestrian centres (see: *Embracing Ireland’s Outdoors – Ireland’s National Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2023-2027*).
- **Universal Access:** Refers to the degree to which the environment, products and services are accessible to people with disabilities. The term “barrier-free design” is used to describe the efforts to remove physical barriers from the ‘built environment’ for people with disabilities, including outdoor recreational activities.

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ABBREVIATIONS USED IN TEXT

CORC	County Outdoor Recreation Committee
CORP	County Outdoor Recreation Plan
ORO	Outdoor Recreation Officer
RRO	Rural Recreation Officer
WMW	Waymarked Ways
TCC	Tipperary County Council
FI	Fáilte Ireland
IFI	Inland Fisheries Ireland
IWC	Irish Wheelchair Association
LDCs	Local Development Companies (<i>service delivery of LEADER programme for rural development</i>)
NDA	National Disability Authority
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service
NMS	National Monuments Service
NORS	National Outdoor Recreation Strategy – <i>Embracing Ireland’s Outdoors 2023-2027</i>
OPW	Office of Public Works
SI	Sport Ireland
TII	Transport Infrastructure Ireland
WI	Waterways Ireland
IAE	Ireland’s Ancient East - tourism brand region (<i>of which most of Tipperary is a part</i>)
IHH	Ireland’s Hidden Heartlands – tourism brand region (<i>of which northwest Tipperary is a part</i>)
SDGs	(United Nations) Sustainable Development Goals
ORIS	Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme
RRDF	Rural Regeneration Development Fund

¹ The Road Traffic and Roads Act 2023 provides clear definitions of different forms of electric bicycles and related regulations. **Pedal assist e-Bikes** have a power output up to 250W, where the motor cuts out at 25 km/h and the e-bike will not operate without pedalling, thus are classed as pedal cycles.

PART 1

Introduction



Image Source: www.irelandscontentpool.com (Cahir Castle)

01. INTRODUCTION

Tipperary County Council commissioned the development of a County Outdoor Recreation Plan in 2024. The project team was asked to review the current provision and delivery of outdoor recreation across the county, and to make strategic recommendations for action, linked to six thematic objectives as set out in *Embracing Ireland's Outdoors, the National Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2023-27*.

In November 2022, *Embracing Ireland's Outdoors – the National Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2023 -2027*² (NORS) was launched by Comhairle na Tuaithe³ as a collaborative cross-Government, stakeholder-led strategy. It sets the stage to strengthen and support the sustainable development of the outdoor recreation sector in Ireland for years to come.

The core mission of NORS is to lead, guide and facilitate the sustainable development and management of outdoor recreation and increased participation, in order to realise social, health and economic benefits. This will be achieved while respecting the custodians of land and water, caring for the environment and promoting responsible recreation. The Strategy adopts six strategic objectives, *Leadership; Environment; Awareness; Opportunities; Access* and *Expertise*, and provides a focused framework with key actions for delivery by partners in recreational development across Ireland.

A key element of *Embracing Ireland's Outdoors* is for each county to develop its own **County Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP)** collaboratively, to provide direction and a coordinated approach among stakeholders, linked to the six strategic objectives. The NORS proposes the establishment of a **County Outdoor Recreation Committee (CORC)** and **Stakeholder Forum** in the development of the plan. The new structure, to be established in 2025 in Tipperary, will aim to ensure that available human resources and funding are better aligned with national and county priorities to achieve optimal value for public investment in recreational infrastructure.

Tipperary's CORP is underpinned by the six national strategic objectives, including enhancing leadership and collaboration, improving infrastructure, fostering environmental sustainability and expanding inclusive access. It also prioritises raising awareness of Tipperary's outdoor recreation opportunities, while building local capacity to deliver world-class experiences over the coming decades. Insights from a comprehensive consultation process and SWOT findings have informed these priorities, reflecting the aspirations of our stakeholders, including local people, businesses, strategic partners and visitors.

With this roadmap, Tipperary aims to solidify its status as a premier destination for outdoor recreation, promoting inclusivity and environmental stewardship while providing tangible benefits for its communities. The appointed new County Outdoor Recreation Committee with the supporting Stakeholder Forum will oversee its implementation. By aligning these efforts with national strategies and leveraging local partnerships, the county is poised to create an enduring legacy of outdoor recreation that enriches lives and landscapes alike.

² [gov.ie - Embracing Ireland's Outdoors - National Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2023-2027](https://gov.ie/en/embracing-irelands-outdoors-national-outdoor-recreation-strategy-2023-2027)

³ [gov.ie - Comhairle na Tuaithe](https://gov.ie/en/comhairle-na-tuaithe)

PART 2

Background

Image Source: www.irelandscontentpool.com (Lough Dhoire Bhile)

02. BACKGROUND

The County Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) for County Tipperary has been developed in response to the strategic aims of the National Outdoor Recreation Strategy, to provide an integrated approach to development of safe and accessible recreation for residents, new arrivals and visitors to the county.

2.1 Need for Tipperary's County Outdoor Recreation Plan

County Tipperary, with its rich natural heritage, vibrant communities and growing demand for outdoor recreation, is uniquely positioned to become a leader in accessible, sustainable and inclusive recreational development.

Tipperary's County Outdoor Recreation Plan outlines a strategic vision for the next decade, aiming to balance environmental sustainability, community engagement and economic opportunity. Building on the guiding framework provided by *Embracing Ireland's Outdoors – National Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2023-2027*, this CORP identifies clear priorities to enhance the quality and accessibility of Tipperary's outdoor amenities while promoting local pride, participation and tourism.

Tipperary's natural assets, from the Suir Blueway Tipperary and Lough Derg to the Beara Breifne Way, St. Declan's Way and Devil's Bit, provide an excellent foundation for recreational participation and growth. These areas not only offer unique opportunities for physical activity and connection with nature but also serve as critical drivers of health, wellbeing and economic vitality. However, the CORP also recognises existing challenges, such as gaps in universal accessibility, inconsistent communications and the need for greater collaboration across stakeholders. Addressing these challenges will require robust leadership, innovative infrastructure solutions, adequate resources and a commitment to climate mitigation through enhanced participation in outdoor recreation.

2.2 Definition of Outdoor Recreation

The definition of 'Outdoor Recreation' is adapted from that used in the National Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2023-2028⁴.

Outdoor recreation means (non-motorised) activities that take place in the natural environment, such as walking, cycling, hiking, canoeing, angling, mountain biking, orienteering and wild swimming, among a range of other activities. These include active land, water and air-based activities in the outdoors such as (pedal assist) e-biking, nature-viewing and birdwatching.

It is notable that this definition does **not** include pitch-based sports such as tennis, golf, football, hurling, camogie, athletics or equestrian centres; thus, these activities are not included in this study.

⁴ gov - Embracing Ireland's Outdoors - National Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2023-2027 (www.gov.ie)

2.3 Benefits & Importance of Outdoor Recreation

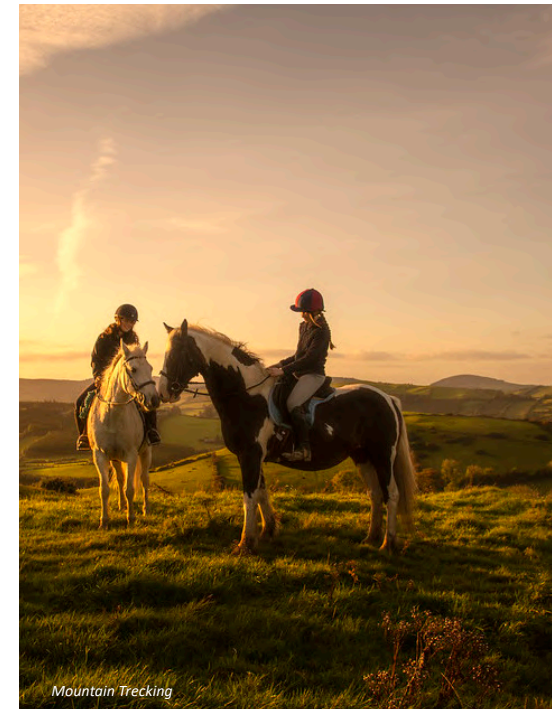
The benefits associated with physical recreation are well researched internationally⁵. It provides a major contribution to personal health and wellbeing, while societally, participation in recreation reduces anti-social behaviour and contributes to reduced health care, social services demands, as well as Garda/penal costs.



Kilgarvan Quay



Graves of the Leinstermen



Mountain Trecking



Suir Blueway

Images Source: Tipperary County Council

⁵ [EU Physical Activity Guidelines - European Commission](#)

People who engage in outdoor recreation enjoy positive physical and mental health benefits throughout their lives. A Pulse Survey conducted by the CSO in 2022⁶ explored the relationship that almost 10,000 adults have with the outdoors and natural spaces in Ireland. More than half (55%) spent more time outdoors than they did before the covid pandemic (2020-21) and one in three took up new outdoor activities. The most popular activities were walking (26%), hiking (24%), running (24%), cycling (22%) and sea swimming (21%). Of the respondents who spent time in natural spaces over six months, 97% felt healthier and 93% felt happier afterwards.

Physical inactivity globally has critical implications for the cost of healthcare required to treat related chronic illnesses. In Sweden, it is estimated that up to 60% of all illnesses can be attributed to lifestyle choices⁷. Respondents to surveys in the UK report lower levels of anxiety, depression and other mental health issues as a result of engaging in outdoor activity and connecting with the outdoors⁸.

“ Social Subscribing (e.g. GP referral) should include accessible recreation for those with disabilities. ”

Tipperary consultee, 2024

Being active in the outdoors is beneficial to both individuals and society at large, providing opportunities for rural enterprise, tourism and social engagement at every level. Recreation contributes to positive lifestyles and provides an inviting ‘calling card’ for both visitors and those wishing to move to Tipperary.

⁶ <https://www.cso.ie/en/csolatestnews/pressreleases/2022pressreleases/pressstatementpulsesurveyapril-may2022-ourlivesoutdoorsnapshotofresults/>

⁷ http://avbp.net/docs/huddinge_map.pdf

⁸ www.mentalhealth.org.uk

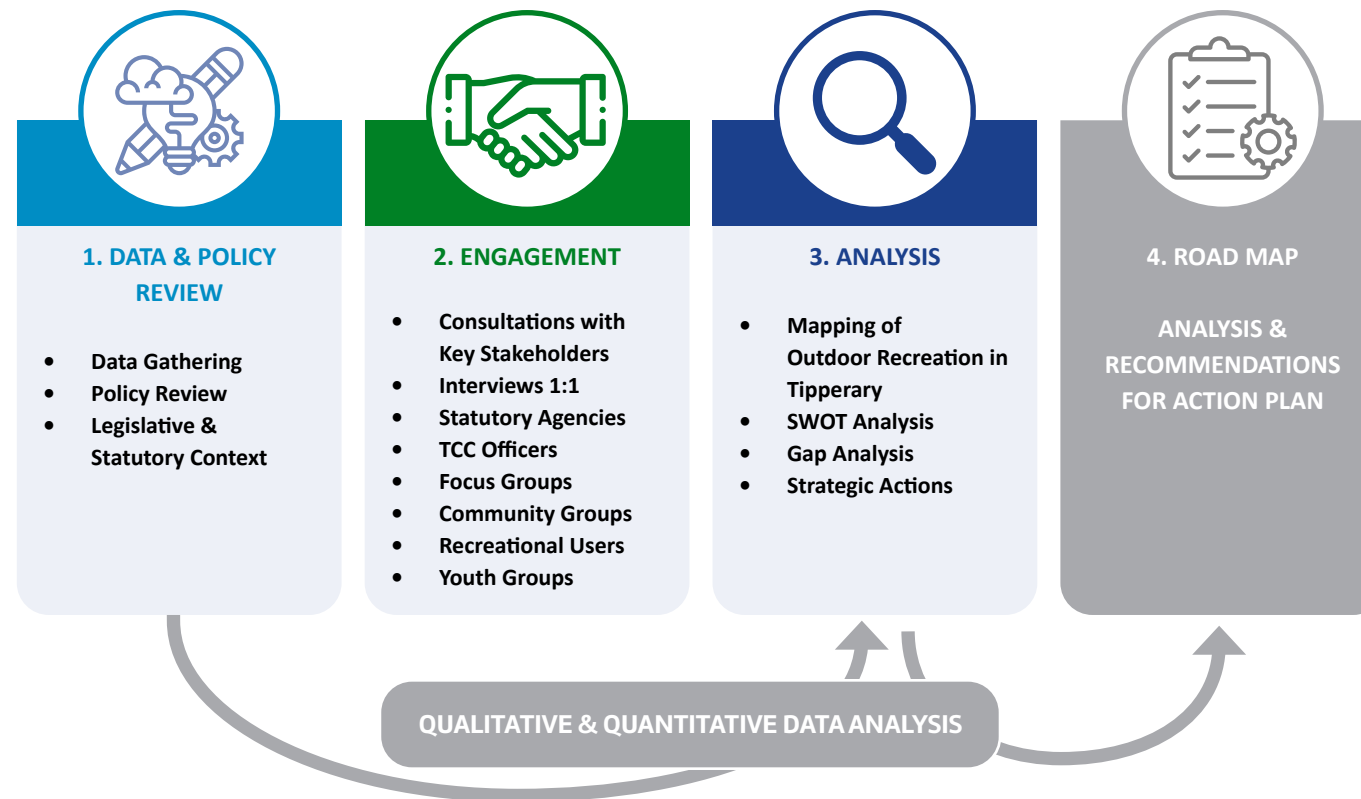


Images Source: Tipperary County Council

2.4 Creating the Outdoor Recreation Plan

The study was undertaken following the guidance provided by DRCD and Sport Ireland under the provisions of *Embracing Ireland's Outdoors*. This included a comprehensive review of strategies and policies that influence outdoor recreation. Thorough engagement with key stakeholders was undertaken, including recreational users and representative bodies, as well as enablers and providers of recreational activities across Tipperary. This was followed by analysis of the findings to propose a clear road map and action plan.

Figure 1 Development Process for County Outdoor Recreation Plan



2.5 Consultation Process

Considerable time was spent in engaging with a wide cross-section of recreational partners and in recording feedback systematically. Multiple perspectives thus fed into the consultation process from communities, statutory agencies, recreational users and relevant officers of Tipperary County Council. All data were recorded, aggregated and analysed to create the action plan and final recommendations.

Consultations & Focus Groups

A diverse and representative group of stakeholders, including *inter alia* local authority officers, community activists, recreational users, youth groups, government agencies, tourism authorities and disability advocates, participated in focus groups and one-to-one consultations. Structured discussions explored specific themes, including recreational assets, priorities, challenges and recommendations.

Qualitative Data Collection

Open-ended questions encouraged participants to discuss and share insights on Tipperary's recreational assets, gaps, community needs, and barriers to recreation. Facilitated conversations guided discussions to ensure balanced input and focused outcomes. An Online Survey was generated where participants were provided with an opportunity to comment and to add any additional information, contacts or reflections. One hundred and thirty five (135) participants availed of this survey opportunity, which feedback informs the overall analysis (*see Appendix 4*).

Synthesis of Findings

Key themes were identified, analysed and grouped into categories such as accessibility, infrastructure, safety, communication and sustainability. Recurring issues included poorly serviced trailheads, inadequate (unsafe) cycling infrastructure, lack of universal access, and poor coordination among agencies charged with delivering recreation. Common priorities among stakeholders were identified, such as better management of existing infrastructure, need for more inclusive recreational facilities and improved communications. Early-phase recommendations and practical suggestions were crafted based on stakeholder input, such as creation of accessible multi-activity recreational hubs and thematic events.

Documentation & Reporting

The findings from this process of engagement were summarised to ensure that the full spectrum of stakeholder voices were fully represented. A clear and actionable roadmap was defined to address identified gaps and leverage opportunities for outdoor recreational development across Tipperary.

Summary Findings

The outcomes of the discussions, focus groups and interviews were collated to develop findings, centred on the need for:

- Strategic Development,
- Inclusivity and Accessibility,
- Enhanced Communications,
- Sustainability and Conservation, and
- Inter-Agency Collaboration.

These are elaborated in Chapter 5 and Appendix 5.

A woman with blonde hair, wearing a black jacket over a white hoodie and black pants, is walking along a winding stone path. The path is surrounded by dense, low-lying vegetation, including purple heather and green shrubs. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under a cloudy sky.

PART 3

Strategic Context

Image Source: www.irelandscontentpool.com (Knockanroe Wood)

03. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

A detailed review of strategic policies that will influence outdoor recreation development in Tipperary was conducted. These influences include spatial planning, sports and recreation, tourism, active travel and climate strategies, cascading from international, national, regional and county to inform local recreation development.

3.1 Strategic Context

A review of relevant national and regional policies was undertaken and integrated into the development of the County Outdoor Recreation Plan for County Tipperary. The central document is *Embracing Ireland’s Outdoors, National Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2023-2027*, whose vision, mission and objectives are threaded throughout this Plan.

The core mission of the national strategy is to lead, guide and facilitate the sustainable development and management of outdoor recreation and increased participation in activities to realise social, health and economic benefits. This must be achieved while respecting the custodians of land and water, caring for the environment and promoting responsible recreation.

Figure 2: Policy Context for Embracing Ireland’s Outdoors



Central to the context for planning and development of outdoor recreation is a series of interlinked policy imperatives, which must be considered to optimise benefits while minimising potential adverse impacts in development of recreational amenities in Tipperary (*Figure 2*).

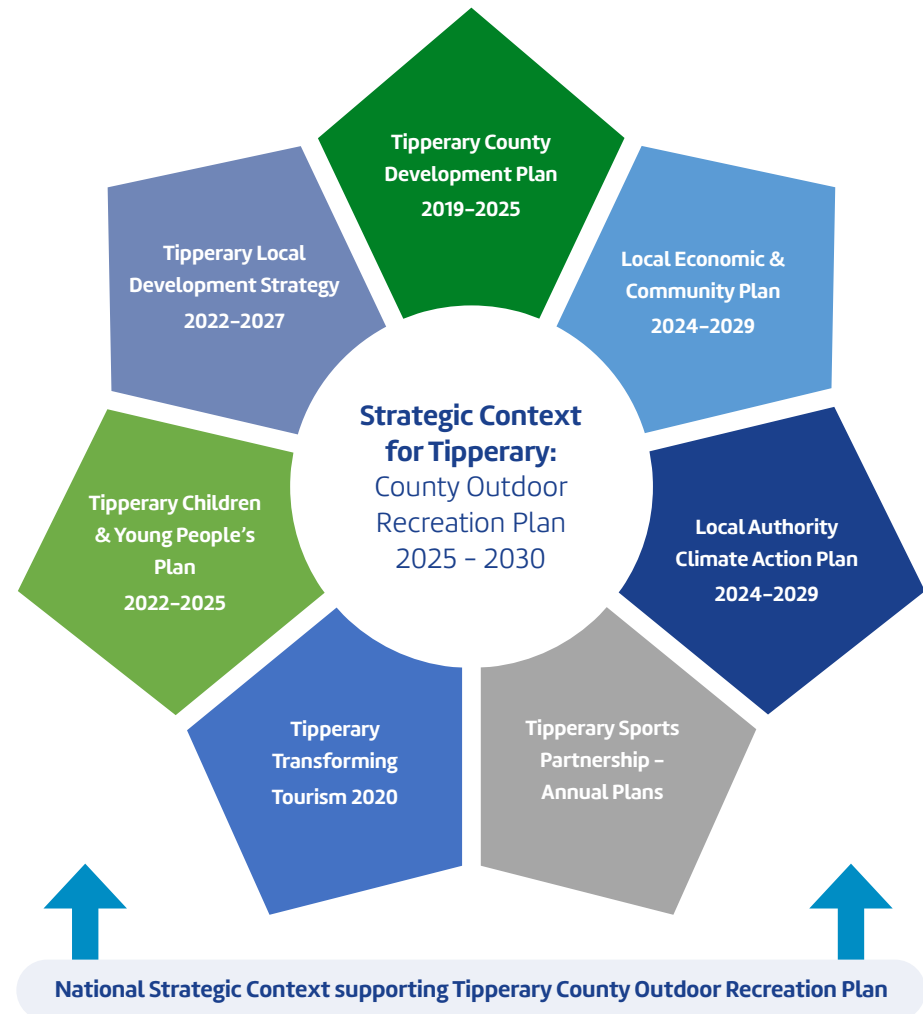
These interacting elements are critical in understanding the role that Outdoor Recreation can play in delivering key aspects of many of Ireland's strategic objectives, particularly enhanced health and wellness benefits, as well as aspects of climate mitigation targets.

A series of key national and regional strategies underpin the development of outdoor recreation in Ireland, which inform and support strategies and objectives at regional and county level (*see Appendix 3*).

A detailed review of Tipperary's county, local & community development plans; climate action; tourism, youth, health and active travel strategies directly relevant to outdoor recreation development was undertaken. This included plans for greenways and blueways; sports partnership actions; heritage, climate and biodiversity action plans; destination development strategies; youth policies; health & wellbeing initiatives; and a recent study on accessibility to outdoor recreation in Tipperary.

In addressing both the climate and biodiversity crises, it is vital that current and future outdoor recreation plans and programmes consider the role of recreation in reducing emissions by providing local linkages for cycling, walking and active travel alternatives. Where possible investment in recreational facilities should support and encourage best practice in sustainable and universal design, active travel, biodiversity, flood risk management, nature based solutions, green procurement and climate adaptation. All recreational initiatives should be as inclusive as possible for people with a range of abilities.

Figure 3: Policy Framework for Outdoor Recreation in Tipperary



3.2 External Environment

There has been an exponential increase in the variety and number of outdoor recreational amenities available to the public, largely driven by communities, tourism interests and statutory agencies, over the past two decades. Significant progress has been made by *Comhairle na Tuaithe* in creating a national partnership approach to planning and managing access to lands for outdoor recreation, in an integrated and agreed fashion with landowners and land managers. Recreational participation rates have increased significantly, leading to a growing demand for safe and accessible facilities.

Ireland's positive economic climate ensures that national and local funding sources for development have increased significantly, principally through the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) and the Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF) – see *Appendix 5*. These provide vital funds to secure amenities of regional importance, including waymarked trails, greenways and blueways.

It is a key objective of *Embracing Ireland's Outdoors* that outdoor recreation should be managed to minimise adverse impacts on the natural environment, while facilitating permissive access for the end user. The Occupier's Liability Act 1995 and the Walks Scheme were recently amended to reflect changes in practice over the past 30 years and landowner concerns, while promoting responsible behaviour by recreational users in the outdoors. In Tipperary, key issues focus on irresponsible behaviours, such as littering, poor dog control by owners; anti-social behaviour and vandalism, as well as poor management of large scale outdoor events that contribute to nuisance parking and erosion of trails; as well as unsuitable activities in upland areas such as bike scrambling.

3.3 Assessment of Strategic & External Context

The overarching strategic context for development and expansion of outdoor recreational amenities in Tipperary is positive, due to a supportive policy environment, committed funding opportunities and positive leadership. The establishment of a County Outdoor Recreation Committee (CORC) and Stakeholder Forum will create and foster the inter-disciplinarity required to meet Tipperary's strategic ambitions as set out in the County Development Plan.

Based on the six strategic objectives of *Embracing Ireland's Outdoors*, outdoor recreation has the potential to contribute positively to achieving the strategic objectives of local climate action and mitigation, biodiversity and environmental protection, active travel and universal access. Meeting these objectives are key to the successful delivery of this Plan, while improving public awareness of what is available in the county through effective communications.

Recreation provides many benefits for the individual and society through enhanced mental and physical health, social connectivity and inclusivity. Investment in existing and potential recreational assets through coordinated action among key stakeholders will encourage people to walk, hike, to travel actively by bike/ e-bike or use of the Local Link bus, and to promote understanding of the links between health, climate mitigation, ecological sustainability and our own behaviours.

However, there are many challenges to realising these benefits for all; thus, the adoption of universal design for accessible recreation to widen the recreational user base is critical.

As Tipperary straddles two tourism brand regions (IHH and IAE), it has significant potential to create and market accessible outdoor recreational experiences for visitors to the region, as key drivers of rural enterprise and long-term socio-economic development.

PART 4

Current Situation: County Tipperary

Image Source: Tipperary County Council (Clare Glens)

04. CURRENT SITUATION: COUNTY TIPPERARY

This chapter considers the current context for physical activity and participation in outdoor recreation across Tipperary.

4.1 Recreational Offering in Tipperary

Physical Infrastructure

Tipperary enjoys excellent provision for outdoor recreation given its natural endowment of lakes, rivers, mountains and peatlands (*see Map 1, Appendix 6*). It hosts **eight national waymarked ways** including the **Ormond Way**, **Multeen Way** and a portion of **Ballyhoura Way** (all part of the *Beara Breifne Way*); **Slieve Felim Way**; **Lough Derg Way**; **Tipperary Heritage Way** (embracing part of *St. Declan's Way*); **East Munster Way** and **Avondhu Way**. There are multiple walks in the county ranging from **forest and bog walks to hill walks**, with many local looped walks, such as Kings Walk in Cashel and multi-option trails in e.g. Upperchurch and the Glen of Aherlow. Many of these trails are listed on the National Trails Register which is managed by Sport Ireland Outdoors⁹. Many unofficial walks are also used at local scale, which do not appear on the register.

Coillte offers visitors extensive and easy access to outdoor recreation infrastructure, from forest roads for walking only, to recreation amenity site with waymarked trails, based on open access policy. Forest sites in County Tipperary include Galty Castle/Galtees, Bansha Woods, Bishops Wood/Gortarush, Cahir Park, Devils Bit, Doonane/ Ballyhourigan (Keeper Hill), Glengarra, Scaragh Woods and Gortavoher.



Image Source: Tipperary Co. Co. (Glen of Aherlow)

⁹ <https://www.sportireland.ie/outdoors/find-your-trails>

There are expanding options for **orienteering** in Tipperary, with permanent courses in e.g. Fethard, Clonmel, Cahir, Templemore and Carrick-on-Suir, which provide popular amenities for schools, families and young people.

The county is planning to develop a number of **greenways**, including the *Cahir-to-Clonmel Greenway*; *Cahir-to-Cashel Greenway*, *Nenagh Urban Greenway*, and the *Carrick on Suir-to-Kilmeadan Greenway* along existing river paths, and the *Littleton Labyrinth Greenway* along a disused bog rail line. Other ambitious concepts such as the *Lough Derg Greenway* are partially located on private lands, with consequent challenges for development. Tipperary is currently embracing the potential of developing equestrian trails through Horse Country.

There are two **blueways** in Tipperary (*Lough Derg*, *River Suir*) for walking, cycling and kayaking. Tipperary's waterways also offer excellent coarse and game **angling**, particularly along the Suir and Lough Derg.

Significant **wetland/peatway amenities** include *Scohaboy Bog* (upgrades planned), *Cabragh Wetlands*, *Dundrum Marl Bog* and *Lough Doire Bhile*. The latter is being upgraded as part of TCC's 'Just Transition' development of the *Littleton Labyrinth* as an accessible amenity park, with opportunities to walk, cycle and enjoy biodiversity and archaeological heritage. There are multiple **town parks** offering opportunities to recreate, including Clonmel, Thurles, Cahir, Nenagh, Fethard, Templemore and Roscrea, particularly for people of lesser mobility. Overall, Tipperary's most popular recreation sites are not over-subscribed, although there are instances of peat erosion and path migration (e.g. *Galtymore*, *Sugarloaf*, *Tountinna*, *Millenium Cross*, *Silvermines Ridge*) where recreational pressures require to be actively managed.

Tipperary County Council has established three **Cycle Hubs** (Clonmel, Nenagh and Thurles), with a variety of looped routes of different lengths, offering signposted options to promote safe cycling. A **Lough Derg e-biking trail** is planned by TCC with adjacent local authorities (Clare and Galway).



Image Source: Tipperary Co. Co. (Suir Blueway)

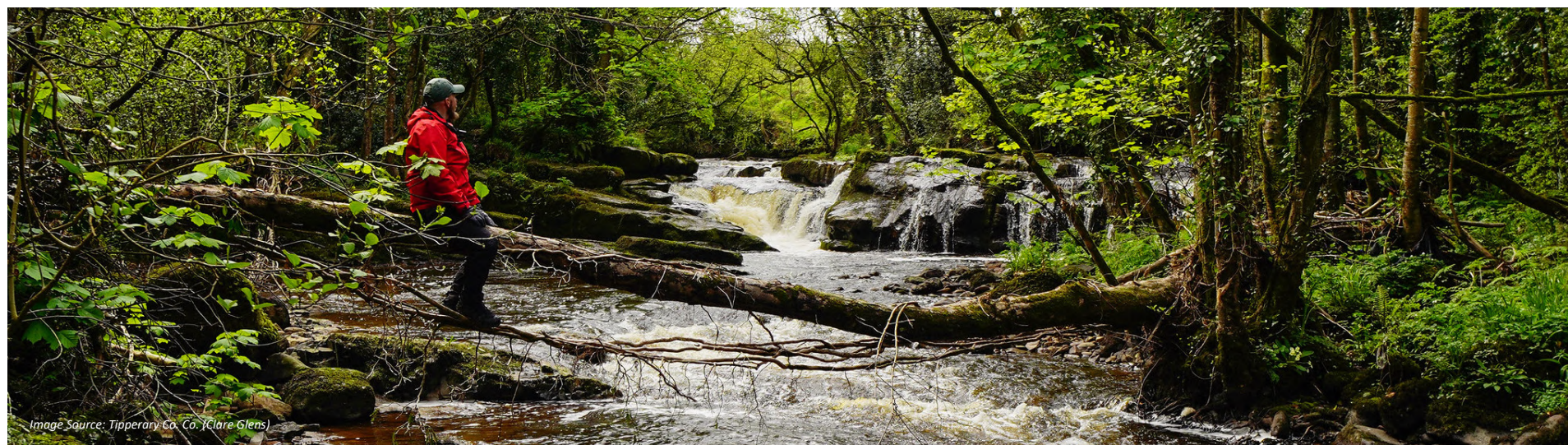
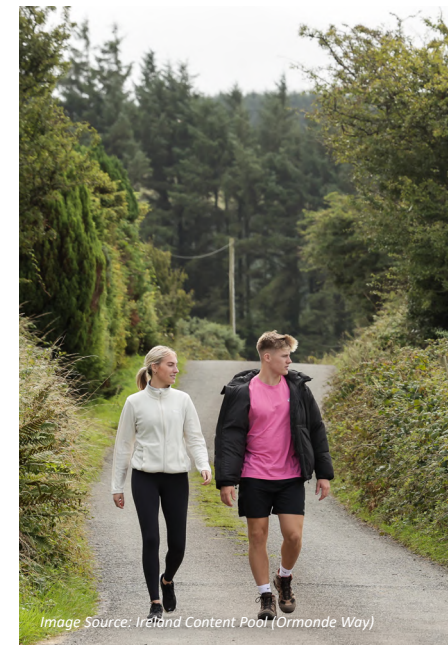


Image Source: www.irelandcontentpool.org (Cahir)

Participation Opportunities

Tipperary offers **kayaking, paddling and rowing, hiking, walking, cycling and angling**, as well as minority activities such as pétanque and archery. All of these activities have local clubs which organise training, events and group activities. There are nine hiking/ramblers club; 12 cycling clubs; five main angling clubs; and five kayaking/ paddling/rowing clubs¹⁰, as well as many informal local opportunities to get active. Many schools also provide outdoor recreation opportunities for young people and TSP have a strong engagement programme to encourage young people to get active, and remain active, in the outdoors.

There are just two activity providers listed on the Irish Association of Adventure Tourism website in Tipperary for biking and hiking. However, many of the walking and cycling clubs provide guided hikes and cycles, with qualified mountain guides and activity leaders.



¹⁰ As registered members with Tipperary Public Participation Network ppntipperary.ie/directory-test/



Image Source: Ireland Content Pool. (Silvermines)



Image Source: Tipperary Co. Co. (Knockmealdown)



Scohaboy Bog

4.2 Landscape & Environment

County Tipperary is the largest inland county in Ireland, stretching for 106km north to south. It is endowed with a superb array of natural assets including mountains, peatlands, forests, lakes and rivers.

Many of these landscapes host national and European designated sites within the Natura network in Tipperary's uplands (e.g. *Slieve Felim*, *Silvermines*, *Galtee Mountains*) and along waterways (e.g. *Shannon Callows*, *Lough Derg*, *River Suir*). Tipperary is also home to protected wetlands and peatlands (e.g. *Scohaboy*, *Redwood*, *Slievenamon*). A rich field archaeological heritage includes enclosures, ringforts and cashels, mainly on private lands, and significant architectural heritage held in state care. All designated natural habitats and cultural sites and monuments are subject to statutory protection, which must be considered in design and planning of recreational amenities. Under recent legislative changes, non-statutory heritage sites must also be considered¹¹ when planning outdoor recreation to minimise adverse impacts.

Environmental challenges include declining water quality in rivers that impact biodiversity and fish stocks. At *Lough Derg*, unauthorised developments along its shores locally prohibit community access for recreation. In upland areas, overuse of popular hiking tracks create problems of path erosion and bare peat exposure e.g. *Galtymore*, while use of motorised scramblers also cause erosion e.g. *Knockmealdown Mountains*. Poor behaviour by a small cohort of recreational users is a challenge, particularly in lack of control of dogs.

¹¹ [Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023](#)



Based on a 2023 audit by TCC Tourism, the county's key outdoor recreational amenities would be enhanced by provision of *serviced, accessible Trailheads* with WC, parking and changing places. Tipperary has the potential to become a centre of excellence in provision of highly accessible outdoor recreation. It is developing key sites to provide universal access, including The Suir Blueway Tipperary, Ballina Riverside and the emerging Littleton Labyrinth (*Map 1*).

“ *The walk from Cahir Castle to Swiss Cottage along the Suir Blueway is one of the most used (and valued) recreational assets in the county* ”

Consultee Feedback

4.3 End User

The population of Tipperary was **167,895** (Census of Population of Ireland, 2022¹²), showing 5% growth since the 2016 Census. The population is relatively young, with an average age of 40.3 years, albeit aging in line with national trends. Of these, **33,286** were children under 15 years of age (c.20%), while **29,356** were over 65 years (17.5%).

The end user of recreational infrastructure in County Tipperary varies from ‘elite’ mountaineers and world class anglers to those who are visually or intellectually impaired, with limited access to the outdoors. The number (>30 clubs in Tipperary) of outdoor recreational clubs engaged in walking, hillwalking, cycling, angling and canoeing/ kayaking indicate that a significant number of people are actively enjoying outdoor recreation. The TSP, youth clubs and schools work hard to engage young people in outdoor recreation, but more provision of local, easily accessible spaces is required. Additionally, our growing numbers of senior citizens require suitable amenities to remain physically active for as long as possible. The numbers of people living with disability in Tipperary is estimated (based on national data) as 8% of the population or approximately **13,432 people**, who also require suitable facilities to positively engage in outdoor recreation.

Tourists are potentially significant end users of Tipperary's outdoor amenities. As yet, disaggregated data are not available as to how many visitors enjoy hiking, swimming, cycling or angling at county level.

¹² www.cso.ie

4.4 Stakeholder Landscape

There are multiple community, club and organisational activities happening across the land and water-based activity spectra in Tipperary. These are reflected in the broad membership base of Tipperary's Sports Partnership, the Public Participation Network and club networks.

Key Stakeholder Organisations in Tipperary

On the 'supply' side, the key stakeholders for recreational infrastructure delivery are **Tipperary County Council** in partnership with **Waterways Ireland, Inland Fisheries** (waterways, blueways); **Coillte, NPWS** (forests, bogs, uplands), and **Bord na Móna** (peatways/ Just Transition). The **Local Development Companies (LDCs)** of North Tipperary and South Tipperary respectively, through rural development programmes, support delivery of community recreational infrastructure, as well as the role of the **Rural Recreation Officer (RRO)** in managing Tipperary's waymarked ways. The RRO negotiates and maintains permissive access with **c. 175 landowners**, central for recreational access to the uplands, riversides and lakeshores for hiking, angling and kayaking. This critical supply-side work brings many looped walks and significant portions of Tipperary's National Waymarked Ways into the recreational mix, many of which are developed and maintained through the LDCs.

The **Tipperary Sports Partnership** provides a vital coordinating role for training, communications and events across a range of sports and recreational activities (and will become more so once the *Outdoor Recreation Officer* is appointed under the CORP).

In communications with members, the **Tipperary Public Participation Network (PPN)** provides up-to-date information to current and potential users across recreation, environment, community, active aged, disability and heritage stakeholders.

On the 'demand' side, **Walking Clubs**, under the affiliation of Mountaineering Ireland, form a growing cohort of people engaged in active outdoor recreation, particularly suited to remaining active for longer. They provide leadership, training opportunities and also promote responsible behaviours in the outdoors. Likewise, Tipperary's **Cycling and Kayaking/ Canoeing clubs**, most of whom are affiliated to their national governing bodies, provide training, guiding and sociability for all-comers of all ages. A growing outdoor recreation activity is **wild swimming** all-year-round at key access points along Tipperary's lakes and rivers (not necessarily designated bathing places), but new TCC initiatives such as having a Designated Swimming Area in Dromineer on Lough Derg will provide positive access and services at safe bathing places. There are a number of active **Angling Clubs** which attract mainly men, but are also a key activity for 'new Irish' communities. They provide events, training and conservation initiatives, and are vital 'eyes and ears' for resource management along Tipperary's rivers and lakes. Tipperary's lakes and rivers. Horse Country, a new network of stakeholders, is currently scoping the potential of developing new horse-related recreational opportunities across the county.

The **Irish Wheelchair Association**, an umbrella organisation for people living with a range of disabilities, is a crucial stakeholder when discussing universal access to outdoor recreation. Many of their service users actively engage in riverside, forest and lakeshore spins, but require wider access to Tipperary amenities through improved design and consideration of needs.

Young people's engagement with the outdoors (outside of family activity) is mainly through their Schools, and the **Foróige and Comhairle na nÓg youth networks**, which actively promote outdoor activity for physical and mental wellbeing, as well as fun and social engagement. Teenagers are actively seeking more accessible youth spaces, where they can meet and enjoy being active in the outdoors.

Across the county, there are innumerable **voluntary Community Development Associations** and **Community Committees** such as those delivering e.g. Upperchurch and Lorrha looped trails; St Declan's Way, Knockmealdown Active, Siúl Eile, etc. which form the backbone of outdoor recreational delivery and promotion of trails and events locally. These are particularly well suited to reaching people who may be 'hard to reach' including older members of the community, those living alone or rurally isolated.

Resourcing for many of the activities delivered by local authority and statutory agencies comes through the ORIS and RRDF funding (*see Appendix 5*), as well as Active Travel and Climate Action funds such as 'Just Transition' at Littleton Labyrinth. At Club level, much of the funding is sourced from national funding rounds and local fundraising. At community level, funding is generally sourced from LEADER Rural Development grants for community-based rural tourism and/or by local fundraising.



Image Source: Ireland Content Pool (Rock of Cashel)

Key Priorities of Stakeholders

Based on the consultation phases of this plan, key priorities identified by stakeholders include:



"Build on what we have and manage it better", maintaining good communications with landowners and land managers.



Communications and access to information – digital mapping of trails, e-routes, angling stands, trail heads, parking etc. available online to allow planning and appropriate preparation.



Improved access along rural road networks to Outdoor Recreation sites (road signage, road widths, suitable parking).



Universally accessible Infrastructure – consider universal design for participation, including parking, gradient, length, surfaces, based on Sport Ireland/ NDA guidance.



Improved servicing of trailheads – WC, changing places, appropriate parking surfaces, storyboards.



How to participate – make it easy! - club information, events, training, 'how to get started'.



Enhanced collaboration can be achieved through the establishment of the **County Outdoor Recreation Committee** and **Stakeholder Forum** in 2025.

To deliver these elements, strong leadership and vision are required, coordinated at county level. TCC with Coillte, Waterways Ireland, NPWS, Inland Fisheries, Irish Wheelchair Association, Horse Country, Bord na Mona and TII are well placed to deliver the aspirations of the population.

Management Considerations for Outdoor Recreation in Tipperary

There is a variety of management considerations for each recreational proposal at design stage, including AA screening and potentially EclA and/or EIA, depending on the site, scale and likely impacts of proposed projects. This includes measures for biosecurity and protection against adverse impacts on natural and cultural heritage.

- **Development and enhancement of key infrastructural assets** to highest international standards, including the Lough Derg and Suir Blueways, Beara Breifne Way, St Declan's Way, the emerging Littleton Labyrinth and four(to six) Greenways, will offer extensive walking, cycling, e-biking, kayaking, canoeing, swimming and angling recreational opportunities. All will require increased investment and supporting services to meet exacting standards.
- **Environmental Awareness & Education:** Designated (SPA, SAC, NHA) sensitive sites in uplands and wetlands require particular attention to manage adverse impacts of recreation, with need for much improved trailhead amenities. Cabragh Wetlands, Kildanogue Wildfowl Sanctuary & Nature Reserve and Scohaboy Bog offer excellent opportunities to learn about wetland environments and restorative measures to mitigate climate change.
- **Universal Access:** Application of universal design principles for recreational development will include Littleton Labyrinth/ Lough Doire Bhile; the Suir Blueway at Cahir and Clonmel; Ballina Riverpark; and Fethard Townpark campus. Additional accessible sites may include Cabragh Wetlands, Templemore Townpark; Dundrum Marl Bog, Kildanogue Wildfowl Park and Lough Derg's lakeside villages. Many will be amenable to ORIS and /or RRDF funding, as well as NDA/ Sport Ireland funding for enhanced access.

- **Upland Management:** As recreational demand grows, Tipperary's sensitive uplands, including the Galtees, Knockmealdowns, Slievenamuck, Slieve Felim, Arra, Silvermines and Devils Bit mountains, require proactive environmental management in association with farmers, commonage owners and land managers. Upland partnerships in Tipperary may be amenable to the new support mechanism relating to 'Mountain Access Projects'¹³. This may be beneficial to address parking, habitat protection and path erosion by engaging landowners, communities, recreational users and other stakeholders in trail development and maintenance, as well as outdoor events' management.
- **Waterways/ Blueways:** Any infrastructural development proposals along designated waterways require environmental screening and management. Proactive management of water quality, fringing environments, biosecurity and invasive species is required in line with national guidance. Tipperary's two Blueways are recreational assets of national importance requiring strict biosecurity measures when moving craft, and in also providing universal access at key locations, with transfer benches etc. A *Whitewater Centre of Excellence* on Suir Island on Suir Blueway Tipperary at Clonmel would encourage youth participation in canoe/ kayak adventure activities¹⁴.
- **Designated Bathing Areas:** Given the increased uptake in 'wild swimming' more designated bathing places are required, ensuring bathing water quality standards and safety measures are adhered e.g. new designated bathing area is underway at Dromineer on Lough Derg.

¹³ Dept. Rural and Community Development, Mountain Access Project Guidance- [afa06df1-bb23-4660-b5fd-fc87be2fc-cfc.pdf](#)

¹⁴ Suir Island is the mid-point of Suir Blueway and acts as a Green Lung for Clonmel. TCC is currently seeking to develop a Feasibility Study and if positive, will progress to develop a Centre, based on recommendations of a Masterplan for the Island.

- **Greenways:** Six greenways are planned or in concept for Tipperary, many of which align with existing Blueways or river paths while others are challenging due to private land ownership.
- **Cycling and E-Biking Trails:** Consultees asked for enhanced safety measures to ensure full enjoyment of cycling routes, through improved traffic calming, signage and public engagement. *The Lough Derg e-Bike trail*, if developed, will require particular safety measures at key locations on public roads.
- **Peatways** offer an excellent opportunity to provide universally accessible pathways and opportunities to learn about wetland heritage. Given the intrinsic sensitivities, there may be adverse impacts on biodiversity, as well as archaeological heritage, and will require proactive environmental planning and heritage management by the relevant agencies with local community involvement.
- **Inter-County Trails:** *The Beara Breifne Way* requires considerable investment to stimulate the requisite supporting services, particularly along the very rural Multeen and Ormond elements through west and north Tipperary. *St Declan's Way*, as an inter-county pilgrim trail, is over-reliant on voluntary inputs to deliver its mandate and to ensure its viability. The impending closure of Mount Melleray Monastery in Waterford creates a further gap in critical service provision and committed local stakeholder support across all agencies is required. This also applies to the potential future development of equestrian trails in the county.

4.5 Summary of Current Situation in Tipperary

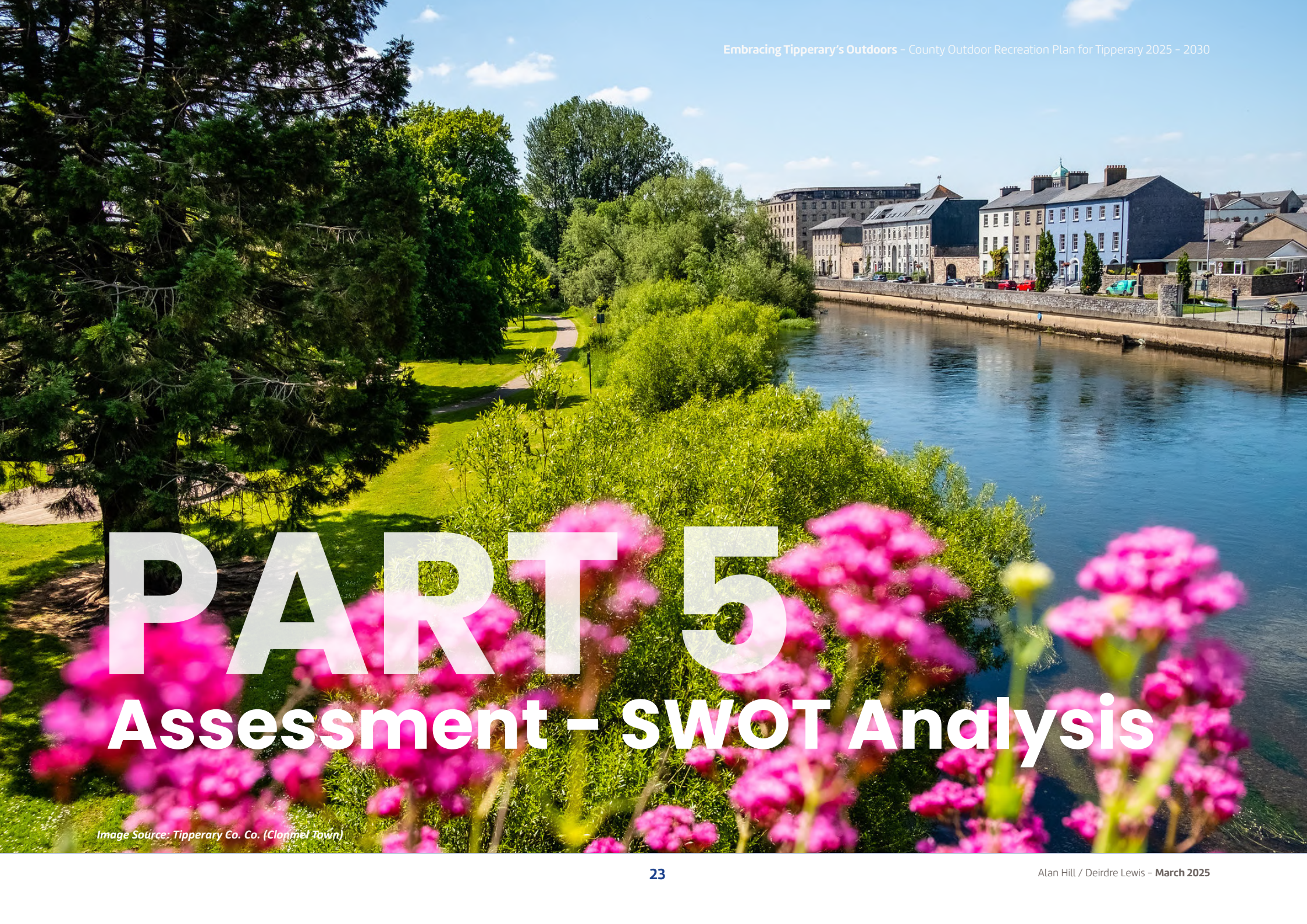
Tipperary's key strengths lie in its varied geography and existing range of recreational amenities, including walking, kayaking, swimming, angling, cycling, hiking, equestrian and other facilities including inter-county trails and blueways (*Map 1*). A broad range of stakeholders combine to deliver a vibrant palette of outdoor recreation across County Tipperary.

There is a significant level of recreational collaboration at individual, organisation or club levels, and since the two administrative 'ridings' of Tipperary merged in 2014, a more unified approach to development of recreational amenities has evolved across five municipal districts and borough. However, there is no overarching authority for integrated development of outdoor recreation in Tipperary.

However, it is clear from the engagement process that stakeholders require a more coordinated approach to planning, land use and management to enhance the outdoor experience for many.

Embracing the principles of universal accessibility at design stage to promote access for all; enhanced trailhead facilities at key locations to include WC, changing places and parking; development of centres of excellence for specific activities such as canoeing and angling; and development of a single digital platform for enhanced communications with existing networks (TSP, PPN, clubs, tourism SMEs) would transform the embracing of outdoor recreation activity across County Tipperary.

Issues such as littering, vandalism and security at outdoor recreation sites persist, and the ongoing management and costs of maintenance must be considered in the provision of Tipperary's amenities.



PART 5

Assessment – SWOT Analysis

Image Source: Tipperary Co. Co. (Clonmel Town)

05. ASSESSMENT – SWOT ANALYSIS

This analysis provides a strategic overview of Tipperary’s recreational potential, synthesising insights from comprehensive desk research and consultations with multiple recreational stakeholders. It highlights the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) that will influence the future of recreational development to embrace the outdoors across the county.

Strengths

- 1 Natural Assets:** Tipperary boasts considerable natural resources that can be leveraged to create unique recreational offerings, that will encourage both citizens and visitors to enjoy activities in the outdoors.
- 2 Partnership Culture:** A well-established culture of recreational partnerships exists, supported by the proactive role of the local authorities, statutory agencies and communities, enabling effective collaboration, particularly in commissioning large scale projects such as Littleton Labyrinth, Destination Lough Derg, Munster Vales, St Declan’s Way and Beara Breifne Way.
- 3 Operational Capacity:** There is identifiable capacity at public, community, and business levels that can be enhanced to improve management and operational efficiency.
- 4 Policy Alignment:** Current needs and priorities align with national policies and supports, fostering a conducive environment for recreational development. The goodwill and practical support from several state development agencies and neighbouring local authorities is to be welcomed and built upon.
- 5 Increased Demand:** Growing recreational user demand across the county is leading to positive health outcomes, creating opportunities for further engagement.
- 6 Environmental Awareness:** There is a growing recognition of recreation’s role in reducing carbon emissions and addressing biodiversity loss, aligning recreational goals with environmental sustainability.



Weaknesses

- 1 Inadequate consideration of universal design principles and communication** in terms of user needs when commissioning new outdoor recreational infrastructure.
- 2 Communication Gaps:** Inadequate mapping and promotion of significant recreational assets; which are not adequately communicated to potential users, limiting engagement and participation.
- 3 Investment Barriers:** Recreational infrastructure investment faces hurdles due to cumbersome multi-phase processes and unpredictable funding, discouraging viable project development.
- 4 Limited Private Sector Involvement:** There is a need for more small private sector operators to enhance on-the-ground recreational experiences, requiring coordinated support to overcome practical challenges.
- 5 Research Deficiencies:** A lack of consistent research hampers informed decision-making and the establishment of performance benchmarks, limiting strategic planning.
- 6 Recreational Programming:** Inadequate number and variety of recreation-driven festivals and events, especially in the shoulder / off season.



Opportunities

- 1 **County Outdoor Recreational Committee:** The formation of this committee, along with a Stakeholder Forum and appointment of an Outdoor Recreation Officer, can drive the strategic delivery of the CORP through strong leadership and targeted resources.
- 2 **Enhancing Recreational Offerings:** Delivery of signature recreational offerings at e.g. Littleton Labyrinth; Lough Derg e-bike Trail; various Greenways; horse trails; Ballina Riverside; and Clonmel Canoe Centre; together with enhanced trailheads, mapping and digital communications – will elevate the profile of existing and new recreational offerings, both within the county and in collaboration with neighbouring areas.
- 3 **Inclusive Design:** Universal design of recreational offerings that ensure full access for all users, regardless of ability, age, or intellectual capacity, can enhance community embracing of the outdoors at key locations.
- 4 **Integrated Planning:** Greater alignment of Climate Action, town and village renewal efforts, Active Travel initiatives, rural regeneration, Local Link transport and responsible tourism with outdoor recreation can enrich all offerings.
- 5 **Synergy with Tourism:** Aligning key outdoor recreational amenities and tourism offerings can create quick wins, enhancing the attractiveness of the county for visitors.
- 6 **Revitalisation of Angling:** There is an opportunity to rejuvenate angling as a prominent recreational activity in line with conservation and environmental objectives.



Threats

- 1 **Resource Allocation Balance:** Ensuring a balanced distribution of resources across the municipal districts of Tipperary and among various recreational activities is crucial for sustainable development and community buy-in.
- 2 **Long-term Planning Risks:** A potential decrease in the prioritization of recreation in county planning could result in inadequate resources, stymying the implementation of the CORP.
- 3 **Training and Capacity Building:** The inability to integrate existing training and capacity- building budgets may hinder community and operational development.
- 4 **Road Safety for Cyclists:** Cyclist safety, particularly on minor roads radiating from the three Cycling Hubs, poses a significant challenge, potentially hindering the development of cycling and e-biking as potential outdoor recreational activities. Enhanced road design, signage and public engagement offer solutions.
- 5 **Community Initiative Replication:** Difficulties in replicating successful community recreational initiatives of national significance could limit broader engagement and success.
- 6 **Environmental Deterioration:** Unchecked environmental degradation of Tipperary's recreational waters, peatlands and uplands poses a reputational risk that requires mature and proactive management, particularly at the design stages of recreational infrastructure.



The SWOT analysis identifies key areas for Tipperary to leverage its strengths and opportunities while addressing weaknesses and threats. Focus on strong leadership through the CORC and Stakeholder Forum, enhancing communications, fostering private sector involvement, and ensuring balanced resource allocation will be vital for realizing the recreational potential of Tipperary. By strategically aligning recreational initiatives with broader policies and community needs, Tipperary will cultivate a thriving and integrated recreational environment that is beneficial to both locals and visitors.



Image Source: Tipperary Co. Co. (Ardfinnan)

PART 6

Strategic Objectives & Priorities

Image Source: www.irelandscontentpool.com (High King Loop)

06. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES & PRIORITIES

6.1 Strategic Objectives

The following strategic objectives have been defined for County Tipperary while developing this CORP:

- Position Tipperary as a national leader in accessible, sustainable and inclusive outdoor recreation.
- Balance the development of outdoor recreation infrastructure with the conservation of the county's considerable environmental and cultural assets (including adjacent counties).
- Foster local pride, participation and socio-economic growth through high-quality recreational and tourism opportunities.
- Align the Tipperary CORP with all relevant county, regional and national strategies.

Strategic priorities were identified to enhance access to and enjoyment of outdoor recreation in Tipperary over the next decade, which form the basis for the 'Action Plan' presented in *Chapter 7*.

6.2 Strategic Priorities

The insights gathered from the research, consultations and surveys have been aligned with the six strategic objectives outlined in *Embracing Ireland's Outdoors – National Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2023-2027*, focussed on the core themes of leadership, environmental sustainability, accessibility, opportunities, awareness and expertise.

These themes reflect both the strengths of Tipperary's outdoor recreation offerings and areas for strategic action. The aim is to provide the County Outdoor Recreation Committee with a focal oversight on the issues to be addressed over the next five years.





Priority 1: Leadership

Tipperary County has demonstrated strong leadership in delivery of significant recreational projects over the past decade, including two Blueways (Lough Derg, River Suir), the Beara Breifne Way and fledgling Littleton Labyrinth, cycle hubs and multiple townparks. Positive collaboration exists among various agencies, including Tipperary County Council, Local Development Companies (North and South), Waterways Ireland, Coillte, Inland Fisheries, Bord na Móna and Fáilte Ireland, supported by TII.

Strategic Priorities

- The establishment of a County Outdoor Recreation Committee (CORC) and a Stakeholder Forum will foster knowledge sharing and expertise among stakeholders for planning and delivering outdoor recreation across the five municipal districts of Tipperary. Clear terms of reference for CORC and the Stakeholder Forum are essential for focused delivery.
- Appointment of the Outdoor Recreation Officer without delay to assist in delivering the objectives of the CORP. Provide role clarity between the new ORO and existing RRO.
- Encourage cross-departmental and stakeholder collaboration to ensure inclusive and participatory decision-making.
- Improve the relationship between tourism and recreational development to optimise rural development and economic benefits.
- Integrate the VICE model (Values, Inclusion, Community, Environment) into all recreation-related projects to ensure long term sustainability.

“It is critical that the right hand knows what the left is doing in relation to recreation planning” - consultee feedback



Priority 2: Environmental Sustainability

Outdoor recreation can be used to drive wider climate, active travel, health and environmental sustainability objectives. Tipperary is home to numerous outdoor recreational amenities that provide access to a wide range of sensitive habitats in uplands, wetlands and riverine environments. Internationally protected environments also offer significant recreational and nature viewing opportunities at Lough Derg, the River Suir, and Slieve Felim/ Arra/ Silvermines and Galtee Mountains.

A new Biodiversity Action Plan for Tipperary is in preparation, with a Biodiversity Officer in place.

Strategic Priorities

- Through enhanced collaboration, ensure that climate, environment, biodiversity and cultural heritage are considered for all recreational developments, particularly on sensitive wetland and upland sites. Consider rerouting/ optioneering in particularly sensitive sites.
- Enhance visitor management strategies to protect habitats from adverse impacts due to increased recreational use at key recreational sites and 'blackspots' e.g. Galtymore south.
- Promote sustainable practices, such as "Leave No Trace," and ensure all events adhere to national environmental guidelines¹⁵.
- Enhanced monitoring of recreational trails, paths, blueways etc working with RRO, ORO and landowners/ volunteers through introduction of a Voluntary Ranger programme. Ensure appropriate oversight and governance of volunteer programmes e.g. through Tidy Towns/ GAA.
- Seek to form a Mountain Access Project (MAP) according to Comhairle na Tuaithe guidance for key upland areas (e.g. Galtees, Slieve Felim-Silvermines) and secure maintenance payments for landowners under relevant schemes.
- Measure numbers of recreation users at key sites through emplacement of counters, to be monitored by a dedicated working group, with follow up actions.

¹⁵ [gov.ie - Guidelines for Outdoor Activity Events](https://gov.ie/en/Guidelines-for-Outdoor-Activity-Events)



Priority 3: Awareness

The TSP provides up-to-date digital communications about a range of sports and recreational activities and initiatives across the county. Community initiatives operate locally to promote outdoor recreation activity and inclusivity through walking and cycling. There is growing awareness of Tipperary's outdoor recreational opportunities through Tipperary Tourism, National Trails Register's *'Find your Trail'* and brand marketing initiatives of Lough Derg, Munster Vales, Ireland's Hidden Heartlands and Ireland's Ancient East.

Strategic Priorities

- Develop a digital portal to showcase recreational amenities to improve awareness of the full range of outdoor recreation along blueways, trails, greenways; and events and training initiatives across Tipperary. Considerer integrated tools like maps, apps, and QR codes to enhance user experience.
- Provide a clear mandate and responsibility for management and regular data updates to the national database (Sport Ireland)¹⁶. The use of TCC's Community Action Register System may provide a mechanism for monitoring actions.
- Develop a unified communications strategy to increase public and visitor awareness of recreation opportunities, for both domestic and international visitors (including 'daycation' and 'staycation'). Enhance awareness about biodiversity and nature viewing at e.g. wetlands (Schoaboy, Littleton Labyrinth, Cabragh, Dundrum), lakes (Lough Derg) and mountains (Devil's Bit, Galtees, Slieve Felim-Silvermines, Knockmealdowns, Slievenamon), in partnership with local communities and organisations such as *Leave No Trace*.
- Expand community-based walking/ cycling initiatives across Tipperary to create networks to promote social engagement, using *'Smart Village'* or *'Pride of Place'* initiatives to include outdoor recreation and social inclusion. Make it as local as possible to encourage participation.
- Ensure that engagement with schools and youth clubs is a core element of outdoor recreation awareness-building to encourage young people to get active and stay active in the outdoors.
- Ensure engagement with Age Friendly, Active Retired/ Men's Sheds groups to promote the social and physical benefits of outdoor recreation well into older age.
- Address legacy issues related to signage pollution/ conflicting messages at recreational trailheads.
- Devise a Tipperary-branded template for well-designed Storyboards at trailheads to provide key information for recreation – mapping, grade, length, surface, time for different routes/ activities, with QR codes and links to digital maps/ apps¹⁷. Branding should be fully integrated into all relevant aspects of TCC promotion (including Tourism, Active Travel, biodiversity and community development) and those of its partners.

¹⁶ [Find Your Trails | Sport Ireland](#)

¹⁷ See guidance in Sport Ireland's Walking Trails Criteria for Ireland [criteria_1.pdf](#)



Priority 4: Opportunities

Tipperary enjoys a considerable array of outdoor recreation opportunities (*Appendix 6*). There are five key locations in Tipperary with potential for universal accessibility, which could be activated as a priority - while six satellite sites could be enhanced for wider access. A commendable expansion of peatways and greenways is underway offering opportunities for varied recreational and nature-viewing options. There is positive internal collaboration of sports & recreation, tourism, planning, biodiversity, heritage and engineering services within the Council, that will underpin the future realisation of the county's considerable recreational opportunities.

Strategic Priorities

- Establish Recreation Activity Hubs as accessible centres of excellence, embracing universal design principles where possible to cater to all users.
- Ensure key sites are equipped with universally accessible facilities: parking, signage and sanitation.
- Invest in flagship projects, such as the Suir Blueway Tipperary, Lough Derg, Knockmealdown and Galtee Mountains, St Declan's Way and Littleton Labyrinth.
- Gather regular and relevant data on recreational usage for better planning and monitoring.
- Address local frustrations related to planning and funding for smaller community projects.
- Increase scale and frequency of recreational events and festivals, especially in shoulder seasons.

“Road safety concerns of users (cyclists and walkers) is significant in the county”

- Develop safe cycling /e-biking trails to promote greater participation in active travel, with a focus in the longer term to develop more off-road cycling experiences, equestrian trails e.g. Littleton Labyrinth.



Priority 5: Accessibility - What is Working?

Tipperary has a robust network of outdoor recreational amenities and trails, with significant opportunities to enhance access for young people, older citizens and families. Tipperary's Rural Recreation Officer is managing the county's extensive National Waymarked Ways in partnership with local landowners to create an excellent network of permissive trails. Tipperary's disability services, including IWA, are actively seeking to develop partnerships to enhance universal accessibility to the outdoors e.g. Fethard Townpark; Cahir riverside; Suir Blueway Tipperary and Ballina Riverpark.

Strategic Priorities

- Strengthen partnerships with landowners to maintain and expand permissive access for activities like hiking, angling, and kayaking.
- Encourage landowner participation in Mountain Access Projects to foster partnership for upland access and environmental responsibility e.g. Knockmealdowns, Galtee Mountains.
- Explore potential for integrated services and portage to facilitate long distance walkers on the considerable national waymarked ways network in Tipperary.
- Provide locally accessible youth spaces, where teenagers can enjoy being active in the outdoors - in collaboration with new Community Safety Partnerships, for soft policing of outdoor spaces.
- Provide structured training for professionals in universal design for accessible recreational infrastructure (e.g. at the emerging Littleton Labyrinth) to improve awareness among planners, designers and engineers to address the needs of users with mobility or intellectual disabilities.
- Ensure that towns, such as Clonmel, Thurles, Nenagh, Roscrea, Carrick-on-Suir, Templemore, etc benefit from public realm investments that enhance recreational access.
- Develop clear guidance on accessing key sites while promoting responsible behaviour among users, particularly regarding parking, littering and dog control.
- Expand accessible and family-friendly recreational areas, including dog-friendly trails (e.g. one designated dog-friendly walk per Municipal District/ Borough).



Priority 6: Expertise - What is Working?

Tipperary Sports Partnership (TSP) has a strong and active presence in sports and recreation across the county. There is a good network of outdoor recreation clubs, affiliated to their national governing bodies, offering training, guidance and specialist services e.g. mountain leadership. Tipperary's youth services and Youth Clubs are focusing more effort on the benefits of outdoor recreation for health & wellness, as well as the sociability of engaging with others through outdoor activities.

Strategic Priorities

- Develop a bespoke Outdoor Recreation training programme to meet the needs of the CORP with capacity building and institutional partners.
- Incorporate the voices of young people and individuals with disabilities in recreational planning and commissioning; seek feedback regularly (is it working?). Integrate results of *Planet Youth*¹⁸ surveys to design effective programmes suited to the needs of young people.
- Develop an annual calendar of training initiatives through the ORO, RRO and Tipperary Sports Partnership to develop local guides/volunteers/instructors for a full range of outdoor activities.
- Develop training programs in collaboration with educational-focused partners to build a skilled workforce for outdoor recreational delivery.

Based on recent consultations with Technological University of the Shannon (TUS), it is possible to develop a bespoke Certificate Programme in Outdoor Recreation (24hrs contact time / Special Status Accreditation) addressing the needs of the CORP, with an intake of 12-14 students. TUS have the teaching capacity to deliver a pilot programme, starting Sept' 2025, running events on Friday afternoons over six weeks. This could be rolled onwards to two further incremental courses, leading after the third course to a Post Graduate Certificate (Level 5-6). The networking of these graduates could be a considerable opportunity to further underpin the implementation of Tipperary's CORP over the next five years. This could act as a national once-off pilot response to delivering a county CORP that may be replicable for other counties.

- Support community-led initiatives and small enterprises to enhance local recreation experiences through animation and capacity building via the Rural Development Programme. Consider running training programmes for those using outdoor facilities to promote safety, biodiversity, environmental stewardship and responsible behaviours at recreational sites.
- Expand community-based walking/ cycling initiatives across Tipperary to create networks to promote social engagement, using '*Smart Village*' or '*Pride of Place*' initiatives to include outdoor recreation and social inclusion. Make it as local as possible to encourage participation.

¹ The **Planet Youth** national survey datasets will present results, key findings, messages and recommendations to be delivered at county level. This international model comprehensively examines the lives and lifestyles of young people and asks questions about the risk and protective factors that influence their behaviours.

Using its considerable outdoor recreation base, County Tipperary has the potential to enhance outdoor activities through collaborative leadership, improved access and awareness of existing opportunities, aligned to the strategic objectives of *Embracing Ireland's Outdoors*. By focusing on key areas, Tipperary can establish itself as a leader in accessible and sustainable recreation, fostering increased participation, with enhanced social and economic benefits for all of the community.

PART 7

Action Plan

Image Source: www.irelandscontentpool.com (Kilsheelan Village)

07. ACTION PLAN

The analysis conducted in developing Tipperary's Outdoor Recreation Plan, based on the six strategic objectives of *Embracing Ireland's Outdoors*, has created an **Action Plan** to provide a road map for the delivery of integrated and accessible outdoor recreation opportunities for residents and visitors of all ages and abilities.



1. Leadership & Collaboration Action Plan

Objective: To ensure a coordinated approach to planning, development and delivery of Outdoor Recreation in Tipperary over the next decade.

No.	Action	Timescale	Lead Delivery Organisation	Stakeholder	Expected Outcome
1.1	Establish County Outdoor Recreation Committee (CORC) and Stakeholder Forum to guide implementation of the Tipperary County Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP). <i>Propose an advisory role for the National Governing Bodies of each recreational activity, for key initiatives on land, water, uplands Canoeing Ireland, Mountaineering Ireland, Orienteering Ireland; Cycling Ireland, etc.</i>	Q1 2025	TCC; TSP.	CORC: - Coillte, Inland Fisheries, LDCs x2, - NPWS, NMS/ OPW - Fáilte Ireland, Waterways Ireland - Local Club reps from Nat. Governing Bodies - Community sector. Stakeholder Forum balanced representation from women/men of diverse backgrounds, Recreational Clubs, Communities, SMEs, Youth Clubs, Disability Users, Age Action, etc (Suggest) Advisory: National Governing Bodies for each outdoor recreational activity.	Coordinated approach to strategic OR planning & development across the County for both the CORP Committee and the supporting Stakeholder Forum. Participative decision making to inform delivery of OR.
1.2	Secure funding and recruit an Outdoor Recreation Officer to support the strategic oversight and implementation of the CORP.	Q3 2025	TCC; TSP.	- DRCD - Sport Ireland	ORO in place to engage, coordinate, communicate actions within the CORP.
1.3	Establish an internal TCC Inter-Office Recreation Group to meet 6-monthly to review implementation progress of the CORP.	Q2 2025	TCC	All related sectors within the Council related to the delivery of sustainable and inclusive recreation in Tipperary.	Knowledge transfer and the creation of greater synergy between all aspects of local government.



2. Environment Action Plan

Objective: To ensure that recreational developments and activities do not adversely impact on natural heritage, including habitats, ecology and biodiversity, as well as cultural heritage sites.

No.	Action	Timescale	Lead Delivery Organisation	Stakeholder	Expected Outcome
2.1	Establish Environmental Working Group in CORC to monitor impacts of Outdoor Recreation on natural & cultural heritage sites - liaising with county Climate Action Team, Biodiversity and Heritage Officers.	Ongoing through the period of the CORP.	TCC Heritage, Biodiversity offices.	- Local Development Companies (North, South) - Recreational Users - Landowner/State Agencies - Clubs - Environmental Groups - Local History/Heritage Groups	Gather stats on recreation site usage using counters. Register of impacts, monitored to establish Management Framework to minimise impacts on biodiversity; biosecurity; and control of invasive species.
2.2	Embrace ' Leave No Trace ' and apply National Guidance for Outdoor Activity Events principles to minimise impacts of recreation on host environments.	Ongoing	TCC - TSP; Tipperary Tourism.	- Clubs - National Bodies - TCC - Local Development Companies (North, South)	Leave No Trace is embedded in all communications and events to be registered and screened prior to authorisation.
2.3	Ensure that key recreational sites, trailheads and bathing places are equipped with disabled parking, WC/ changing facilities where feasible.	Secure funding & review at Q4 each year.	TCC Officers Sport & Recreation; Planning; Engineering; Environment; Heritage; Biodiversity.	- IWA and local Disability organisations - Clubs - Communities - Landowner/ State Agencies	Key recreational sites will be fully accessible for all, including people of disability – ensuring clean waters and environmental hygiene. Active engagement with schools, disability and youth services to ensure disabled and young people are aware of what is available. Ensure full engagement with landowners and land managers, as required.



3. Awareness Action Plan

Objective: To promote awareness among wider communities and visitors of the availability of the range of Outdoor Recreation across County Tipperary.

No.	Action	Timescale	Lead Delivery Organisation	Stakeholder	Expected Outcome
3.1	Develop an Integrated Communications Plan including social media for OR in Tipperary ensuring full alignment with recreation-related messaging emanating from relevant partners. Document personal experiences in a systematic fashion for promotion and future case making	Q2/2025	TSP; TCC; Tipperary Tourism.	- LDCs (North and South) - Communities - Clubs - Visitors* - Relevant State Agencies - Youth Clubs/ Schools - Age Friendly, Active Retired, Men's Sheds - New communities (language appropriate)	Clear and consistent messaging of benefits, opportunities, availability, what's on, access, environment. Active engagement with schools and youth clubs to encourage young people to get active and stay active in the outdoors. *Visitors to include a mix of daycation/ staycation and international guests.
3.2	Continue to collate data on all outdoor facilities in Tipperary to populate Get Ireland Active and ensure data are updated regularly to support participation, planning and needs analysis at county level. Promote Tipperary's Get Ireland Active amenities to showcase trails, blueways, greenways, bathing places, peatways etc. with directions on how to access/ accessibility. <i>TCC's Community Action Register System may provide a mechanism for monitoring actions.</i>	Q1 2025 work continuously to improve & update.	TCC	- TSP - LDCs (North and South) - Landowners - Tipperary Tourism - Communities - Clubs - Visitors - Statutory Agencies like Coillte, IFI, - Failte Ireland and inter-county projects - Munster Vales and Destination Lough Derg	Get Ireland Active will be an integrated management tool to promote awareness of the wealth of outdoor recreational opportunities available in Tipperary – with info on amenities, grade, length, challenge, etc to permit pre-planning of activity.
3.3	Develop branded and themed Tipperary Trailhead Maps, Promo & QR Codes for walking, kayaking, swimming, cycling, angling in specific localities. Create web linkages with outward facing TCC offices - Tourism, Enterprise, to promote Tipp's recreation assets & positive lifestyles.	Q3 2025 / Q4 2026	Tipperary Tourism with TSP.	- Landowners (via RRO) - Tipperary Tourism Communities - Tipperary Local Enterprise Office (LEO) - Visitors - Agencies	Clear communication to promote awareness of all OR activities available. Clearly denote parking, access points to rivers/ lakes/ trails. Leading component of an adopted Communications Plan for delivery of CORP.



4. Opportunities Action Plan

Objective: To develop excellent outdoor recreational centres across Tipperary, that will adopt principles of universal design, with ongoing management and monitoring of infrastructure.

No.	Action	Timescale	Lead Delivery Organisation	Stakeholder	Expected Outcome
4.1	Develop five Outdoor Recreation Multi-Activity Hubs* at key locations; fully serviced trailheads, parking, WC, changing space, storyboards, maps. Facilitate pop-up coffee, bike hire; info re. local biodiversity and events etc. where possible. Ensure Hubs are Centres of Excellence for Accessibility* in consultation with end users. Provide locally accessible Youth Spaces** where teenagers can enjoy being active in the outdoors.	Q1 2026 – Q4 2029	TCC - Sports & Rec Planning; Engineering; Environment; Biodiversity; Heritage; Recreation.	- Coillte/ Waterways Ireland/ IFI - Recreational users - Community Groups - Irish Wheelchair Assoc - Disability service users, their Carers & Families - Visitors - Age Friendly, Active Retired, Men's Sheds - Foróige and Comhairle na nÓg, Schools - Community Safety Partnerships	That Tipperary provide Outdoor Recreation Hubs that are also centres of excellence for accessible outdoor recreation in Ireland, embracing universal design in delivery of outdoor recreation amenities. <i>*As defined in 'All the Small Things' – Audit of Accessibility of Outdoor Recreation & Angling in County Tipperary (TCC, May 2024).</i> <i>**Integrate results of Planet Youth surveys to design effective spaces for young people.</i>
4.2	Feasibility Study for development of a Whitewater Channel for kayaking & canoeing on Suir Island, at mid-point of Suir Blueway Tipperary at Clonmel.	Q4 2027	TCC	- Kayaking Clubs - Canoeing Ireland - Swift water rescue @ Fire Station - Inland Fisheries - Waterways Ireland - Landowners	Delivery of a Whitewater Channel as a 'signature' project, to facilitate recreational whitewater canoeing and competition; also a Blue Light Search & Rescue training facility.
4.3	Enhance Active Travel options through Cycling & e-Biking Trails and mobility-assisted Cycling in suitable locations across Tipperary, adopting best principles of safety design for all users.	Q3 2026 Ongoing	TCC. Planning & Engineering; Active Travel.	- TSP - Tipperary Tourism/ Trade/ SME - Waterways Ireland - Cycling Clubs - Visitors - E-Bikers - Communities	Integrated series of cycling trails that facilitate Active Travel for residents and visitors. Support mobility-assisted cycling on Suir Blueway. Support delivery of Lough Derg e-Biking Trail.



4. Opportunities Action Plan - Cont.

Objective: To develop excellent outdoor recreational centres across Tipperary, that will adopt principles of universal design, with ongoing management and monitoring of infrastructure.

No.	Action	Timescale	Lead Delivery Organisation	Stakeholder	Expected Outcome
4.4	Provide counters at key Trailheads for hiking, walking, angling and kayaking – to allow monitoring and planning for activity and impacts.	Q3 2026 Q3 2027	TCC; Planning; Environment; LDCs (N+S).	- Walking Clubs - Walking / Hiking Visitors - TCC managers like Tipperary Tourism - Inland Fisheries - Coillte - Failte Ireland - Waterways Ireland	To quantify the numbers of people using infrastructure to capture accurate, real-time performance data and to aid future planning of appropriate services at Tipperary Trailheads.
4.5	Provide mechanisms to consider 'bottom-up' innovative ideas from communities , linked to local area development plans (LADPs), that may qualify for support by LDCs.	Q3/2025 Ongoing	CORC; Stakeholder Forum; TCC.	- Community groups - LDCs (North and South) - Cubs	Viable community initiatives may be funded by ORIS Measures 1, 2. linked to LADPs and LDCs. e.g. Examples may include community hostels/ use of halls to service long distance trails.
4.6	Enhance levels of inter-County co-working for projects of scale – St Declan's Way; Lough Derg Blueway/ e-Biking; Beara Breifne Way; Munster Vales.	Q1/ 2025 Ongoing	TCC; Management Committees for each of the projects of scale.	- LDCs (North and South) - Coillte - Visitors/ Tourists - Tourist Service Providers - Clubs – Kayaking/ - Walking/ Hiking/ Nature Viewing	Collaborative delivery of strategic inter-county projects to highest the standards, while facilitating suitable development with agreed objectives, actions and timelines.
4.7	Work with Horse Country and other equine stakeholders to seek to identify and develop Horse Riding Trail Opportunities.	Q1/2025 Ongoing	TCC; Horse Country; Tipperary Tourism; TSP; STDC; NTDC; Equine Industry & Centres.	Tipperary County Council and multiple specialist equine-related stakeholders.	Opportunities for Horse Riding Trails identified, Feasibility Study completed and trail opportunities appropriately screened and developed.



5. Access Action Plan

Objective: To protect existing permissive access and to expand access for new recreational initiatives.

No.	Action	Timescale	Lead Delivery Organisation	Stakeholder	Expected Outcome
5.1	Continued liaison with landowners to create a network of assured permissive trails for outdoor recreation, with maintenance plans for Waymarked Ways, via expanded <i>Walks Scheme</i> .	Q1 2025 Ongoing	LDCs (North and South)	- TSP/ ORO - Recreational Users - Inland Fisheries - Coillte - INHFA - IFA	Clear and unambiguous access for walking, hiking, kayaking, swimming at key amenities across Tipperary. Expansion of the Walks Scheme and ORIS schemes within the county.
5.2	Explore potential for integrated transport, food, accommodation and portage services along waymarked ways network. Expand 'Local Link' connectivity from transport hubs to key recreational trailheads in Tipperary.	Ongoing	LDCs (North and South) TII/ Local Link	- TCC - Tipperary Tourism - Munster Vales/ Destination Lough Derg - Recreational Users - Rural Communities - Recreational Tourists	Integrated service delivery to deliver rural economic benefits of trail development. Supporting Active Travel objectives to reduce need for car transport in rural recreation.
5.3	Develop a multi-media map of all permissive angling sites in Tipperary, with clear guidance on parking, access points, behaviour and biosecurity.	Q2 2026	Inland Fisheries; TCC.	- LDCs (North & South) - Angling Clubs - Fáilte Ireland	Clear and unambiguous access for angling at key fishing rivers and lakes across Tipperary.
5.4	Embrace national messaging programmes and guidance on behavioural issues to communicate behavioural responsibilities to all users in accessing outdoor recreation, particularly in <i>Dog control / Littering/ Scrambling/Vandalism etc.</i>	Ongoing	TSP; LDCs (N+S); TCC.	- SI/ Governing Bodies - State Agencies - Landowners - Communities - All recreational users in the Outdoors - Schools programmes	Improved awareness and behaviours by recreational users of recreational amenities, particular on private lands. Development of five (one per MD) branded dog-friendly walks within Tipperary.



6. Expertise Action Plan

Objective: To build the local capacity in Tipperary to deliver excellent and safe recreational experiences for allcomers.

No.	Action	Timescale	Lead Delivery Organisation	Stakeholder	Expected Outcome
6.1	Conduct needs analysis & engage with relevant training bodies to build cooperation and enhance capacity at every level to deliver the CORP. With Technological University of the Shannon (TUS) , develop a bespoke Certificate Programme in Outdoor Recreation (24hrs contact time / Special Status Accreditation) addressing the needs of the CORP, with an initial intake of 12-14 students.	Q4 2026	TSP with TUS	- ETB - LDCs (North & South) - FI (professional training) - Communities - Volunteers (<i>with appropriate governance and oversight of Volunteers, via Tidy Towns/ GAA</i>) - Clubs - Multiple delivery agencies	A corps of highly trained personnel will be available as OR experience designers, online influencers, guides, gillies, safety advisors, event programmers, and instructors across Tipperary to support the next generation of outdoor recreation delivery, with fully accredited training delivered by TUS (Thurles).
6.2	Identify community volunteers to participate in training in environmental stewardship, biodiversity and positive user behaviours for key recreational sites, to promote awareness, safety and respect for host environments.	Q4 2025 – Q4 2026	TSP with Tipp; Volunteering; Centre; TUS; ETB.	- LDCs (North & South) - Coillte - Comhairle na Óg - Foróige - youth clubs and groups - Disability service providers / NGOs - Age Friendly, Active Retired, Men's Sheds - Clubs: walk, cycle, kayak, orienteering - TY Students (accredited programme)	That a well-trained corps of Volunteer Rangers will be available to act as the 'eyes and ears' for Tipperary's outdoors (<i>akin to Dublin Mountain Rangers</i>)
6.3	Build capacity through Community & Enterprise Animation to deliver outdoor recreation experiences locally. Develop calendar of local training events to build grassroots capacity in outdoor recreation delivery.	Q1 2026 Ongoing	Local Development Companies (North and South).	- SMEs - Community Groups - Residents - Visitors	Enterprise & Community confidence and capacity built to deliver excellent local OR experiences. Design and delivery of regular 'familiarisation visits' facilitating improved awareness, co-working and cross-selling of recreational experiences. Potential of working with specialist volunteer groups like <i>Hillwalking Radio Club</i> (specialist first responders for community events).

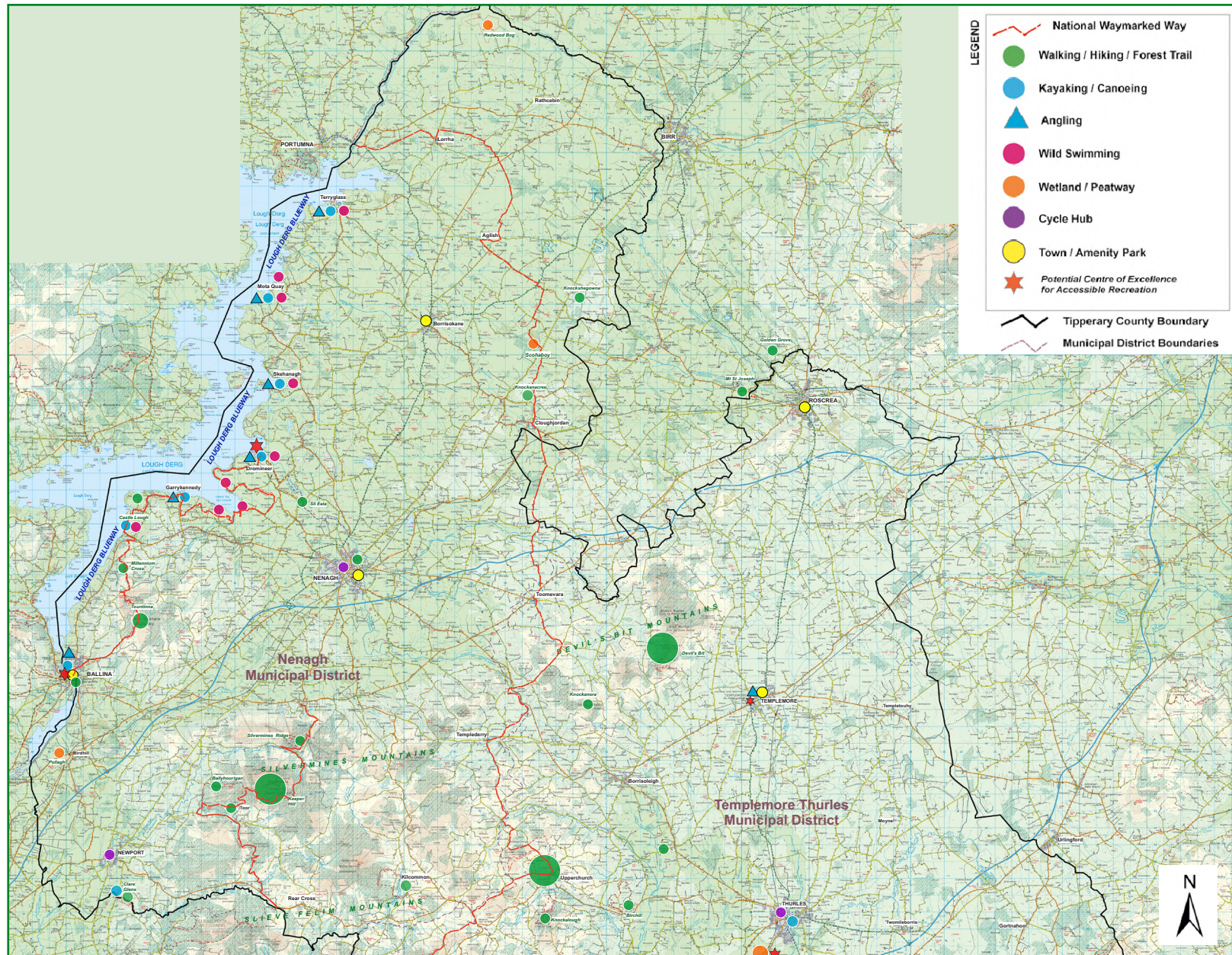


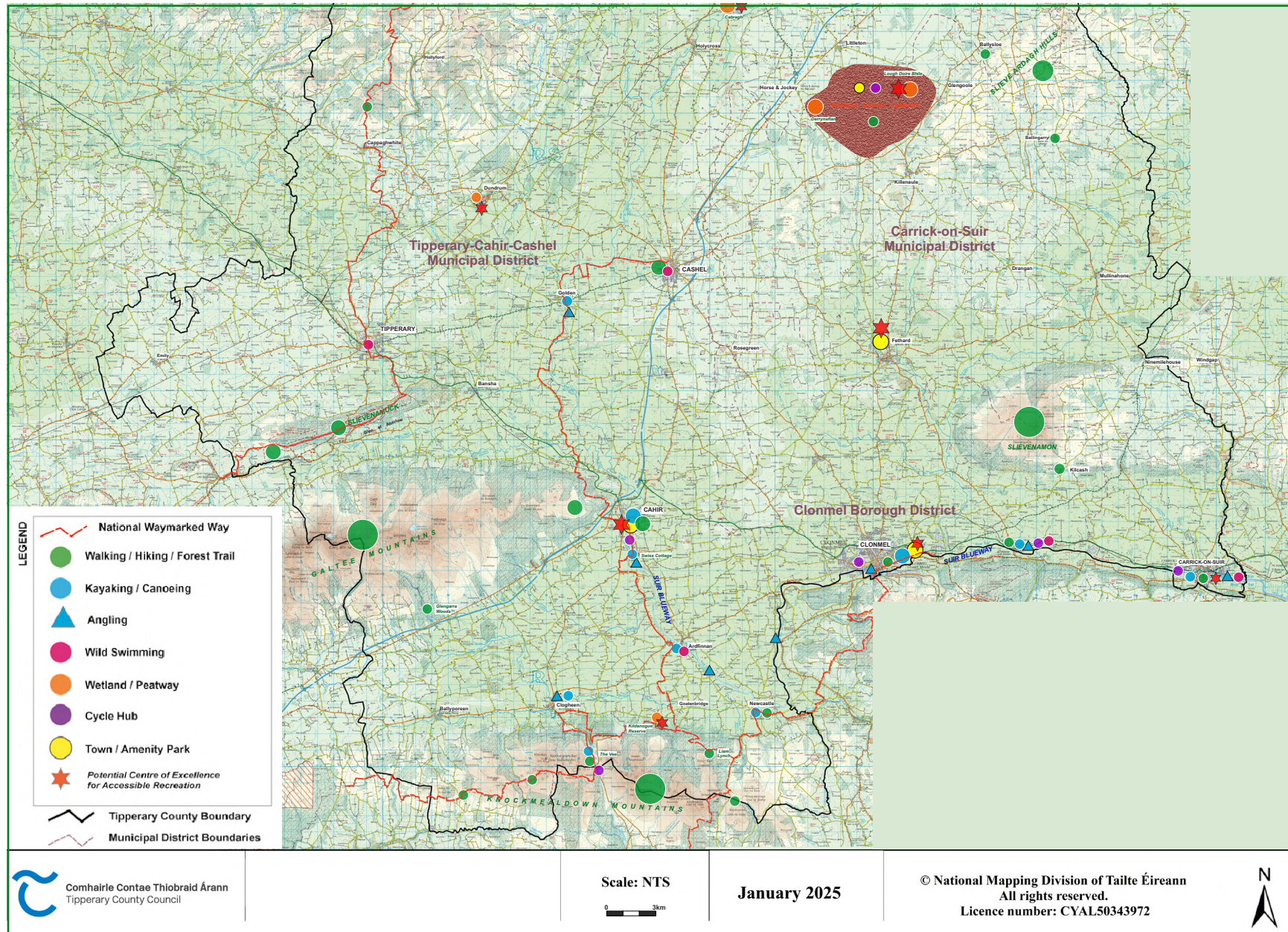
6. Expertise Action Plan - Cont.

Objective: To build the local capacity in Tipperary to deliver excellent and safe recreational experiences for allcomers.

No.	Action	Timescale	Lead Delivery Organisation	Stakeholder	Expected Outcome
6.4	Expand Community-based walking/ cycling / local initiatives across Tipperary: - Create networks to promote social engagement, using models such as <i>Siúl Eile</i> (parish-to-parish walks & chats), 'Tidy Towns', 'Smart Village' and 'Pride of Place' initiatives using outdoor recreation as social inclusion. - Develop Youth Spaces, where young people can meet / outdoor activities (see Action 4.1). Accessible amenities for people living with disability/ mobility challenges. Outdoor Recreation for positive Integration by engaging asylum seekers/ refugees/ new members of our communities e.g. in 'Tidy Towns' and local club activities.	Q3 2025	TSP Foróige Comhairle na nÓg. TCC Integration Team; Tidy Towns Teams; Clubs.	- Community groups, including 'Tidy Towns', 'Smart Village' or 'Pride of Place' local committees - Walking/ Cycling clubs - Clubs & local facilities (e.g. use of lit-up walkways at night) - Age Action/ Active Retired groups <i>Community Safety Partnerships</i> - for 'soft' policing of public recreation spaces. Local community groups/ youth clubs Walking/ Cycling/ Angling/ Kayaking clubs	Consider in longer term development of Community Trails Plans to develop local walks/ cycle trails as near to home as possible to reduce need to travel, which will encourage active participation of all age groups.

Map 1: Principal Outdoor Recreation Amenities of County Tipperary, 2025





An aerial photograph of a scenic landscape. In the foreground, a dark blue lake with ripples on its surface occupies the right side. A small marina with several wooden docks is situated on the left side of the lake, with several sailboats and motorboats moored. The marina is surrounded by lush green grass and trees. In the background, a vast green valley stretches out, dotted with small houses and fields. In the far distance, rolling hills and mountains are visible under a clear blue sky. The word "APPENDICES" is overlaid in large, white, sans-serif capital letters across the center of the image.

APPENDICES

Image Source: Tipperary County Council

APPENDIX 1 – PROJECT TEAM

The following project team provided direction, guidance and support to the consultants in the delivery of the County Outdoor Recreation Plan for Tipperary.

Organisation / Department	Name	Role
Community & Enterprise, Tipperary County Council	Mr Brian Beck	Director of Services
Tipperary Sports Partnership	Ms Valerie Connolly	Sports Co-ordinator
Tipperary County Council	Ms Caroline Rice	Tourism Officer
South Tipperary Development Company	Isabel Cambie	Chief Executive Officer
North Tipperary Development Company	Michael Murray	Chief Executive Officer
South Tipperary Development Company	John Egan	Rural Recreation Officer
North Tipperary Development Company	Patrick Killeen	Community Enterprise
Coillte	Rosaleen Ni Shuilleabháin	Recreation Manager
Tipperary County Council	Gillian Flynn	Active Travel
Tipperary County Council	Michele Maher	Roads & Transportation



APPENDIX 2 – PARTICIPATING STAKEHOLDERS

CONSULTEE INPUTS: AGENCY / NGOS

- Active Travel
- Canoe Ireland (Tipperary)
- Coillte
- Downs Syndrome Ireland
- Fáilte Ireland
- Healthy Ireland
- Health Matters, Clonmel
- Ireland's Ancient East
- Ireland's Hidden Heartlands
- Irish Wheelchair Association
- Local Development Companies (North Tipperary DC, South Tipperary DC)
- Mountaineering Ireland
- Munster Vales
- Horse Country
- Sport Ireland
- Tipperary Comhairle na nÓg
- Tipperary County Council officers– planning, biodiversity, heritage, engineering, sports & disability inclusion
- Tipperary Rural Recreation Officer
- Tipperary Sports Partnership
- Tipperary Tourism
- TUS - Technological University of the Shannon
- Waterways Ireland
- Neighbouring Local Authorities – Offaly, Kilkenny, Waterford, Limerick, Clare, Galway

CONSULTEE INPUTS: COMMUNITY / CLUBS / PRIVATE

- Cappawhite Development Association (Multeen Way)
- Grange Development Group (Slieve Ardagh, Littleton Labyrinth)
- Glengoole Development Association (Lough Doire Bhile, Littleton Labyrinth, Slieve Ardagh)
- Hillwalking Radio Club (voluntary specialist first responders, supporting community events)
- Knockmealdown Active (multi-recreational activities in Knockmealdown Mountains, Suir Valley)
- Mid-Tipp Hillwalkers (hiking, walking based in Mid-Tipperary uplands)
- Ormond Anglers - angling network, Lough Derg, Nenagh River with networks along Shannon catchment
- Scoil Aonghusa, Cashel – education, activities and training for children with disabilities
- St. Declan's Way Committee (Pilgrim Way)
- Siúl Eile (community walking network)
- Suir Blueway Tipperary (kayaking, canoeing, angling)
- Upperchurch Development Association (trail developments & delivery)

APPENDIX 3 – STRATEGIC CONTEXT FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION IN COUNTY TIPPERARY

A review of relevant national policies was undertaken and integrated into the development of the County Outdoor Recreation Plan for County Tipperary. The central document is *Embracing Ireland's Outdoors*, the National Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2023-2027, whose vision, mission and objectives are threaded throughout the plan. The core mission of the national strategy is to lead, guide and facilitate the sustainable development and management of outdoor recreation and increased participation in activities to realise social, health and economic benefits. This will be achieved while respecting the custodians of land and water, caring for the environment and promoting responsible recreation.

A detailed review of local development, climate action, tourism, youth, health and active travel strategies directly relevant to outdoor recreation in County Tipperary was undertaken:

- Local Economic and Community Plans (LECPs)
- Tipperary Sports Partnership
- Tourism plans, including the Destination Experience Development Plans (DEDPs) for Lough Derg and Munster Vales and Beara Breifne Way.
- Active Travel
- Children and Youth
- Greenways plans
- Health
- Biodiversity
- Climate Action
- Access to Outdoor Recreation in Tipperary

These are presented in brief below.

Key National Strategies

- The *Draft Programme for Government 'Securing Ireland's Future' (January 2025)* commits strongly to promotion of physical activity through the national Sports Programme and Disability Strategy. Under Transport, active travel linkages will be expanded via greenways, cycleways and blueways. There are commitments to investment in regenerative tourism and recreation through walking, cycling, tidal pools and forest parks. An expanded Walks Scheme will assist in maintenance of outdoor infrastructure, while funding for recreational infrastructure will be supported by the ORIS and RGDI mechanisms¹⁹.
- The *National Outdoor Recreation Strategy 'Embracing Ireland's Outdoors' (2023-2028)* provides a focal framework for the development and delivery of outdoor recreation in Ireland, across six strategic objectives, including *Leadership; Environment; Awareness; Opportunities; Access and Expertise*. It will support Sport Ireland/ CARA/ Local Sports Partnerships and National Governing Bodies of all sports in Ireland to guide, lead and encourage people to venture into the Outdoors. The NORS specifically urges counties to offer accessible walks, trails, blue- and greenways and angling amenities for residents and visitors of all abilities. This ambition should align with policies that influence socio-economic development, including sports, recreation, climate, biodiversity, health and tourism. Application of best practice, common standards, sustained resourcing, and funding will aim to increase participation of people of all abilities in outdoor recreation for societal wellbeing over the next five years.

¹⁹ ORIS Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Fund; RRDF Rural Regeneration Development Fund

- The ***Sport Ireland Participation Plan (2021-2024)*** takes into consideration Healthy Ireland – A Framework for Improved *Health and Wellbeing 2013–2025* and the *National Physical Activity Plan*. Recognising the significant shifts in recreational participation since the pandemic, the Plan identifies what Sport Ireland aims to achieve and the resources required to achieve these goals over five years. Ultimately, it aims to create a culture that encourages, supports and empowers everyone in Ireland to actively participate in sport and physical activity. These aspirations are reflected in the development of '*Embracing Ireland's Outdoors*'.
- The ***National Physical Activity Plan 2016*** (and updates)²⁰, based on the *Healthy Ireland Framework* and related policies, aims to increase physical activity levels across the whole population, including marginalised groups and people living with disabilities, to improve the health and wellbeing of all. The plan is based on evidence-based strategies for physical activity, equity and improvement of physical, social and environmental determinants. Action areas within the plan include public awareness, education, communication, health settings, workplaces, research, monitoring, evaluation and implementation. These are supported by various national activity initiatives such as *Get Ireland Walking! Get Ireland Cycling!* etc.
- The key national climate objective of the ***National Climate Action Plan (2030)***²¹ commits to achieve the transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity-rich, environmentally-sustainable and climate neutral economy by 2050. Ten actions are focused on recreation, sustainable tourism, accessibility and connectivity, including greenways, blueways and peatways, with measurable targets.
- The ***National Strategy for Future Development of National and Regional Greenways (2018)***²² commits to provide connected, active travel options for residents and visitors to enjoy safe travelling around Ireland. While Tipperary has ambitions to develop greenways, it has not a greenway strategy in place.
- The ***National Cycle Policy Framework (2009-2020)***, derived from Active Travel plans, sets out a clear policy to create a stronger cycling culture, a safer cycle environment and improved quality of life.
- ***Ireland's Hidden Heartlands Tourism Development Strategy (2022-2026)*** aims to deliver its 10-year vision to create one of Europe's leading regenerative tourism destinations, based on environmental qualities, biodiversity and easy access to the outdoors in the heart of Ireland. At its core, this requires the development of integrated green and blue outdoor recreational amenities to meet growing trends towards 'soft adventure' tourism across the Heartlands.
- ***Ireland's Ancient East: Eastern Region Tourism Development Strategy (2022-2026)*** aims to create a highly engaging cultural destination by harnessing culture, landscapes and hidden history to create unique visitor experiences, while supporting vibrant communities.
- ***National Guidelines for Outdoor Events (2024)*** were developed to help groups to organise successful and responsible outdoor activity events in Ireland's outdoors. They were developed by DRCD with Comhairle na Tuaithe as part of '*Embracing Ireland's Outdoors*' 2023-2027.

²⁰ <https://health.gov.ie/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Get-Ireland-Active-the-National-Physical-Activity-Plan.pdf>

²¹ *National Climate Action Plan* and the *Local Authority Climate Action Charter*

²² *Dept. Transport (2018) gov - Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways (www.gov.ie)*

Tipperary – Relevant Strategies

- **Tipperary's County Development Plan (2019-2025)** commits to *inter alia* a number of relevant strategies to develop a 'Greenway and Trails Strategy', and to support opportunities for the development of green- and blue-ways, incorporating walking, cycling and equine trails. It aims to develop Tipperary as a national leader in 'Responsible Tourism' and to work with relevant bodies and agencies in promoting the Lough Derg Lakelands and county's waterways, and to support the provision of facilities that are universally accessible to people living with disability. Tipperary's CDP also commits to supporting transformational inter-county collaboration in delivery of outdoor recreational tourism, including Lough Derg; Shannon River; Suir Blueway Tipperary; Beara Breifne Way and Munster Vales destination strategies.
- **Tipperary's Local Economic & Community Plan 2024-2029** commits to, *inter alia*, being a proactively socially inclusive county, improving residents' resilience and capacity, by creating active, innovative and environmentally-aware communities.
- **Tipperary Sports Partnership (TSP)** works to include and increase sports and physical activity across the county, especially among marginalized groups through its annual operational plan²³. It also provides training and funding for local sports clubs, to foster a sense of community and promote long-term involvement in physical activities. Examples of outdoor recreation initiatives by TSP include canoeing activities in the Outdoor Community Sports Hub in Clonmel; activation Walking Taster Sessions in Carrick-on-Suir and Thurles; and Introduction to Kayaking on Lough Derg, delivered in late 2024. TSP is the key agency for the delivery of the County Outdoor Recreation Plan.
- Of the five objectives in **Tipperary Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) 2022-2025**, Objective 1. Active and Healthy, Physical and Mental Wellbeing and Objective 3. Safe and protected from harm, these align well with this CORP, which aims to deliver safe youth spaces, in partnership with Community Safety Partnerships. Objective 1 will be supported by funding from the Healthy Ireland Fund.
- **Tipperary's new Sport and Recreation Plan 2025-2030** is shortly to be commissioned, in line with national Sport Ireland guidance and planning for expanded delivery and management sporting and recreational amenities.
- Tipperary County Council in accordance with the National Climate Action Plan 2030 has developed a **Local Authority Climate Action Plan (LACAP 2024-2029)**²⁴ with key targets and commitments to reduce emissions, enhance energy efficiencies, advocate for and influence climate action in every aspect of its work, by climate proofing major decisions, programmes and projects on a systematic basis. In 2024, TCC established a new Climate Action governance structure across all Council areas to deliver the LACAP. While TCC will seek to deliver its own targets, it will also work with communities and business across the county to achieve these over the coming years through four areas of defined responsibilities: fully responsible; influence; coordination and advocacy. In this context, it is important that current and future outdoor recreation plans and programmes consider the role of recreation in reducing emissions by providing local and sustainable linkages for cycling, walking and active travel alternatives. Where possible investment in recreational facilities will support and encourage best practice in sustainable transport, recycling, circular economy, biodiversity, flood risk management, nature based solutions, green procurement, and climate adaptation.

²³ [TSP Annual Report 2023](#). | [Tipperary Sports Partnership](#)

²⁴ [Tipperary Climate Action Plan 2024 -2030](#)

APPENDIX 4 – COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

4A. Summary of Findings of Consultations

The outcomes of the discussions, focus groups and interviews were collated to develop themed findings.

Strategic Development

- **Outdoor Recreation Hubs:** Focus on creating multi-activity Outdoor Recreation Activity Hubs, centred on existing assets such as the Lough Derg Blueway, Suir Blueway Tipperary, Knockmealdown Mountains, Galtee Mountains, Devil's Bit and the emerging Littleton Labyrinth. These hubs could integrate core amenities (e.g. WCs / changing facilities, bike rentals, trailheads) and promote outdoor activities like kayaking, cycling, walking, wild swimming, angling and nature viewing.
- **Safe (Off-Road) Cycling Infrastructure:** Increase investment in cycling infrastructure, including e-Bike friendly trails and dedicated off-road routes where feasible.
- **Seasonal and Year-Round Activities:** Promote recreational events such as thematic festivals e.g. *Aherlow New Year walking festival*; *Upperchurch Walking Festival*, *Cycling Sportive*, canoeing events, or year-round wild swimming events to boost participation across seasons.
- **Promote engagement of upland landowners in a pilot Mountain Access Project,** to foster recreational and environmental responsibility to reduce impacts on sensitive uplands.

Inclusivity & Accessibility

- **Accessible Infrastructure:** Build facilities that cater for all, such as wheelchair-friendly trails (where possible), improved footpaths, and parking, based on the principles of Universal Design & Access. This should be applied at the proposed Outdoor Recreation Hubs (above) as accessible recreational activity zones. Support specialist educational centres in expanding their *Sports Programme* for people living with disabilities.
- **Targeted Inclusion Programs:** Offer programs like the '*Men in Water*' / '*Women in Water*' or '*Something Fishy*' initiatives to engage youth and under-represented groups in angling and swimming. Consult with target groups proactively and use results to design effective programmes.
- **Community Networking through Outdoor Recreation:** Consider development of Community Trail Plans so that outdoor recreation is available as close to home as possible in community settings. Expand community-based walking initiatives across Tipperary to create networks through walking, promote social engagement and inclusivity for all age groups and new arrivals in our communities (e.g. such as '*Siúl Eile*' model, walking from parish to parish). Use '*Tidy Towns*', '*Smart Village*' or '*Pride of Place*' initiatives to include outdoor recreation and social inclusion. Engage with GAA Clubs to use premises for night walks.
- **Community Awareness:** Enhance digital / online communications for caregivers and NGOs to ensure recreational opportunities are accessible, visible and more easily planned in advance.

Enhanced Communication

- **Integrated Mapping of outdoor recreation in Tipperary:** provide a digital map (and apps) showing hubs, trailheads, trails, access points for angling, kayaking, swimming; cycle trails; and services.
- **Localised Awareness:** Develop materials such as brochures, apps and maps highlighting local recreational opportunities, ensuring they are distributed in schools, shops, hubs and public spaces. Ensure practical alignment with Sports Irelands (see: www.sportsireland.ie) national database 'Find a Trail'.
- **Create a Digi-Library of Services for Disability** – a 'one stop shop' for information for people living with disability to enhance their capacity to enjoy the outdoors.
- **Unified Branding and Promotion:** Create a single, professionally managed portal for Tipperary's recreational opportunities, combining social media, flyers, and local radio to ensure outreach to both mainstream and diverse groups.
- **Youth-Oriented Campaigns:** Focus on platforms like Instagram and TikTok to engage younger people in outdoor recreation, while maintaining traditional media for older demographics. Strengthen existing linkages with schools (primary and second level) to encourage active participation in outdoor recreation, through improved use of, and access to, local outdoor spaces.

Sustainability & Conservation

- **Balanced Recreational Development:** Consider the environmental impact of recreational projects and ensure natural sites are not over-burdened. For example, setting visitor capacity limits for sensitive areas like the Galtee Mountains or Slievenamon; or at sensitive natural and cultural heritage or wetland sites such as the Littleton Labyrinth (under development).

- **Promote Responsible Practices:** Promote *Leave No Trace* principles and provide educational materials to users online and on site through appropriate storyboards/ map panels/ QR codes.
- **Integration of Conservation and Recreation:** Incorporate biodiversity-friendly initiatives, such as continuous forest cover practices by Coillte, that enhance the recreational experience.
- **Education:** Support environmental education initiatives such as Cabragh Wetlands to promote environmental awareness and learning, as well as responsibilities for those using the outdoors.

Inter-Agency Collaboration

- **Cross-Organisational Cooperation:** Create the CORC and Stakeholder Forum, and continue to improve networking and resource sharing among key stakeholders, including Tipperary County Council, Tipperary Sports Partnership, Coillte, Transport Infrastructure Ireland, Inland Fisheries, Waterways Ireland, Fáilte Ireland and Irish Wheelchair Association and neighbour local authorities.
- **Dedicated Roles:** Appoint a Tipperary Outdoor Recreation Officer (ORO) without delay, to oversee planning, implementation and community engagement to expedite roll out of the Tipperary CORP within the national framework of Embracing Ireland's Outdoors.
- **Community and Private Partnerships:** Leverage local groups, businesses, and volunteers to better support recreational development and maintenance; and coordinate outdoor volunteer activity.
- **Better Alignment between Tourism and Recreation:** Further cooperation in strategic planning and data sharing is required between these two functions within Tipperary County Council, and among local authorities in the IHH and IAE tourism brand regions.

4B. Summary Results of Online Survey, Co. Tipperary

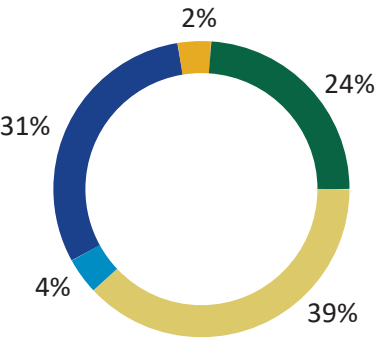
- Online Survey - conducted on Microsoft Forms from end November 2024 – mid January 2025
- Number of responses, general public (n) = 135
- Results are presented below

Q1

We wish to map out Tipperary’s leading recreational experiences and assets

Please choose one preferred option from the list below

Recreational Asset Type	Priority
Uplands, Mountains and Wilderness Trails	33 [24%]
Lowland Trails / Urban Walks	52 [39%]
Lake / Rivers	5 [4%]
Peatlands	42 [31%]
Other	3 [2%]

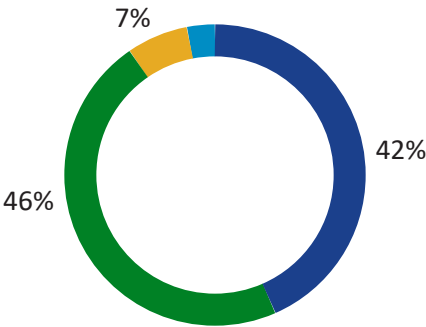


Q2

“Improving the delivery of recreation in Tipperary and neighbouring counties will be primarily designed to meet the needs of the people in our counties.”

Please tick on option that best fits your opinion

Option	Preference
Extremely True	40 [42%]
Somewhat True	42 [46%]
Slightly True	6 [7%]
Not True at All	3



Q3

What do you consider should be the priority strategic recreational investments for future inter-County co-working?
Please choose *ONE* preferred option

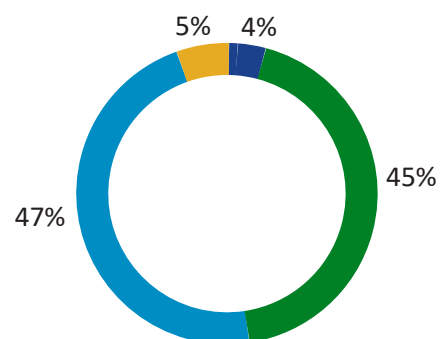
- More investment and improved access to Tipperary's Walks: **33.7%**
- Enhanced access to recreation sites for ALL user needs: **20.7%**
- Better trailhead facilities: **14.1%**
- Better communications of recreational assets in the county: **12.0%**
- Improved training, coordination, maintenance of all recreation in county: **12.0%**
- More investment and improved access to Tipperary's recreational waters: **7.6%**

Q4

Improving the delivery of recreation in Tipperary (and neighbouring counties) will be primarily designed to meet the needs of the people in our counties.

Please tick *ONE* option that best fits your opinion

Option	Preference
Extremely True	45%
Somewhat True	47%
Slightly True	5%
Not True at All	4%



Q5

Please give us a practical example of an initiative(s) you would welcome as being part of this county outdoor recreational plan?

- **Integrated Social Media Campaigns:** Develop and implement fully integrated social media strategies to promote recreation opportunities and environmental conservation.
- **Carbon-Reduction Recreation Alignment:** Adjust recreational activities and facilities to minimise carbon emissions, promoting sustainable practices.
- **Conservation-Focused User Education:** Educate recreational users about sensitive environments like boglands, uplands, rivers, and lakes, emphasising conservation and biodiversity protection.
- **Recreation for Social Equity:** Prioritise access to recreation for socially marginalised groups, ensuring inclusivity in recreational offerings (where possible).
- **Tourism-Driven Recreation Promotion:** Align recreation offerings with the county's tourism strategies to enhance appeal and economic benefits.
- **Community-Based Collaboration:** Work collectively with local communities to improve recreational opportunities and delivery across counties.
- **Inter-County Recreational Planning:** Foster inter-county partnerships to design and implement cohesive recreational initiatives.
- **Enhanced Management Structures:** Optimise management frameworks and secure adequate resources for effective recreational planning and execution.
- **Resource-Efficient Delivery:** Develop mechanisms to deliver recreational services efficiently, balancing environmental, social, and economic priorities.
- **Targeted Messaging Campaigns:** Use social media and other platforms to communicate targeted messages about recreation and conservation to diverse audiences.

- **Accessibility for Neighbouring Counties:** Extend recreational access initiatives to include neighbouring counties, fostering regional collaboration and inclusivity.
- **Promotion of Sustainable Tourism:** Focus on marketing recreational opportunities that align with sustainable tourism goals.
- **Biodiversity Conservation Initiatives:** Implement hands-on projects that protect and enhance biodiversity in recreational areas.
- **Stakeholder Engagement in Recreation Planning:** Involve multiple stakeholders, including local communities, young people, environmental groups, and policymakers, in recreation-related decision-making.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Establish systems to track the impact of recreational activities on environmental, social, and economic outcomes, adapting strategies as needed.

Q6

Final Thoughts: Please give us your thoughts on how to improve the recreational offering in County Tipperary?

Top Themed Responses (n = 135)

1. **Promotion and Accessibility of Walks and Trails** - Enhance promotion of lowland and accessible walks for elderly and families, ensuring facilities like toilets, cafés, and parking are available where possible.
2. **Environmental Conservation and Sustainability** - All recreational development must prioritise ecological assessments to avoid negative impacts on biodiversity and habitats.
3. **Maintenance and Enhancement of Existing Facilities** - Improve maintenance and upkeep of current recreational amenities, such as walkways, playgrounds, and forest trails, ensuring usability, cleanliness and litter-free.
4. **Water-Based Recreation** - Invest in water-based activities like kayaking, fishing, and swimming. Improve access and facilities near rivers, lakes, and coastal areas where there is an obvious demand.
5. **Recreation for All Abilities** - Ensure accessibility for people with disabilities, including wheelchair-friendly paths, accessible parking, and adaptive amenities.
6. **Strategic Tourism Promotion** - Develop targeted promotional campaigns for recreational tourism, focusing on underutilised assets like historical sites, water activities, and walking trails. These may often be on an inter-county basis like Munster Vales and Lough Derg.
7. **Community Involvement** - Include local communities in planning and execution to create a sense of ownership, ensure relevance, and increase engagement.
8. **Roscrea and Monaincha Walkway** - Prioritise the completion of the Roscrea to Monaincha Abbey walkway, as it's a recurring request for enhancing local tourism and recreation in this part of Tipperary.

- 9. Safety Measures in Recreational Spaces** - Address safety concerns in parks and trails with proper lighting, CCTV where necessary, and secure boundaries to prevent anti-social behaviour.
- 10. Recreational Spaces for Youth** - Develop youth-friendly spaces like basketball courts, soccer pitches, and other activity hubs to encourage outdoor activity. Note: Not exactly within remit of the CORP but worth reflecting the wishes to see young people having greater access and information on recreational opportunities.
- 11. Connectivity and Urban Walkways** - Expand urban walkways and cycle paths, connecting recreational spaces to towns and villages to promote active travel and accessibility.
- 12. Blueway and Greenway Integration** - Develop Blueway and Greenway projects, with better signage, parking, and facilities, while connecting them to neighbouring counties.
- 13. Educational Signage and Wildlife Information** - Install interpretive signs along trails and recreational spaces to educate visitors about local biodiversity and historical significance.
- 14. Dog-Friendly Spaces** - Provide enclosed dog runs and dog-friendly recreational areas to cater to pet owners (an often overlook minority of recreational users).
- 15. Tackling Litter and Environmental Damage** - Address issues like littering and off-road vehicle damage with community-led cleanup campaigns and stricter enforcement.
- 16. Partnerships for Strategic Development** - Build partnerships between local authorities, community groups, and stakeholders to ensure sustainable recreational development, applies equally to inter-county projects.
- 17. Inclusive Cycling Opportunities** - Expand cycling paths and ensure they cater to both recreational cyclists and commuters, connecting key recreational and urban hubs. Note: The safety of all cyclists on the counties roads was regularly raised.
- 18. Addressing Under-Served Recreational Areas** - Focus on recreational development in neglected areas like Thurles and Cashel to provide equitable access across the county.
- 19. Facilities and Amenities** - Incorporate essential amenities such as water points, toilets, picnic areas, and cafés into new and existing recreational areas.
- 20. Climate Action and Recreation** - Highlight the low-carbon benefits of local recreation, encouraging sustainable tourism and reducing the need for international travel.
- 21. Use of Outdoor Recreation as a means to build positive Integration** by engaging new members of our communities in 'Tidy Towns' and walking / cycling/ angling club activities.

APPENDIX 5 – POTENTIAL SOURCES OF FUNDING

A number of possible sources of public supporting funds are available to implement enhanced access to outdoor recreation, linked to climate action, tourism, enterprise and rural development.

Target of Funding	Potential Source of External Funding & Resources
Recreational Infrastructure <i>ORIS and RRDF are key capital investment schemes which directly support the objectives of 'Our Rural Future' and the 'Town Centre First' policies.</i>	• Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) • Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF) • Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) - Greenway funding • LEADER/ Rural Development Programme 2023-2027 • The Walks Scheme (expanded) • Mountain Access Project (expanded) • Just Transition (<i>Category 5</i>) – <i>applies to parts of Tipperary</i>
Tourism Development	• Fáilte Ireland Tourism Promotion support • Fáilte Ireland – various programmes • LEADER/ Rural Development Programme 2023-2027
Rural Regeneration/ Town & Village enhancement	• Rural Regeneration Funds • Town & Village Renewal Scheme • Municipal grants
Active Travel / Accessibility	• Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) • National Roads Authority (NRA) • Just Transition (<i>Category 5</i>) – <i>applies to parts of Tipperary</i>
Co-Funding Opportunities in provision of Outdoor Recreation	• Coillte • Inland Fisheries Ireland • Waterways Ireland • Dept. Transport, Tourism & Sports • Dept. Rural & Community Development
Skills, Capacity Building & Training	• Tipperary Education & Training Board (ETB) • LEADER/ Rural Development Programme 2023-2027 • Local Enterprise Office (LEO) • Fáilte Ireland • National Disability Authority • Centre of Excellence for Universal Access (<i>part of NDA</i>)
Marketing & Related Communications	• Fáilte Ireland – <i>Ireland's Ancient East</i> • Fáilte Ireland – <i>Ireland's Hidden Heartlands</i> • LEADER/ Rural Development Programme 2023-2027 • Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

APPENDIX 6 – OUTDOOR RECREATION AMENITIES & FACILITIES OF COUNTY TIPPERARY, 2025

- Sourced from various: Sport Ireland / All Trails/ Get Ireland Active (2025)
- *Note some local trails/ amenities may not be represented*

TIPPERARY ZONE	#	WALKING / HIKING		NOTES
SOUTH / SE TIPPERARY	1	Slievenamon		
	2	Killurney& GurteenWood	C	
	3	Shanbally/Sliabh na mBan	C	26km loop in woods
	4	Kilcash Wood	C	5km loop
	5	Clonmel / Marlfield Forest	C	
	6	Carrick-on-Suir / Ballysloe loops		
	7	Suir Blueway Tipperary		Linear riverside – walk, cycle, kayak, angling
	8	Avondhu Way	NWMW	
	9	Clogher Loop		
	10	Blackwater Loop		
	11	East Munster Way	NWMW	
SOUTH / SW TIPPERARY	12	Knockmealdown Way		
	13	Knockmealdown Ridge		
	14	Ballyporeen		
	15	Bay Lough-Reigh-SugarLoaf		The Vee, 3 loops
	16	Foil Dearg Loop		Clogheen
	17	St Declan's Way	NWMW	Cashel to Ardmore
	18	Liam Lynch Loop	C	
	19	Glen Beag Loop		

LEGEND:

NWMW National Waymarked Way

 Peatland / Wetland Site

C Coillte Forest

Cont.

TIPPERARY ZONE	#	WALKING / HIKING		NOTES
SOUTH / SW TIPPERARY	20	Goatenbrg-Knockballiniry	C	
	21	Kildanogue Wildfowl Reserve	C	Coillte & Gun Club partnership
	22	Ballyhoura Way	NWMW	part of Beara Breifne Way
	23	High Kings Loop, Cashel		
	24	Clifton Browne Woods, Cashel		woodlands
	25	Swiss Cottage - Cahir		riverwalk
	26	Scaragh Woods, Cahir	C	east end of Galtees
	27	Glen of Aherlow loops	C	Galtees/Slievenamuck
	28	Slievenamuck/Bansha	C	mixed forest /hill trails
	29	Moor Abbey Loop		
	30	Lisvarraine		3 loops
	31	Dolmen Loop		
	32	Bianconi Loop		
	33	Ballinacourty Loop	C	
	34	Galtees: Black Road		
	35	Galtees: King's Yard/ Galty Castle	C	
	36	Galtees: Glengarra Trails (Lough Muskry)	C	Galtee Mountains South, 2 loops
	37	Dundrum Marl Bog Forest		
	38	Tipperary Heritage Way		
EAST / NE TIPPERARY	39	Grange – Ballingarry		2 loops
	40	Slieve Ardagh		
	41	Crag Loop trails		
	42	Devilsbit Mountain		
	43	Devilsbit Loop	C	
	44	Roscrea/ Mt St Joseph		Co Offaly - just over border
	45	Roscrea/ Golden Grove		Co Offaly - just over border
	46	Clonakenny		Source of River Nore

LEGEND:

NWMW National Waymarked Way

 Peatland / Wetland Site

C Coillte Forest

Cont.

TIPPERARY ZONE	#	WALKING / HIKING		NOTES
MID / WEST TIPPERARY	47	Cabragh Wetlands		community wetlands/ BWI
	48	Inch-Drom trails		community - 2 loops
	49	Multeen Way	NWMW	part of Beara Breifne Way
	50	Cappawhite/ Woodlands, Greenfield	C	Multeen Way
	51	Cappawhite/ Redhill		Multeen Way
	52	Littleton Labyrinth		TCC peatland restoration
	53	Derrynaflan Greenway		TCC rail-to-trail
	54	Lough Doire Bhile (Derryvella) Loop		part of Littleton Labyrinth (prop)
	55	Donohill-Glengar Loops	C	mixed length forest trails
	56	Upperchurch Loops		
	57	Eamon an'Chnoic		
	58	Birchill Loop		
	59	Knockalough Loop		
	60	Kilcommon Pilgrim Loop, Mass Path		Two looped walks
NORTH / NW TIPPERARY	61	Slieve Felim Way	NWMW	
	62	Ballyhourigan Woods	C	
	63	Keeper Hill		highest hill in North Tipp
	64	Knockanroe Wood Loop	C	
	65	Silvermines Ridge	C	
	66	Lough Derg Way	NWMW	
	67	Tountinna-Graves of Leinstermen		
	68	Castlelough Woods	C	lakeshore woods
	69	Slí Eala		river walk
	70	Millenium Cross		open hill
	71	Ormond Way	NWMW	part of Beara Breifne Way

LEGEND:

- NWMW** National Waymarked Way
-  Peatland / Wetland Site
- C** Coillte Forest

Cont.

TIPPERARY ZONE	#	WALKING / HIKING		NOTES
NORTH / NW TIPPERARY	72	Knocknacree Woods - 4 loops		Cloughjordan
	73	Knockshegowna/FairyHill	C	4km+ forest trails
	74	Scohaboy Bog / Laghile Wood	C	Coillte/NPWS/ EU LIFE restoration. Cloughjordan CDA
	75	Caminches Hill		Gortmungo, Coolbaun
	76	Latteragh/ Loughanoura	C	Coillte
	77	Gortagarry-Borrisnafarney	C	7km forest/ hill
	78	Ballina Riverside Park		between old & new bridges
	79	Clare Glens		Spectacular waterfalls
	80	Pollagh, Birdhill		
	81	Redwood Bog		

LEGEND:

NWMW National Waymarked Way

 Peatland / Wetland Site

C Coillte Forest

CYCLING / E-BIKING	TOWN PARKS	ANGLING (IFI website)	CANOE / KAYAK
• Suir Blueway Tipperary • Sean Kelly Legacy Cycle Routes <i>most in Co Waterford</i> • Kilmallock Cycleway (Glen of Aherlow) - <i>originates in Limerick</i> • Thurles Cycle Hub • Nenagh Cycle Hub	• Clonmel • Carrick-on-Suir • Fethard • Cahir • Templemore • Thurles • Nenagh • Roscrea • Ballina	• River Suir: 6x stands Swiss Cottage • Templemore Lake: 3x angling stands, accessible • Dromineer: accessible, park/ WC • Mota Quay: angling stands, accessible • Garrykennedy /accessible • Youghalarra • Dromineer • Mota • Kilgarvan • Terryglass /accessible • Ballina - multi-activity, accessible • Clare Glens - kayaking	• Suir Blueway Tipperary • Clonmel - Suir Island • Clonmel - Denis Burke Park • Kilsheelan • Carrick-on-Suir • Cahir • Ardfinnan • Newcastle • Lough Derg Blueway • Ballina • Castlelough • Garrykennedy • Dromineer • Mota • Kilgarvan • Terryglass

This **County Outdoor Recreation Plan** was developed on behalf of Tipperary County Council

By **Alan Hill** In association with **Dr. Deirdre Lewis, March 2025**

This report was funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and Tipperary County Council

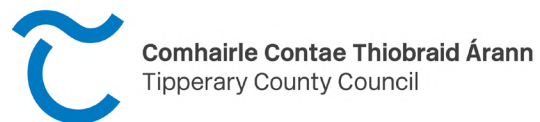


Images Source: Tipperary County Council

For further information, please contact:

Tipperary Sports Partnership at **Tipperary County Council**

www.tipperary.com



Rialtas na hÉireann
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