



OUTDOOR RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE SCHEME 2024 (ORIS) (GALWAY COUNTY)

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2024 OUTDOOR RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE SCHEME.

The scheme supports the provision of outdoor infrastructure that is, in the main, freely available to the public. Projects should be shovel ready.

The Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) supports the development of new outdoor recreational infrastructure and the necessary repair, enhancement, or promotion of existing outdoor recreation infrastructure, in countryside areas across Ireland. The Scheme is funded under "Our Rural Future" which specifically prioritises the growing outdoor activity tourism sector as part of a long-term vision for a vibrant and sustainable rural Ireland.

It is essential that all projects applied for under ORIS 2024 are consistent with **Embracing Ireland's Outdoors**, the National Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2023 – 2027, which is set to shape the future of outdoor recreation over the next five years. This strategy will lead, guide and facilitate the sustainable development and management of outdoor recreation in the medium term. It aims to increase the number of people active in the outdoors, especially young people and under-represented groups and to foster a greater understanding of how to enjoy the outdoors responsibly.

Please note: Outdoor recreation refers to those sporting, recreational and holiday pursuits based on use of the resources of the countryside, and which contribute to healthy active lifestyles. Countryside includes land, water and air. The term recreation in this context applies to sporting and recreational activities that take place in the **natural environment**, such as walking, cycling, canoeing, mountain biking, orienteering, wild swimming. The type of projects typically funded by the scheme include trails, walkways, cycleways, blueways, mountain access routes, bridleways, and open water amenities at bogs, rivers, lakes and beaches, including tidal pools.

It does not include activities that take place outdoors on confined courses or pitches such as Golf, football, show jumping or motorised activities such as quads/scramblers. Projects approved under the ORIS will be in keeping with this definition.

Accessibility & Inclusion: Projects that result in improved access to recreational facilities for those with disabilities and older people are actively encouraged and will be prioritised. These measures should be incorporated into the overall design and layout of projects where practical and should include the provision of appropriate information, suitable path surfaces and seating at appropriate intervals.

Infrastructure funded under ORIS should be in line with the Universal design Principles and as far as practicable, be accessible to all. Active Disability Ireland (formerly Cara) has developed an extensive range of guidance for the development of outdoor recreation infrastructure. Applicants should refer to these resources when developing applications.

It should be noted that private commercial entities or bodies trading for profit are **not** eligible for funds under the scheme.

Applications are invited for the following Measures:

Project Development Measure: Development Costs for Strategic Large Scale Projects

Grant amounts: Up to €50,000

Deadline to Galway County Council, 4.00pm – 10th January 2025

Eligible Activity: Will provide funding for the detailed development of projects which would enable them to reach a standard for application under Measure 2 or 3 of ORIS e.g. design, preparation for planning and/or procurement, appropriate assessment etc.

Maximum Number of Projects: Local Authorities will be confined to **two applications** each under this Measure. However, local authorities with inhabited offshore islands may submit one additional application under this Measure (max. 3 applications) which relates directly to a potential project on one of the inhabited offshore islands.

Measure 1: Small Scale Repair/Development/Promotion and Marketing

Grant amounts: Up to €40,000

Deadline to Galway County Council, 4.00pm – 10th January 2025

Eligible Activities: Small scale projects. This includes, but is not limited to, the upkeep, repair and development of trails, walkways, mountain access routes, cycleways, blueways, recreational facilities at bogs, rivers, lakes and beaches, natural play areas that form part of a larger outdoor recreation project and the promotion and marketing of such infrastructure.

Maximum Number of Projects: A maximum of 6 applications may be submitted per Local Authority.

Measure 2: Medium Scale Repair/Upgrade and New Trail/Amenity Development - Ready to Go Projects

Grant amounts: Up to €200,000

Deadline to Galway County Council, 4.00pm – 21st February 2025

Eligible Activity: Medium scale projects, this includes, but is not limited to, the development of new recreational infrastructure, extensions/upgrades to already established trails, walkways, mountain access routes, cycleways, blueways, water or cycle trails or other recreational facilities at bogs, rivers, lakes or beaches. Projects can also include works for the repair or promotion of such infrastructure.

Projects should indicate, where applicable, linkages with regional or national strategic initiatives, policies or plans e.g. Destination Experience Development Plans.

Maximum Number of Projects: 3 applications may be submitted per Local Authority.

Measure 3: Strategic Large Scale Repair/Upgrade and New Strategic Trail/Amenity Development

Grant amounts: Up to €500,000

Deadline to Galway County Council, 4.00pm – 21st February 2025

Eligible Activity: Strategic large-scale projects. This could include projects such as the development of new larger-scale recreational infrastructure, or resources to complete larger scale/longer term developments, as well as significant extensions/upgrades to already established trails, walkways, mountain access routes, cycleways, blueways, water or cycle trails or other recreational facilities at bogs, rivers, lakes or beaches. (Greenway projects funded under ORIS must be of a local nature and not exceed 20km).

Projects where applicable should demonstrate linkages with regional or national strategic initiatives, policies or plans e.g. Destination Experience Development Plans

Maximum Number of Projects: Local Authorities will be confined to 1 application each under this Measure.

Further Details / Application Forms / Requests / Queries to:

Economic Rural & Community Development Department

Email: outdoorrecreation@galwaycoco.ie Tel: 091 509 578



Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040



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