



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

**Ár dTodhchaí
Tuaithe**
Our Rural
Future



**Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland**
2040

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2024/2025

Background

- 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.
- To date, the Scheme has provided funding of over €129 million for more than 1,770 projects nationwide.
- The Scheme is funded under “Our Rural Future” which prioritises the growing outdoor activity tourism sector as part of a long-term vision for a vibrant and sustainable rural Ireland.



2024/2025 Measures

Measure 1: Small scale repair, amenity development, promotion and marketing

Measure 2: Medium scale repair, upgrade works and new amenity development

Measure 3: Strategic large scale repair, upgrade works and new amenity development

Project Development Measure: Development costs for strategic large scale projects



Measures Information

Measure	Maximum Funding Amount	Number of Applications Permitted <i>Local Authorities</i>	Number of Applications Permitted <i>State Bodies</i>
1	€40,000	6	0
2	€200,000	3	1
3	€500,000	1	1
PDM	€50,000	2*	1

* Local authorities with inhabited off-shore islands may submit one additional application under the Project Development Measure which relates directly to a potential project on one of the inhabited off-shore islands.



Types of Projects



Land-Based

Walking
Hillwalking/Hiking
Leisure cycling
Mountain biking
Horse riding
Running
Orienteering
Bouldering,
Scrambling,
Rockclimbing,
Mountaineering
Caving
Play in nature



Water-Based

Canoeing/Kayaking
Rowing
Wild swimming
Surfing
Coasteering
Wind surfing/Kite
surfing
Sailing
Diving
Angling
Stand Up
Paddleboarding



Air-Based

Paragliding
Hang-gliding

Passive enjoyment of the outdoors



Greenways, Uplands, Blueways & Trails

- Greenway projects funded under ORIS are those of a local nature – up to 20km in length.
- Local extensions or spurs off National or Regional greenways, and the development of infrastructure to link a rural town or village to such greenways may be considered under ORIS.
- Upland projects must adhere to the *Helping the Hills - Guiding Principles for the Management of Path Erosion*. Any works to upland areas should have appropriate supervision by a qualified person.
- Blueway projects funded under ORIS must be in line with the *Blueways Developer Toolkit*.
- Trail projects funded under ORIS should be developed in line with Sport Ireland advice, including their *Trail Criteria Guidelines*.



Ineligible Projects/Costs

- Greenways in excess of 20km
- Infrastructure for commercial activities
- Purchase or lease of land
- Sports grounds, traditional playgrounds and Multi-Use Gaming Areas (MUGAs)
- Surfacing works to public roads regardless of whether they form part of an existing trail.
- Walking or running tracks located in a confined space, e.g. around sports pitches or playgrounds, or within other sports grounds.
- Local authority project management costs are not eligible in light of separate funding for “Capital Delivery Teams”.
- **A full list is of ineligible projects is provided in the 2024/2025 Scheme Outline**



Location



- Projects should, in the main, be located in the countryside.
- Projects located within any of the five main city boundaries (Dublin, Cork, Limerick, Galway and Waterford) are not eligible under the scheme.
- ORIS will fund recreational infrastructure linking a town or village to a significant outdoor recreation amenity located in the countryside.
- Recreational amenities located near rivers, lakes and beaches, water based projects located within town environs are also eligible.



2024/2025 Application Points to Note

- Contributions in Kind are not eligible as match funding.
- Any necessary screening for appropriate assessments, ecological assessments, planning permissions etc. that may need to be obtained must be in place prior to any application being submitted (Not applicable to the Project Development Measure).
- Where a project is located on Coillte or NPWS lands, a letter of consent is required.
- Written consent of the landowners must be in place.
- Lead applicants must ensure that in advance of submitting an application that the local community has been consulted and their feedback taken on board. Details of the engagements must be clearly outlined in the application form.



Assessment Criteria

- Projects will be assessed based on the criteria provided in the scheme outline.
- The Department will be consulting with Fáilte Ireland and Sport Ireland at this stage also.
- Emphasis will be put on projects which demonstrate clear benefit to the local area on a tourism and economic level.
- Projects which have evidence of strong community engagement will be **prioritised**.
- It should be noted that the 2024/2025 allocation of approved projects may be reduced for any applicant should there be excessive delays in the projects already approved under previous iterations of the scheme.



How to apply

- Complete an individual application form appropriate to the relevant Measure and submit to the Department together with the Application Overview template.
- Again this year, each applicant must also submit a list of the other projects that responded to the Expression of Interest call, but which were not prioritised at local screening stage.
- Completed applications must be submitted via email to ORIS@drcd.gov.ie



Important Dates

Measure	Application Deadline Date	Approval Date (Indicative)	Timeline for Project Completion
Measure 1	5:15 p.m. February 14 th 2025	Qtr. 2 2025	18 months
Measure 2	5:15 p.m. March 28 th 2025	Qtr. 3 2025	24 months
Measure 3	5:15 p.m. March 28 th 2025	Qtr. 3 2025	24 months
Project Development Measure	5:15 p.m. February 14 th 2025	Qtr. 2 2025	18 months





Queries to
ORIS@DRCD.gov.ie

Thank you for your attendance.

Ár dTodhchaí
Tuaithe
Our Rural
Future



Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040



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



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

**Ár dTodhchaí
Tuaithe**
Our Rural
Future



**Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland**
2040

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2024/2025