

## Frequently asked questions:

### Q. Who is responsible for this strategy?

A. Wicklow Rural Partnership Ltd. has initiated this project in partnership with the Irish Sports Council, Wicklow County Council, Fáilte Ireland, Coillte and Wicklow Uplands Council. The partnership has appointed consultants lead by RSP Consulting to undertake research leading to the preparation of the strategy.

### Q. What is outdoor recreation?

Outdoor recreation refers to sporting, leisure or holiday pursuits that take place outdoors and contribute to active healthy lifestyles. A full list of activities included is available at the project webpages:  
[www.wicklowleader.ie/outdoorrecreation](http://www.wicklowleader.ie/outdoorrecreation)

### Q. Who will contribute to the strategy?

A. In addition to the contributions of an Expert Advisory Group set up to guide the project, outdoor recreational users and Wicklow residents are invited to contribute to the development of the strategy.

### Q. Where can I get ongoing information on the project?

A. You can get ongoing information on the project from the following webpages:  
[www.wicklowleader.ie/outdoorrecreation/](http://www.wicklowleader.ie/outdoorrecreation/)

## What is the Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Strategy?

A partnership group of organisations with a role in supporting outdoor recreation in Wicklow has come together to prepare a Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Strategy covering the period 2008 – 2012.

This group includes Wicklow County Council, Wicklow Rural Partnership, Wicklow Uplands Council, The Irish Sports Council, Fáilte Ireland and Coillte.

An advisory group including recreation organisations, landowners, community representatives and recreation businesses, e.g. NPWS, IFA, Tinahely Area Development, will also contribute an expert view to support the preparation of the strategy.

The Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Strategy will make recommendations for well-informed, responsible use of the Wicklow countryside for recreational

activities.

The benefits of community health and well-being, a raised awareness of the Wicklow environment and improved co-ordination of recreation management in the county are expected to result.

Outdoor recreation covers activities that take place in the Wicklow countryside on public or private land, air and water. Examples are hillwalking, mountain-biking and sailing.

The strategy will be based on the views of Wicklow people, outdoor recreation enthusiasts and occasional visitors alike.

You are invited to contribute your views on the strategy through your local area community group, by filling out an online activity survey or by attending a public workshop.

## Who will benefit from the Outdoor Recreation Strategy?

A person or group involved in outdoor recreation, whether as part of a club, on a regular / occasional basis or as part of their community will benefit from the Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Strategy. More particularly:

- The research being undertaken to prepare the strategy will give a picture of the main locations where outdoor recreation activities currently take place in the county.
- This information resource will allow organisations with a role in outdoor recreation to plan for the needs of people who enjoy these activities.
- Communities will have an opportunity to discuss ideas for outdoor recreation projects in their area.
- These ideas may be supported by recommendations written into the Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Strategy.
- People who regularly engage in organised recreation activities in the county will have a chance to make their views on the potential for development of these activities known to the organisations that manage recreation activity in Wicklow.
- The strategy will suggest ways in which landowners and recreation businesses can benefit economically from recreation in permitted areas.
- The strategy will also recommend co-ordinated approaches to the management of recreation in the county.
- Once published, the strategy will highlight ways in which Wicklow residents and visitors can participate responsibly in outdoor recreation in Wicklow and will describe planned future developments in the county.

**Q. What is the timeframe for the research?**

A. The research and consultation to prepare the strategy will be completed between January and July 2008. A full copy of the strategy will be available in September 2008.

**Q. What if I'm not available to participate?**

A. Your relationship with your club, with recreation agencies/organisations or with your community will not be affected by your participation or non-participation in the research to prepare the Outdoor Recreation Strategy.

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## How do I get involved?

You can get involved in the development of the Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Strategy in a variety of ways:

**1. Complete an online recreation activity survey designed for recreationalists in Wicklow.**

From February 2008, you can complete an online short activity survey available through your national organisation/club or directly from the webpage [www.wicklowleader.ie/outdoorrecreation](http://www.wicklowleader.ie/outdoorrecreation)

Individual or group responses will not be identified in the strategy and information given will be reported in anonymous summary only.

**2. Contribute to the completion of a survey as part of your local community group.**

Local community groups / networks will receive a survey in February 2008, designed to be completed on an area basis and seeking information on countryside recreation in your local area, including ideas for development of particular activities.

Community members will have an

opportunity to make their views known to their local community group and to have these views collectively recorded within the survey.

**3. Attend a public workshop in May at which the outdoor recreation strategy will be described and consultation will take place in open forum.**

A public workshop will be held in May 2008 at which the outdoor recreation strategy will be discussed and the ideas emerging from the research consultation will be considered. The public workshop will be advertised in the Wicklow People and also on the project webpages at [www.wicklowleader.ie/outdoorrecreation](http://www.wicklowleader.ie/outdoorrecreation)

**4. If none of the above ways of participating is available to you, post your view or submit an email to recreation@rspconsulting.info**

In your submission, describe your outdoor recreation idea for inclusion in the strategy. You must provide your name and telephone contact details in your email.

## What happens next?

Questionnaires will be available from the project webpages, linked from the websites of recreation organisations/clubs and posted to Wicklow community groups from February 2008. A public workshop will be advertised in the Wicklow People in April/May 2008.

