The Development of a New 10 Year Outdoor Recreation Action Plan for Northern Ireland

Vision

"To continue to develop, manage and promote a dynamic culture of sustainable outdoor recreation in Northern Ireland."

Aims

Northern Ireland will be a place where:

1. *People enjoy the outdoors and show a high degree of responsibility for themselves, towards others and the environment they are using.*

2. *There are increasing opportunities and improved access and infrastructure development for sustained and increased participation for the local population and visitors in outdoor recreation.*
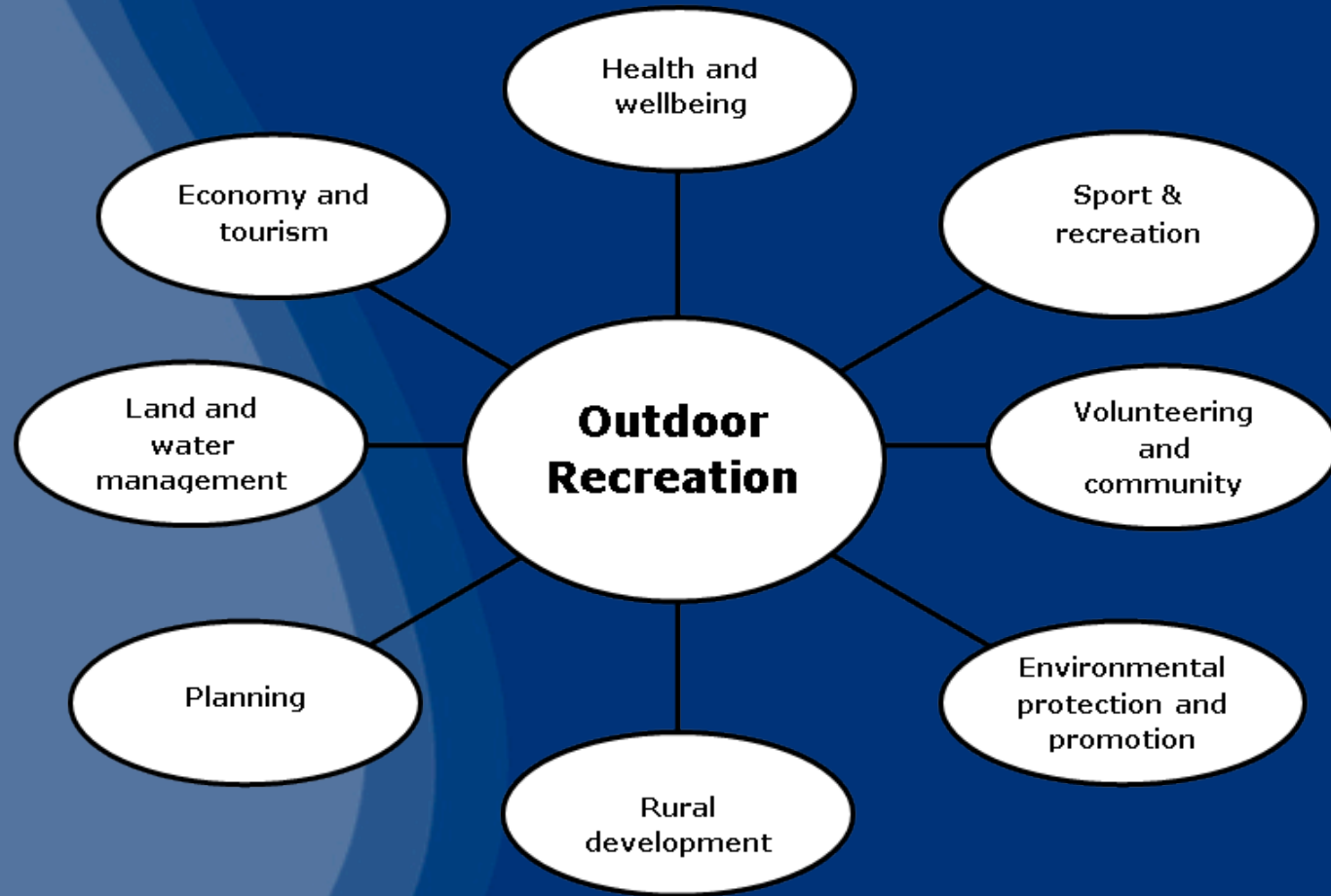
Aims (Cont'd)

Northern Ireland will be a place where:

3. *There are accompanying benefits to both urban and rural communities in terms of health, social inclusion and economic development.*

4. *People have ownership and understanding of the environment that they are using and play their part in maintaining, supporting and enhancing that environment.*

The New 10 Year Outdoor Recreation Action Plan for Northern Ireland

Consultation process

8 public workshops across NI were held

9 workshops with sector groups were held

A public web based consultation was also created

88 different organisations were involved in the consultation process including 19 of the 26 councils

A total of 34 actions have been developed that reflect the consultation responses.

1. The creation of a 'Strategic Outdoor Recreation Group'

2. Establish a 'National Outdoor Recreation Forum'

3. Create a network of 'Local Recreation Forums'.

4. Develop, support and enable private sector partnerships .

5. A 'Working Group' will establish mechanisms by which existing and proposed legislation can be amended.

6. Ensure that consistent and complementary departmental policies support Outdoor Recreation.

7. Create full recognition of the benefits of outdoor recreation

8. Ensure that recreation is enshrined in each AONB Management Plan

9. Embed the value of outdoor education in providing the steps towards lifelong healthy active lifestyles and understanding of the environment

10. Investigate, develop and implement opportunities for funding and supporting access to the natural environment

11. Promote information about new and existing funding programmes for Outdoor Recreation

12. Broker partnership for 3 year grant scheme for access

13. Investigate cost effective insurance for volunteers, groups and land managers.

14. Develop messages about personal responsibility and Occupiers Liability.

15. Develop guidance/tools for local authorities and landowners.

16. Promote 'good news'.

17. Promote good practice in the management of recreation and events on protected sites.

18. Provide clear communication on social and environmental responsibility

19. Develop website on "what you can do near to you"

20. Develop guidance re signage and promote good practice

21. Provide diversity training for activity providers, clubs and recreational land managers

22. Promote value of external accreditation for safety and quality of provision.

23. Market NI/Ireland as a tourism destination for outdoor recreation.

24. Provide appropriate funding streams for events.

25. Map current hubs for outdoor recreation and identify geographical gaps in provision.

26. Develop a systematic toolkit for community path networks.

27. Identify special areas of significance for outdoor sports

28. Development and adoption of national standards for outdoor recreation facilities.

29. Promote the value of and signpost opportunities for volunteering

30. Share good practice and provide training for volunteers.

31. Undertake surveys to identify recreation demand.

32. Undertake research into the economic & social benefits of outdoor recreation.

33. Develop a joined up approach (systems and procedures) for monitoring and evaluation of facility use at a national level.

34. Research into current and needed infrastructure for camping in key areas, particularly in the Mournes and Antrim Hills.

Next steps