

SUMMER READY

REPORT 2025



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council



Gaillimh



**SUMMER
READY**

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INTRODUCTION

FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

I am pleased to welcome the publication of the 2025 Summer Ready Report.

County Galway continues to be a hugely popular tourist destination for both domestic and international visitors. The Summer season presents challenges for the Council as we strive to serve the economic, social and community needs of the County, while ensuring that our climate change and environmental goals in our adopted Climate Action plan are met.

Galway County Council works with Partner agencies such as the Gardai, the emergency Services, Fáilte Ireland, National Parks & Wildlife Service, Waterways Ireland and the Office of Public Works, to ensure that our county's beaches, waterways, walking trails and amenities are safe and well maintained.

Meanwhile, the County Galway Tourism Strategy 2023-2031 and our County Development Plan 2022-2028 continue to provide a collaborative framework for the promotion of County Galway as a vibrant, diverse, resilient and sustainable tourist destination.

Liam Conneally
Chief Executive

A handwritten signature of Liam Conneally in white ink. The signature is stylized and cursive, with a large, sweeping 'L' and 'C'.



DEPT. LEADS

The following services are being led out across various departments in Galway County Council:



Beaches – Blue Flag/Testing	Ann Dolan Senior Exec Scientist & Colette Cronin, Exec Technician Environment
Lifeguards	Shane Coogan, Water Safety officer
Community Warden Service	Christopher Harrington, Senior Community Warden
Connemara Municipal District	Naoise O’Conaola, SEE Roads & Transportation
Loughrea Municipal District	Gerard Haugh, SEE Roads & Transportation
Ballinasloe Municipal District	Derek Troy, SEE Roads & Transportation
Athenry/Oranmore Municipal District	Sean Whelan, SEE Roads & Transportation
Tuam Municipal District	John Coyle, SEE Roads & Transportation
Fire Service	Paul G Duffy, SACFO, Fire Station
Arts	Sharon O’ Grady, Arts Officer
Broadband	Noel Madden EE, Roads & Transportation, Donna Sheppard, Broadband Support Officer
Galway Sports Partnership	Andrew McBride, Sports Co-ordinator
Heritage	Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer
Library Services	Meliosa McIntyre, Senior Exec Librarian
Tourism	John Neary, Tourism Officer, Loretta Raftery JTF Activator, Chris Monaghan



TOURISM CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The Tourism Office is dedicated to supporting festivals and participative events by grant funding and promoting a range of events across the County.

In 2025, The Community Support Scheme facilitated **63 festivals and community groups** with an overall funding allocation of **€87,250**.

This was co-funded by Galway County Council Community Support Scheme Grants **€69,250** and Fáilte Ireland Regional Festivals and Events grants valued at **€18,000**.

€87,250
63 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

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For more details on festival and events happening around the County this Summer see <https://discovergalway.ie>. If you wish to highlight an event/festival in your area that is not on this calendar please email the details to tourism@galwaycoco.ie

TOURISM CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2025

MARCH

21st-29th Glenamaddy 61st Annual Theatre Festival

APRIL

19th-21st Newbridge Easter weekend Festival
24th-27th Clifden Traditional Music Festival

MAY

2nd - 4th Inishbofin Arts Festival 2025
2nd - 4th Connemara Mountain Walking Festival
2nd - 5th Fleadh na gCuach
2nd - 5th Féile Joe Éinniú 2025
17th- 18th Galway County Fleadh 2025
22nd RAS Tailteann - Clifden (Stage Finish)

JUNE

30th May -Jun-1st Headfest
30th May -Jun-1st Shearfest - European Sheep Shearing
& Wool handling Championship
30th May-Jun-2nd Kinvara Plein Air Festival
13th -15th Clifden Summer Fest
29th - 6th July Connacht Fleadh, Ballinasloe

JULY

5th & 6th Galway Garden Festival
8th -13th Galway Film Fleadh
11th - 13th South Galway Bay Music Festival
9th - 13th Diamond Hill Music Festival
June & July Summertime Movies On The Green
16th, 19th, 20th Iúil Coiste Fheile Mhic Dara

AUGUST

Jul-31st-Aug-5th Aug Ballygar Carnival
1st- 10th Dunmore Annual Festival
1st- 10th Festival of the Sea, Cleggan &
Claddaghduff
3rd - 9th Cashel Together
22nd -24th Féile an tSruháin
19th- 22nd Connemara Pony Show
22-24 Lúnasa Féile Bia Mara / Ceol Tradisiúnta
29th-31st The Desmond O'Halloran Music
Weekend
31st Abbey Village Fest

SEPTEMBER

4th-7th Feile Cheoil Larry Reynolds
5th-7th Carna Walking Festival, Feile Siúlóid Charna
6th Clarinbridge Market Day
12th-14th Cleggan Fringe Festival
18th - 29th Clifden Arts Festival
20th-21st Athenry MAD Festival 2025
23rd-Sep-12-Oct Galway Fit Up Theatre Festival
26th-28th Inishbofin Set Dancing & Trad Weekend

OCTOBER

3rd-5th Éigse Dara Beag 2025
6th Galway Cartoon Festival Tarraing E I nGaeilge
(Aras Éanna Arts Centre, Inis Oirr)
11th Howl at the Moon - Night Walk Experience
10th-19th Baboró International Arts Festival for Children
17-19th Caherlistrane Kilcoona Community
Council-Celebrating 50 Years Of Community
24th-27th Creggs Harvest Festival
20th-27th Conamara Sea Week Festival 2025
24th - 27th Cooley Collins Traditional Music Festival

DECEMBER

7th Glinsk Christmas Fair & Santa Experience

MARKETING

The Tourism team continue to invest in marketing/ advertising spreads in the following publications;

This is Galway is a bi-monthly free magazine. We have highlighted areas like Kinvara, Gort and Maigh Cuilinn in previous issues and will continue to showcase what County Galway has to offer.



Where West - a full colour, high quality magazine circulated throughout the west- from Connemara to the Islands; south to north Galway; north Mayo to south Clare.



Galway County Council annually invest in the **Go West** magazine of Knock Airport alongside Local Authority partners in Sligo, Mayo, Roscommon and Galway City.

Lady Gregory and The Autograph Tree



PAGE 8 | GALWAY HISTORY

Just beyond the red gates of the Walled Garden at Coole Park stands a 200-year-old beech tree. The wind blows through the branches, animating the leaves. The canopy of the tree bends down and encloses visitors underneath, ushering them into this sacred tent of story and reflection. Etched on the soft bark of the magnificent copper beech are over a dozen signatures; some from artists and political figures, others from prominent Irish literary giants.

William Butler Yeats, John Millington Synge, Sean O'Casey and George Bernard Shaw are only a few of the house guests invited by Lady Gregory of Coole to carve their signatures into the trunk of the tree. A living guestbook of sorts, the tree has an incredible history that is deeply rooted in the story of Coole Park, as well as Lady Gregory herself.

An adamant and longtime patron of the arts, Lady Gregory was enamoured by the Irish Literary Revival of the early 20th century. Lady Gregory and a young W.B. Yeats met in the 1800s and later became lifelong friends and collaborators in the Irish literary community. Lady Gregory was an early supporter of Yeats. The two, along with others, co-founded the Abbey Theatre in an effort to write, produce, and perform plays for and about Irish people. Yeats was a regular guest at Coole House, drawing immense inspiration from the serene landscape.



Above:
Piece on Coole Park from **"This Is Galway"**
April/May 2025 edition

SLOWDOWN INTERREG PROJECT

SLOWDOWN is a European project aimed at promoting slow tourism, a sustainable and enriching approach that fosters a deeper connection with destinations, their cultures, and local communities. Galway County Council are tandem Partners with the BIA Innovator Campus in Athenry on the SLOWDOWN Project. There are **9 partners** in total, from **8 EU countries**.

Galway County Council and BIA are looking forward to hosting the 4th Interregional Thematic Workshop from the 22nd to the 26th September. This workshop will unite all 8 Countries to discuss Sustainable Tourism. A full Itinerary is being prepared, including workshops and study visits.

SLOWDOWN

Promotion of slow tourism for sustainable, local and regional economic development and wellbeing.

European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation

Delta 200 Agency

Sibiu County Council

Autonomous Community of Region of Murcia

Amiens Metropole

Riga Planning Region

University of Eastern Finland

Bia Innovator Campus

Galway County Council

Hungary



Italy



Romania



Spain



France



Latvia



Finland



Ireland



Ireland





TIMMY MALLETT'S WILD ATLANTIC WAY JOURNEY

British TV Personality and Artist **Timmy Mallett** passed through Connemara on his epic bike journey of the **Wild Atlantic Way**. His Social Media Posts gained massive traction and despite being introduced to the full onslaught of aimsir Chonamara (báisteach agus níos mó báisteach), he remained good-humoured throughout!

His Connemara clips posted on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter/X and TikTok had received more than 1,959,706 views by the 25th of April and that doesn't take into account his stories/likes and shares and his YouTube channel.

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL'S TOURISM PROMOTION INITIATIVES IN THE GERMAN AND ITALIAN MARKETS

Galway County Council is actively working to expand its tourism reach into the German and Italian markets in collaboration with Tourism Ireland and the marketing team at Ireland West Airport. The objective is to leverage direct flight connectivity and targeted trade fairs to promote Galway as a premier tourism destination and increase inbound travel through Ireland West Airport.

Galway County Council has partnered with Tourism Ireland and other regional authorities, including Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Roscommon, and Mayo, to enhance tourism marketing efforts in Germany and Italy. This initiative is crucial to support Ryanair flights and foster stronger connectivity to the region.

TOURISM EVENTS IN 2024

In 2024, Galway County Council participated in major tourism events in Milan, Italy, and Cologne, Germany. The objective was to present Galway as a compelling destination for German and Italian tourists, two markets that are ranked as Ireland's 3rd and 6th largest tourism sources, respectively.

- Milan Event (10th-11th June 2024):
 - Attended by 50 travel agencies
 - Focus on networking & showcasing Galway's unique tourism offerings
- Cologne Event (12th-13th June 2024):
 - Similar format with targeted sessions for travel agencies & tourism partners



SUPPORT FOR LOCAL TOURISM BUSINESSES

Galway County Council facilitated the participation of key tourism businesses from the region in the trade fairs, providing a platform for these stakeholders to directly engage with international travel agencies and potential partners. This support aligns with the strategic objective of building long-term tourism partnerships and increasing tourist inflow.

PROPOSED TRADE FAIR INITIATIVE – 2025

During a recent meeting at Ireland West Airport, which included representatives from Galway, Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Roscommon, and Mayo, a proposal was made to conduct a trade fair to two new destinations serviced by the airport. This initiative, in partnership with Tourism Ireland, mirrors a successful event held in 2024 and represents a vital opportunity to solidify Galway's presence in key international markets.



BEACHES

Twenty-seven beaches in County Galway will be monitored during the upcoming bathing season which runs from 1st June to the 15th of September. 95% of bathing waters sampled during 2024 had excellent water quality.

Galway County Council have applied to An Taisce for Eight beaches for the Prestigious Blue Flag award and six beaches for the Green Coast Award for the 2025 Bathing season. A National Awards Ceremony will be held in May 2025 where all awarded bathing areas will be announced prior to the commencement of the 2025 bathing Season.

Blue Flag applications were made for the following Bathing Areas:

- Long Point at Loughrea Lake
- Portumna Bathing Area
- Trá Inis Oirr
- Trá an Dóilin in An Cheathrú Rua
- An Trá Mhór in Indreabhan an
- Trá Cill Mhuirbhígh in Inis Mór
- Traught, Kinvara
- Céibh an Spidéal, an Spidéal

Blue flags are awarded to bathing areas that meet excellent water quality standards and provide various information provisions and amenities, including lifeguards and toilet facilities.



Is Trá Saor ó Bhruscar atá anseo
Bainfidh formhór na ndaoine a thugann cuairt ar an trá seo úsáid as bosca bruscair nó tabharfaidh siad a gcuid dramhaiola abhaile.
An ndéanfaidh tusa?

This is a Litter Free Beach
Most people who visit this beach will use a bin or bring their waste home. **Will you?**

Fáilte

Fáilte | Welcome
Meas | Respect
Cosain | Protect
Bailigh | Collect

Galway County Council



Green Coast Applications were made for the following Bathing Areas:

- Poll na gCaorach, Formna, Inis Oirr
- Aillebrack, Ballyconneely
- Trá Inis Oírr
- Dumhach , Inishbofin
- East End, Inishbofin
- Rinvyle Beach, Tully

The Green Coast Award is a symbol of environmental excellence and has been established to acknowledge, promote and protect the environment of our beaches. The award is for beaches which have excellent water quality, but which are also prized for their natural, unspoilt environment. Applicant sites must be managed in partnership with the local community to be considered for the Green Coast Award.



- Introduction of the Galway County Council Anti-Litter Ambassador Programme
- Anti-litter and anti dumping signage on Beaches
- Continued Litter Awareness campaigns on Social media platforms
- Ongoing Community Warning monitoring of illegal dumping and investigation of reported illegal dumping incidents

LIFEGUARD SERVICE

Galway County Council operates a shared lifeguard service for both Galway County Council and Galway City Council during the bathing season.

A lifeguard service will operate during the summer months, lifeguard hours are **11am - 7pm**, times are subject to change depending on availability of lifeguards and resources at the following locations:

- 1 Ceibh Nua An Spidéal**
(Limited Parking & Portaloos)
- 2 An Cnoc, Indreabhán**
(Parking & Permanent Toilets)
- 3 An Ceathrú Rua**
(Parking & Permanent Toilets)
- 4 Traught, Kinvara**
(Parking, Permanent Toilets & Showers)
- 5 Loughrea**
(Parking, Permanent Toilets & Showers)
- 6 Portuma**
(Parking, Permanent Toilets & Showers)
- 7 Inis Oírr**
(No Parking, Permanent Toilets)
- 8 Inis Mór**
(No Parking, Permanent Toilets)
- 9 Gurteen Roundstone**
(Weekends Only, Limited Parking & Portaloos)
- 10 Trá na mBan, An Spidéal**
(Weekends Only, Public Toilet in Village, Parking)



These beaches will operate as follows during the bathing season.

- For the month of June, the locations mentioned to the right will have a Lifeguard Service on weekends only (bank holidays included) from 11am until 7pm.
- These locations will then convert to a daily service for July and August with Lifeguards on duty from 11am until 7pm, except Gurteen and Spiddal Road, weekends only.
- A weekend service will commence for all areas for the 1st and 2nd weekend in September.

Galway City Beaches

Galway City Beaches have a daily service for July and August with Lifeguards on duty from 11am until 7pm. There are four designated beaches in the Galway City area:

- 1 Salthill**
- 2 Sliverstrand**
- 3 Ballyloughane**
- 4 Grattan**

COMMUNITY WARDENS



Community Wardens work with local communities to improve the physical environment through education, enforcement and local action. They monitor and report Council issues and liaise with the community and work hand in hand with the community coordinators in their areas and with staff in other directorates of the Council as well as with various stakeholders. Community Wardens will have increased patrols at Tourist locations over the summer period.

County Wide (Supervising Community Warden)	Chris Harrington
Athenry/Oranmore East	Thomas O'Sullivan
Athenry/Oranmore West	Laura Mullins
Ballinasloe North	Tony Cunnane
Ballinasloe South	Mike Kelly
Ballinasloe Town	Rory O'Connor
Ballinasloe MD	John Glennon
Connemara East	Fiona Connolly Loftus
Connemara North & West	Michelle McTavish
Connemara South	Martin Mannion
Loughrea	Liam Brien
Loughrea South (Portumna)	David Kelly
Loughrea West (Gort)	Martin Cummins
Tuam North	Pat Roche
Tuam Town	Tomás Clancy
Tuam West	Willie Doyle



FIRE SERVICE

Fire safety in the home is important all year round but in the summer months there are additional risks such as the use of B-B-Qs. Remember the STOP Fire Message;

- S** Smoke Alarm
- T** Test Alarms Weekly
- O** Obvious Dangers
- P** Plan your escape

Outdoor activities are often a great way to spend your leisure time, but they have their own risks. It's easy to get distracted while cooking. These simple precautions will reduce the risks:

- Never BBQ on a balcony
- Make sure your barbecue is in good working order
- Ensure the barbecue is on a flat site, away from the house/apartment, trees or shrubs
- Keep children, garden games and pets away from the cooking area
- Never leave the barbecue unattended
- Keep a bucket of sand or a suitable extinguisher nearby for emergencies
- Never barbecue in parks, wildland areas or any site near vegetation, trees etc.
- Ensure the barbecue is cool before attempting to move it
- Gas cylinders should be used in accordance with manufacturer's instructions

Visit **FireIreland.ie** for more information and complete your on-line home fire safety check at:

English Version: [Home Fire Safety Checklist](#)
Irish Version: [Seicliosta Sábháilteachta](#)
[Dóiteáin Baile](#)

Over the Summer months we get called to a lot of wildland (gorse and forest) fires. They are all preventable and take up valuable resources which may not be available for other more serious incidents. Wildland fires also threaten homes. Heed the advice in our wildfire leaflet available on <https://www.galway.ie/en/media/Wildfires.pdf>



Galway Fire & Rescue Service
Seirbhís Dóiteáin agus Tarrthála na Gaillimhe



An Garda Síochána

Wildfire Information for Farmers & Landowners

- It is illegal to burn on open ground for the control of growing vegetation between February 28th and September 1st.
- Farmers and landowners in breach risk prosecution and or penalties under the Dept. of Agriculture's support payments for farmers (Single Farm Payment, AEOS, REPS, Disadvantaged Area Scheme).
- Galway County Council will impose a charge on the owners or the beneficial occupiers of the land or property in relation to the attendance of the Fire Service.

Wildfire Information for the Public

- Avoid lighting fires outdoors when there are high winds or high temperatures
- Do not discard cigarette ends - make sure they are extinguished completely
- Report anyone acting irresponsibly or carelessly with fire in the countryside.

Please Remember!

Wildfires are a serious drain on Fire Service resources. Fire crews may be delayed in attending life threatening house fires or road traffic collisions when fighting wildfires.



MUNICIPAL SERVICES



Athenry/Oranmore	23
Tuam	25
Loughrea	27
Connemara	29
Ballinasloe	31



Athenry/Oranmore

Examples of new/upgraded facilities in the Athenry/Oranmore MD include:



Maree Road Cycleway – Community involvement scheme



Lavally Drainage District Works – Athenry River Cleaning



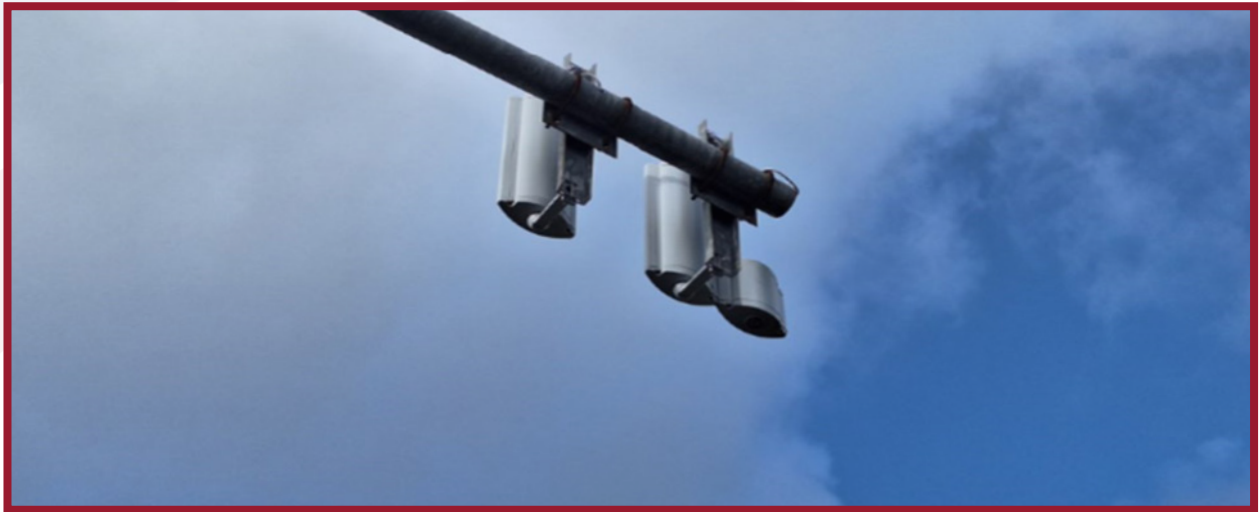
NS New Pedestrian Crossing Lights



Coast Road Oranmore Footpath and Roadworks



Hedge Cutting R446 Dual Carriageway into Galway City



Carnmore Cross Traffic Lights Repair



Oranmore Pedestrian Crossing Old Limerick Road

Palace Grounds

Green Flag status had been retained in April 2025 for the Palace Grounds in Tuam from 'an Taisce'. Galway County Council were also successful in our application for 'Green Heritage Site Accreditation', a first for Galway County Council, this is awarded to public green spaces of historical and cultural significance.

Sensory Garden – the works in the Sensory Garden have recommenced. It's envisaged that the Sensory Garden will be opened in late June, and an official opening will take place Dog Park – works will recommence in

the coming month once conditions improve. It is envisaged that the dog park will be opened in May, and an official opening will take place. Sports grant Galway County Council has secured funding from the Participation Nation Outdoor.

Fund for the installation of permanent sports equipment in the park. The Palace Grounds in Tuam has received funding for the installation of a 3v3 Basketball Court. Works for this installation will take place in the coming month.



R332 Kilbannon Scheme

- R332 Kilbannon - Department of Transport has given approval to proceed to Tender
- The scheme has been tendered and had a closing date in in early March.
- All tender documents have been assessed by Galway County Council and a winning contractor has been identified.
- Further sanction will be required from the Department of Transport in due course and all land compensation must be processed before any construction works commence.



New Street Signage Headford

New Street Name signage was recently installed on each street in Headford town.



Marina, Portumna

Facilities are available year-round to users of the facility.

All bathing area Public Toilets have been fully reopened since Friday the 31st of May. Signage is in place to indicate to the public the opening times at all three locations i.e. Traught Beach, The Long Point, Loughrea and the Swimming Area, Portumna.

Traught Beach

A seasonal caretaker is in position and will monitor and address any issues as required. Designated parking, toilets, picnic benches and cycle parking facilities are available. The Tawnagh Causeway which forms part of the access road to Traught Beach was badly damaged by Storm Debi. Restoration works will shortly be underway with a specialist conservation contractor currently being appointed.



Kite Surfing on Traught Beach



Portumna Swimming Zone,
Portumna, Co. Galway

Swimming Area, Portumna

This location is maintained by a combination of a shared permanent caretaker and outdoor staff who will continue to monitor and address any issues as they arise. Designated parking, picnic benches and cycle parking racks are available.



Long Point

This area is monitored and maintained by the Loughrea Town Gardener. When absent, alternative arrangements are made in combination with our outdoor staff. The toilet and shower facility are open throughout the day, and the location is also additionally monitored from a litter collection perspective each weekend. There are no obvious parking issues most times, except those all too rare periods of particularly good and prolonged weather. Solar powered compacting bins, cycle racks, a water dispenser and disabled friendly picnic benches are available. Additional seating and lake access ladders have been installed recently.



Summer is rapidly approaching and in the **Conamara Municipal District**, we are preparing for the arrival of visitors to the area.

In line with last summer, we are again rolling out an increased level of services to our beaches. This will include the provision of toilets and/or refuse bins at several of our most-visited beaches from 31st May 2025 as follows:

Dog's Bay, Roundstone	Toilets
Caladh Mhuinse, Cill Chiaráin	Toilets and Bins
Gurteen, Roundstone	Toilets and Bins
Lettergesh, Renvyle	Bins
Glasillaun, Renvyle	Bins
Trá na bhForbacha	Toilets and Bins
Céibh Nua, An Spidéal (See further detail on the next page)	Toilets and Bins
Mannin, Bunowen	Toilets
Trá Mhór, Indreabhán	Toilets and Bins
Trá Houston, Leitir Mealláin	Bins
Trá an Dóilín, An Cheathrú Rua	Toilets and Bins
Trá Mhór, Tír an Fhia	Bins
Trá Maíros, Carna	Toilets and Bins

All facilities will be serviced regularly as required.

We are again expecting a flurry of outdoor leisure and sporting activities on land as well as at sea, such as wind surfing, cycling, boating, hill walking, paddle boarding, to name but a few.



Newly Surfaced and Lined Carpark at An Seanchéibh sa Spidéal



One of 6 Disabled Parking Bays in An Spidéal village.



Above photograph of **Céibh Nua, An Spidéal** where the local area office in conjunction with the Environment Section and Corporate Services (Water Safety Section) have been busy delivering improved facilities for universal access to the beach and to the temporary toilets that will be installed during the summer months.

Works comprised a new slipway to the beach for wheelchair users, footpaths to and from the lifeguard hut (where the beach wheelchair will be kept and made available to members

of the public), new picnic benches and a clean-up of obsolete signage and poles. A new water connection has been provided for a public shower which will shortly be installed near the lifeguard hut. It is hoped that these works will strengthen the case for a successful application for Blue Flag beach status at this location.



Over the summer, Galway County Council carries out grass cutting of parks, public spaces, road verges, green areas in housing estates, (1st cut mid-March, last cut early October) while supporting nature and pollinators by leaving some designated area uncut.

In Laurencetown, the council's own Community Employment Scheme maintains the village with litter picking and grass cutting.

Galway County Council uses a mechanical brusher to remove weeds and vegetation on Ballinasloe Town's Streets as an environmentally friendly alternative to the use of pesticides.

Seven existing Disabled Parking facilities in Ballinasloe Town have been painted blue to highlight them on Dunlo Street, Society Street and Main Street.



The Fair Green in Ballinasloe hosted the Cyclocross National Series event in January 2025, hosted by Ballinasloe Cycling Club.



The 3rd phase of new footpaths is being constructed at Beechlawn which creates a new safe and accessible walking loop around the southern side of Ballinasloe Town, under NTA Active Travel funding. Elsewhere, footpath replacement upgrades have been undertaken on Bridge Street and Marina Carparks.



Recently, new **Bus Stop** facilities have been installed at Moylough, Mountbellew and Ballymoe.



Moylough



Mountbellew



An example of road re-surfacing works completed on the former National Road R446 from Ballinasloe to Loughrea.



Repairs completed to the Blacksmiths Ty-Ring Platform at St Michaels Square, Ballinasloe



Junction sightline setback improvement works completed at Dun Ida, Ballinasloe, funded by a Community Involvement Scheme (CIS)



GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL ARTS OFFICE

Arts Office

Promoting and Supporting Creative Galway



Galway Culture Night is expected to take place on Friday, 19 September 2025. The event is now in its 20th year.

The idea behind the event is to celebrate all aspects of Irish multicultural life, particularly with regards to creativity and the arts. The event aims to maintain, promote and enhance the rich culture we have here in Ireland and highlight the multitude of cultural places for people to discover in Galway City & County.

For a listing of all Culture Night events taking place in the county click on www.culturenight.ie.



GALWAY SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

Mens Health Week 9th June to 15th June 2025

Galway Sports Partnership will be supporting several programmes throughout the week ranging from taster sessions with Mens Sheds, Activator Programmes utilising our new FitStick Trails, Information Events and much more!



National Play Day

The aim of **National Play Day** is to promote play and recreation opportunities for children and young people across the country.

In 2025, events for National Play Day can take place on any day or combination of days between 5th July and 13th July 2025 inclusive. The theme for 2025 is 'The Power of Play'

Galway Sports Partnership in collaboration with Galway County Council will be promoting Play throughout the week with some highlights being the provision of play packs for family resource centres and a Play Day Event at Tuam Palace Grounds. For more information on **Play Day** contact galwayactive@galwaycoco.ie



HER Outdoors Week

Her Outdoors returns once again in 2025, and Galway LSP will be hosting some fabulous events for women and girls to highlight activities available in the outdoors.

HER Outdoors week aims to celebrate and encourage more females to get out and enjoy the benefits of being in the outdoors while bringing visibility to the opportunities for females to get involved in outdoor physical activity. This week is all about providing more opportunities for ALL females to escape to the outdoors and try something new.

Galway LSP will be hosting a variety of events for girls and women of all ages – so if you would like to sample some events, please check Galway Sports Partnerships Website for more details of all that will be available in the great outdoors of Galway!

Ἀς Γεληύραδῃ Celebrating
Ἀν Χέιρδ ᾶ Century
Galway Leabharlanna
Public Libraries Poblís na Gaillimhe

100

GALWAY LIBRARY SERVICES

Galway Library Service is preparing to welcome children for an exciting summer of reading and learning. Our Summer Reading Adventure is an annual national library initiative running from June to the end of August, encouraging children across Galway to become Summer Stars by reading for pleasure during the school holidays.

Reading over the summer helps maintain literacy levels, fosters joy, enhances empathy and understanding, and sparks imagination. We invite as many children and families as possible to join us in our libraries for this adventure!

Every participant will receive a bag, a seeded bookmark, and an A4 activity booklet upon

signing up. At the end of the summer, children who complete the challenge will be awarded a certificate and a medal at special ceremonies held in the libraries.

Throughout County Galway, we will host a variety of events and activities in both English and Gaeilge, including poetry, art, and drama workshops, storytelling sessions, and much more! These events will align with our 2025 children's programming theme, *Grow Your Imagination*. Additionally, we will run a county-wide poetry competition, awarding €100 book tokens to two winners in each municipal district.



The **Summer Stars** program will be officially launched in Ballinasloe Library at 12 PM on Saturday, 14th June.

We will continue to offer additional Literacy Supports for Children throughout the Summer months. To further support children's literacy development, we provide access to **Touch Type Read and Spell** (TTRS) and Nessy licenses, particularly benefiting children with dyslexia.

Nessy is an interactive literacy program that allows children to learn independently and at their own pace, gradually building

confidence in reading and spelling. Free licenses are available at any library in Galway City and County or via email at westside@galwaylibrary.ie

Touch Type Read and Spell (TTRS) is an award-winning, multi-sensory course that teaches typing, reading, and spelling. For more information or to request a free license, visit any library in Galway City or County or email info@galwaylibrary.ie.

We look forward to welcoming young readers and learners to our libraries this summer!



HIGH SPEED BROADBAND CONNECTION

Broadband Connection Points (BCPs)

Under the National Broadband Plan, Broadband Connection Points (BCPs) serve as public locations offering High-speed connectivity. They were some of the first locations in the state to receive High speed broadband under the state intervention contract. The set up of BCP's is considered by the government as a long-term investment, which will help rural communities to fulfil their full potential. It is part of the 'Connected Communities Initiative' between the Government, NBI and Vodafone.

Currently, there are 21 live BCPs across the county, including the islands of Inishbofin, Inis Mór, Inis Meain, and Inis Oír. Some of these chosen BCPs are strategically placed in tourism destinations, such as the Portumna Irish Workhouse Centre Famine Museum.

Each BCP provides free external Wi-Fi access to the public, with several locations also offering excellent facilities for remote work, study, digital skill training, and promotion of arts and culture.

BCPs play a vital role in supporting their communities by emphasising digital inclusion, digital skills, community engagement, and various activities. Additionally, they offer a social space for in-person connections among community members, contributing to overall health and well-being. Access to these resources expands choices and opportunities for community members. Galway County Council leverages the PPN network to promote BCPs.

BATTLE OF AUGHRIM VISITOR CENTRE

The award-winning Battle of Aughrim Visitor Centre in Aughrim, Co. Galway, commemorates the Battle of Aughrim, 'Ireland's Gettysburg', fought on 12th July 1691, during the closing stages of the Williamite-Jacobite War.

Experience the Battle of Aughrim Visitor Centre and learn of the fascinating story behind the epic battle between William of Orange, James II, and Louis XIV, where 35,000 soldiers took to the battlefield and helped shape European history.

The interpretive visitor centre has incredibly detailed displays giving great insights into each of the three kings and their armies. Relive the battle through intricate illustrations and large-scale models showing the various stages of the day. See what it was like for soldiers at the time thanks to the amazing 'Dalton's Letter' film and historical re-enactments.



After your self-guided tour, take a walk along the Historical Trail or the Battlefield Trail. The Battle of Aughrim Visitor Centre is open seasonally from May to September each year.

Opening hours:
10:30am–4:30pm Tuesday–Saturday and 2–5pm on Sundays.

Last Admission:
4pm (Tuesday–Saturday) and 4.30pm on Sundays.

School tours, groups, special interest & educational tours are all welcome and enquiries can be sent to battleofaughrim@galwaycoco.ie





JTF DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION APPLICATION: FÁILTE IRELAND & GCC

An application was successfully made under the JTF Digital Transformation scheme to develop a new tourism website for the Battle of Aughrim Center.

This project aims to

- Create a new promotional website for the Centre,
- Create an online booking system.
- Develop a suite of related social media channels to market the Battle of Aughrim Centre as a must-visit tourism destination.
- Create a digital marketing strategy.

The GCC tourism team is now engaged with Fáilte Ireland appointed web consultants to create the new website, social channels, and digital marketing strategy for the Battle of Aughrim Centre.



Since 2006, the **Athenry Heritage Centre** in partnership with Galway County Council has curated Athenry's Walled Towns Day.

This one-day festival provides a programme of events which displays the Anglo-Norman influences in the medieval town of Athenry. The event is held in the Community Park, Athenry Castle, the Heritage Centre and the Community Hall.

Athenry Walled Towns Day is designed to be inclusive, accessible, fun and free for all to attend. The programme reflects the medieval history of Athenry, and the event is a platform for local craft and artisan food producers to showcase their products.

The displays range from falconry, arts & crafts, have a go archery, battle reenactments, displays of weaponry, children's craft workshops, medieval music, storytelling, and puppet shows.

Athenry Castle is used for various lectures, children's craft workshops and music displays in the Great Hall. The event is usually held at the beginning of Heritage Week which is the last week of August and attracts up to 5000 people on the day.

The event is one of many Walled Towns Days held throughout Ireland and is supported by the Heritage Council and Galway County Council.

For more information see: www.athenryheritagecentre.com

Exploring Our Foundations



National
Heritage Week

A Heritage Council programme

16th – 24th August

HERITAGE WEEK 16TH – 24TH AUGUST 2025

National Heritage Week celebrates Ireland's cultural, built, and natural heritage.

This Year's theme is "**Exploring Our Foundations**". The theme invites us to delve into the building blocks of our heritage; not just the structures, but the landscapes and cultural activities that have shaped us.

For more details:

www.heritageweek.ie

www.heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org

Féile na gCloch 11th - 14th September. A celebration of all aspects of stone craft from stone wall building to lettering and carving; paving, using hot limes and sketching and more.

For more details see: www.heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org



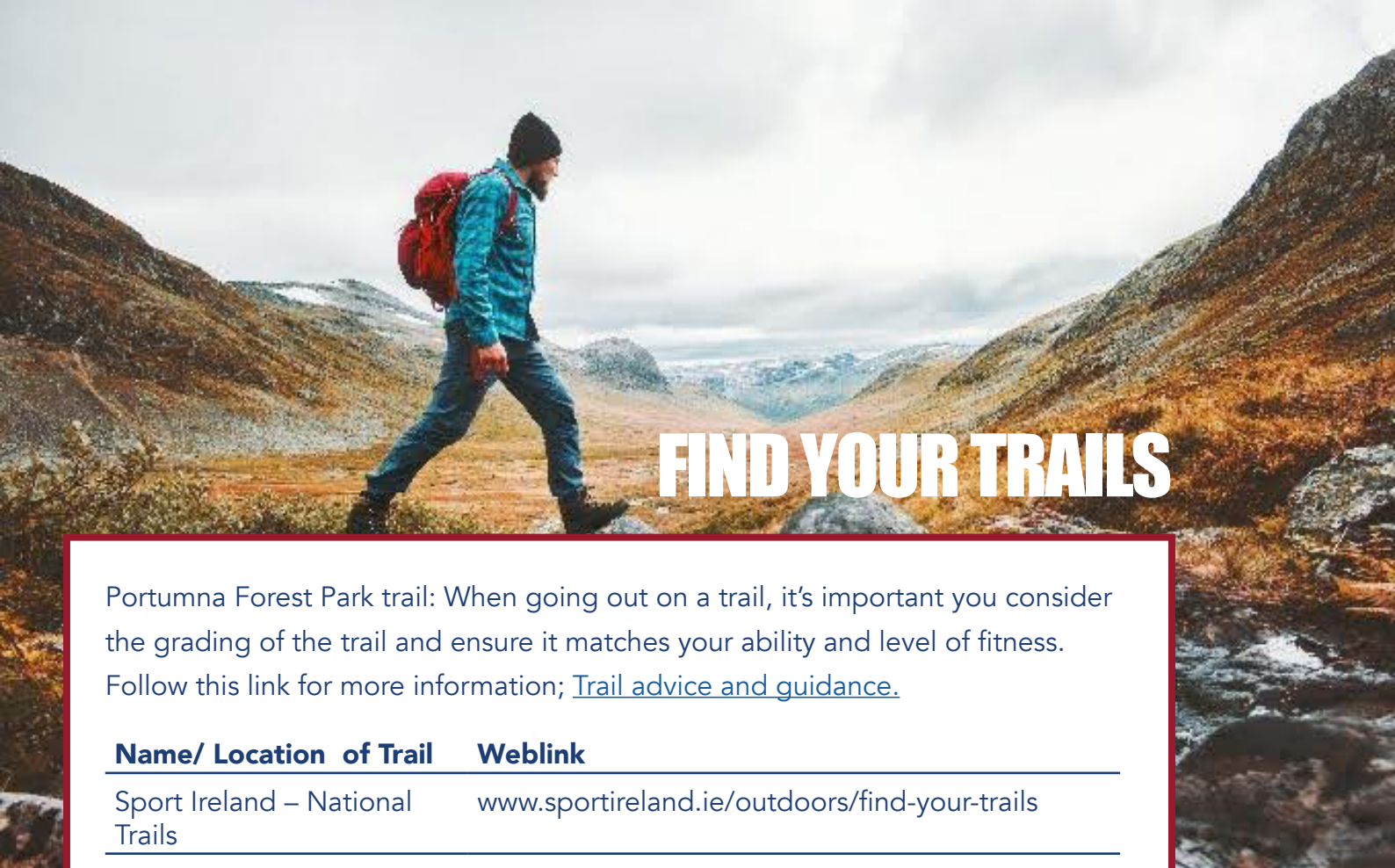
Heritage Trails around the County: Go Explore!



Abbey Village	https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/3b1e021e116241b2bdc8c1fd4b5e29ca
Annaghdown	https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/72fe361f467444428fb-4b36234999120?item=6
Athenry	https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/72fe361f467444428fb-4b36234999120?item=1
Athenry Memory Map & Heritage Trail Trail by kids for kids	https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/places/athenry-medieval-memory-map-trail-for-kid-by-kids-sli-mapa-cuimhne-bhaile-atha-an-ri-sa-mheanaois-do-leanai-le-leanai
Ballyglunin	https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/72fe361f467444428fb-4b36234999120?item=9
Battle of Aughrim Visitor Centre	https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/places/battle-of-aughrim-visitor-centre
Carrownagappul Bog	https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/0969f37a-469f4ee8aa67a11e12d95421?item=1
Creggs	https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/72fe361f467444428fb-4b36234999120?item=13
Dunmore: Digital Story	https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/323a6fb90a0d4c7b803ec6116aaf19af
Derrycrag Woods	https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/0969f37a-469f4ee8aa67a11e12d95421?item=5
Galway East Trails and Tours	https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/places/galway-east
Glenamaddy Turlough	https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/0969f37a-469f4ee8aa67a11e12d95421?item=6
Kilbought Church and Graveyard, Kilreechill	https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/8ef529b34852438b9dbd4e20cf74dc81#ref-n-rQrWSq
Killimor Heritage Trail	https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/places/killimor-heritage-group/places-killimor-heritage-group/killimor-heritage-trail

Knockma Woods Loop	https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/0969f37a-469f4ee8aa67a11e12d95421?item=2
Loughrea Heritage Trail	https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/places/loughrea-heritage-trail
Map of 1916 Rising in County Galway	https://dpdgay9x1sxad.cloudfront.net/heritage/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2016/04/map02.pdf
Mountbellew: A pocket guide to its heritage	https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/places/mountbellew-heritage-andtourism-network/mountbellew-pocket-guide-5
Lawrencetown Heritage Trail	https://dpdgay9x1sxad.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2018/03/Final-Lawrencetown-Heritage-Map-Leaflet.pdf
Loughnane Brothers Heritage Trail	https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/72fe361f467444428fb-4b36234999120?item=5
Loughrea Virtual Medieval Festival	https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/topics/loughrea-virtual-medieval-festival
Loughrea Memory Map & Heritage Trail	https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/places/loughrea-medieval-memory-map-trail-for-kid-by-kids
Mannion Clan Historical Trail	https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/72fe361f467444428fb-4b36234999120?item=14
Milltown	https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/72fe361f467444428fb-4b36234999120?item=15
Monivea	https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/72fe361f467444428fb-4b36234999120?item=10
Monivea Demesne	https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/0969f37a-469f4ee8aa67a11e12d95421?item=4
Mountbellew	https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/72fe361f467444428fb-4b36234999120?item=8
Mountbelllew Woodland Trail	https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/0969f37a469f4ee8aa67a11e12d95421?item=11

Oranmore Heritage Trail	https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/places/oranmore-heritage/oranmore-heritage-trail and https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/72fe361f-467444428fb4b36234999120?item=11
Rahasane Turlough	https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/0969f37a-469f4ee8aa67a11e12d95421?item=7
Rinville Park	https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/0969f37a-469f4ee8aa67a11e12d95421?item=8
Ross Errilly Franciscan Friary	http://monastic.ie/history/ross-errilly-franciscan-friary/
Roundstone	https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/72fe361f467444428fb4b36234999120?item=12
Tawin Island	https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/0969f37a-469f4ee8aa67a11e12d95421?item=9
St Kerrill's, Abbey, Cloonkeenkerrill	https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/8ef529b34852438b9dbd4e20cf74dc81
Wetlands of Northeast Galway	https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/0969f37a469f4ee8aa67a11e12d95421?item=10
Williamstown Bog	https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/0969f37a-469f4ee8aa67a11e12d95421?item=3



FIND YOUR TRAILS

Portumna Forest Park trail: When going out on a trail, it's important you consider the grading of the trail and ensure it matches your ability and level of fitness. Follow this link for more information; [Trail advice and guidance](#).

Name/ Location of Trail	Weblink
Sport Ireland – National Trails	www.sportireland.ie/outdoors/find-your-trails
Coillte Trails	www.coillte.ie/activity/walking/
EuroVelo Cycling Route	Atlantic Coast Route by Bike EuroVelo Ireland
Joyce Country Geopark	www.Joycecountrygeoparkproject.ie
Lough Derg Blueway	www.bluewaysireland.org/destinations/lough-derg
National Parks	www.nationalparks.ie/connemara/
Discover the Wild Atlantic Way	www.thewildatlanticway.com/map/?wpv-stage=-connemara&wpv_aux_current_post_id=477&wpv_view_count=12882
Millennium Forest Locations	Millennium Forest Location Millennium Forests Ireland
The Beara Breifne Way	www.bearabreifneway.ie/
Coolepark	www.coolepark.ie/trails
The Walks Loughrea	www.facebook.com/people/The-Walks-Loughrea/100071264032305/
Connemara and the Islands	www.connemara.ie/listing-category/see-and-do/walks-siuloidi/
Glenamaddy Frass Loop	www.glenamaddyheritage.com/parish/townlands/frass/
Lackagh - Knockdoemore Walking Trail	maps.app.goo.gl/Xa9Ay8w3ZQ57ttSz6
Headford Lace Trail	www.headfordlaceproject.ie/images/projects/Headford_Lace_Trail.pdf
Sandybanks Lane Walkway, Headford	maps.app.goo.gl/gCPMPFRZ5saLMtJcA

Name/ Location of Trail	Weblink
Knockma Hill	https://www.galwaytourism.ie/knockma-hill/
The Western Way	http://thewesternway.ie/
Kilcornan Walking trails	Kilcornan Woodland Circular, County Galway, Ireland - 103 Reviews, Map AllTrails
Gort River Walk	https://maps.app.goo.gl/gAqueZb9RThRGAJr5
Killarainey Woods, Maigh Cuilinn	https://www.sportireland.ie/outdoors/walking/trails/Maigh Cuilinn-maigh-cuilinn-heritage-trails-killarainey-woods-walk
Sliabh Aughty Walking Trails	https://www.sportireland.ie/outdoors/walking/trails/slieve-aughty-trails-gortnamanagh-loop
Aghrane Forest Trail, Ballygar	https://maps.app.goo.gl/oDx4ZDNzRnkyCkJg9
Derrygill Millennium Oak Forest	https://maps.app.goo.gl/CbYnat3efAvJKMsw7
Mam Éan Trail, Derryveala-wauma	https://maps.app.goo.gl/irkTbzoQTHcsjJp4A
Clonbur Wood	https://maps.app.goo.gl/qzst6h54vFaUrKzu9
Slí Chonamara	https://www.sportireland.ie/outdoors/walking/trails/sli-chonamara
Sheanadh Mhacha, Leitir Mucú	https://www.plotaroute.com/route/1555996
Castlegrove Woods, Kilconly	https://maps.app.goo.gl/pZT8cza4BkDK5qmn6
Lough Derg Blueway - Portumna Harbour to Portumna Bridge	https://maps.app.goo.gl/vVimGu69jut2aj6cA
Lismany-Kylemore Bog Walk, Lawrencetown	https://maps.app.goo.gl/tFgq5Rb89DzUntTc6
Canon Oliver Hughes Park Walkway, Corofin	https://maps.app.goo.gl/wcPJPwTFU8axqKao6

TRAIL PHOTOS

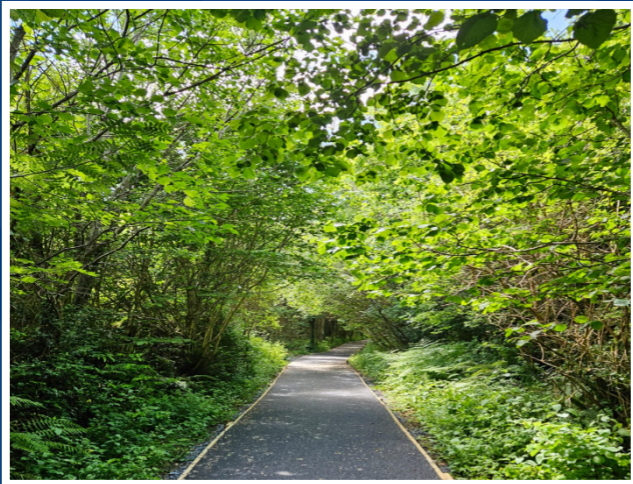
The following projects were funded by the Department of Rural & Community Development (DRCD) through the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS). Galway County Council working in Partnership with the local community groups and State Agencies.



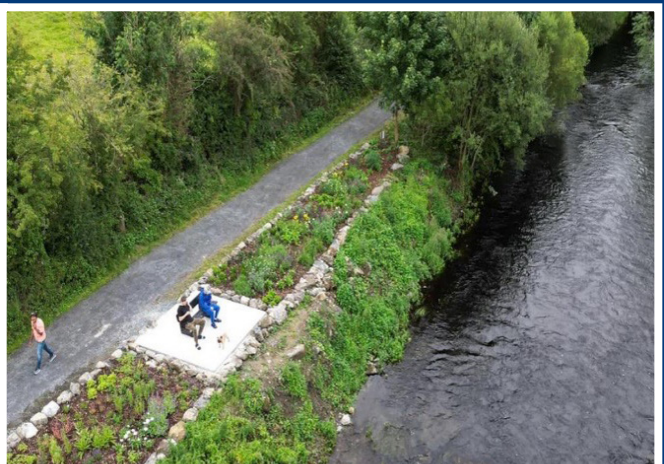
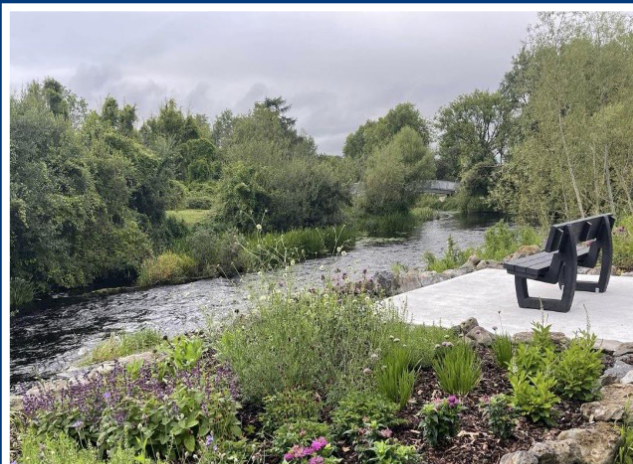
▲ **Kilcornan Walking Trails**, Clarinbridge in partnership with Brothers of Charity, Coillte and Galway County Council.



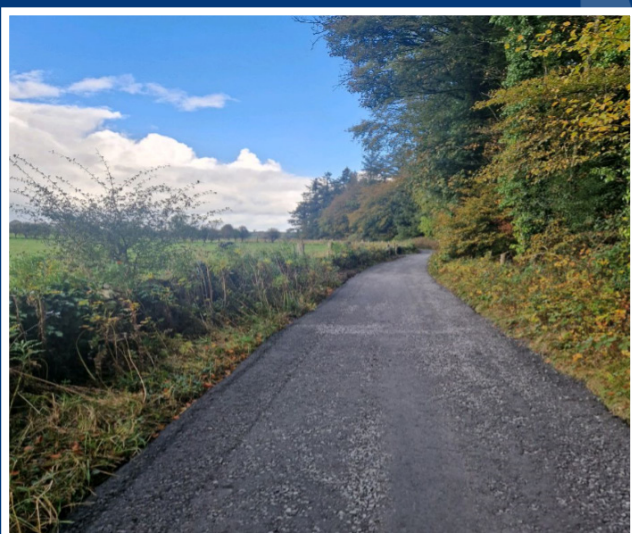
▼ **Killarainy Woods Trail, Maigh Cuilinn**



▼ **Gort River Walk, Gort**



▼ **Castlegrove Woods, Kilconly, Tuam** Funded through ORIS and Coillte



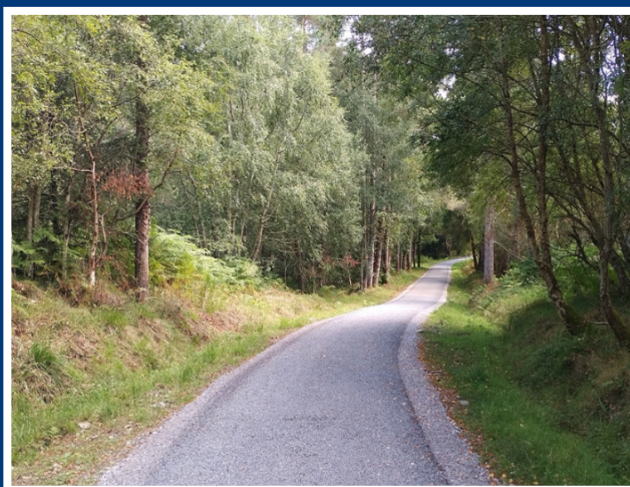
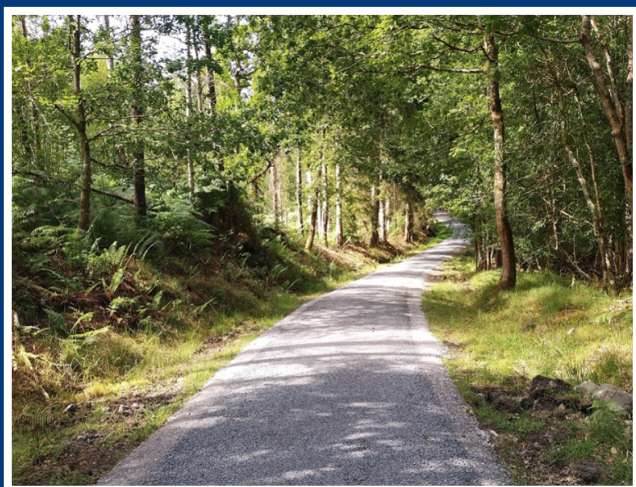
▼ **Clonbur Cycle Trails** - in Partnership with Coillte



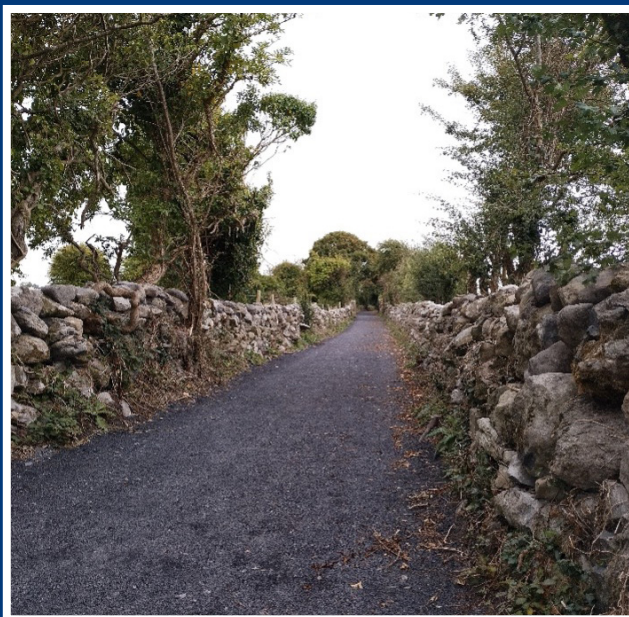
▼ **Portumna Harbour Walkway** – In Partnership with Waterways Ireland



▼ **Derrygill Millenium Oak Forest Trail, Woodford** – In Partnership with Coillte



▼ **Sandybanks Lane Walkway, Headford**



▼ **Lackagh - Knockdoemore Walking Trail**



▼ **Aughrane Forest Trail**, Ballygar in partnership with Coillte



▼ **Lismany Kylemore Bog Boardwalk Trail**, Lawrencetown



▼ **Canon Oliver Hughes Park Walkway**, Corofin



▼ Glenamaddy/Frass Looped Walks



▼ The Walks, Loughrea



SUMMER READY





Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

