

Conference Schedule 2024



Monday 2nd Sept

08:00 - 09:00 - Exhibitors set up

09:00 - 09:30 - Tea, Coffee & Networking in the Exhibition area

09:30-10:00: Opening address & Special guests

(CEO Leitrim Development Company Chris Gonley)

Trailblazing Kickoff: Setting the Path Ahead A visual presentation of the expansion of the Irish Trail Network over previous years hosted by Sport Ireland.

St Declan's Way trail story: Gráinne Moynihan, Chairperson of St Declan's Way, will share insights into developing the 115km pilgrim walking trail in Co. Waterford.

Navigating the Future of Irish Trails: Key statutory bodies in shaping the future of trail development in Ireland: DRCD, Sport Ireland, Fáilte Ireland & Leitrim County Council

11:00-11:30: Tea, Coffee & Networking in the Exhibition area

11:30: Leitrim Recreation Forum panel discussion: A learning opportunity for counties wishing to establish a Recreational Forum

Mind Over Trails: Becoming more 'grounded' An upbeat keynote presentation by psychologist Shane Martin C. Psychol.,Ps. S. I.

12:45-13:45: Lunch Break: Savor & Connect A nutritious hot dinner will be served.

13:45-14:30: Breaking Barriers: Embracing Diversity and Inclusion on Trails- Presentation by Noel Joyce

Followed by a Panel discussion with Sanctuary Runners(AneMarie Sheehan) / Noel Martin / Liquid Therapy (Tom Losey) Venture Out (Barry Dillon)

Unleashing Adventure: Thrills and Discovery Along the Trail- Dr. Karen Weeks shares her own experiences from numerous ultra-endurance expeditions

15:15: Cultivating Relationships:The Community and Landowners' Role in Trail Development - Panel discussion John Egan (Rural Recreation Officer /Farmer) Sean Mc Keon (Landowner / Farmer on walks scheme), Teresa Roche(IFA), Brian Smith (Leitrim Development Company)

An Evening of Networking:

16.45 - 18.30: Kayak Conversation with Jasper Winn & Gwen Wilkinson- [Booking Essential—click here!](#)

19:00-21:00: Relax and experience the adventure and thrill of a luxury cruise down the River Shannon. Light refreshments included. [Book Now – limited spaces](#)

Conference Schedule 2024



Tuesday 3rd Sept

7.30 - 9 Trail Run Trial / Walk with Trail Criú Free event [Book Now –required](#)

09:00 - 09:30 - Tea, Coffee & Networking in the Exhibition area

09:30 Opening address (CEO Leitrim Development Company Chris Gonley)

National Famine Way Story by Caroilin Callery

Coillte - Role in the trail network

Technology on trails How technology has improved trail development - Eoin Hogan, Rural Recreation Officer for County Clare

Environmental Access Projects Josephine Kelly – A presentation on the Errigal Mountain restoration project followed by a panel discussion on Recreation in Sensitive Environments, featuring key stakeholders actively working in this field

11:00-11:30: Tea, Coffee & Networking in the Exhibition area

11:30 Inspire and Explore: Tales of Trails Ellie Berry- A visual presentation from Ellie Berry, who has walked over 4,000km of long-distance trails around Ireland

Blueway partnership project Chris Scott- OUTSCAPE A presentation from Chris Scott, Blueway Coordinator and Development Advisor – Blueway Partnership

Jasper Winn advocates slow adventures by paddle, pedal, saddle, boat and sail. He will share his experiences having circumnavigated Ireland by kayak and cycled across the Sahara. Twice

“Don’t forget your shovel...” - Advancing Trail Training In Ireland. Presentation by Vincent Macalinden shares Knowledge and Skills for those involved in Developing and Managing Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure.

Crafting the Sheeps Wool Path - Sustainable Trail Solutions Frank McMahon (on behalf of Mountain Meitheal North West) will give a presentation on the development of the “sheep wool path” along the Leitrim Way as featured on RTE news.

13:30 Lunch Break: Lunch is provided for those attending the afternoon's workshops.

14:00-16:00 Workshop: Crafting the SheepsWool Path - Mountain Meitheal North-West will host an onsite workshop demonstrating how to build a sheep wool path. Location will be given to attendees who have booked. [Book Now – limited spaces!](#)

13:45- Demonstration of Adaptive MTB as used by Noel Martin. Location outside hotel venue

SHEEP WOOL DEMONSTRATION:

Parking is limited on-site, please carpool if possible.

Mountallen Eco Tours, Farm, Mountallen, Co. Roscommon, N41 D288

[Google Maps directions](#)