A CHANGE OF EMPHASIS

A FRESH VISION FOR THE FORESTS OF THE DUBLIN MOUNTAINS

Dublin Mountains Initiative

BACKGROUND

A BRIEF HISTORY

The Dublin Mountains Initiative (DMI) was set up in 2006 to represent the views of the recreational users of the Dublin Mountains and with a stated aim of fostering a development and management plan for this region. Its affiliated organisations are Mountaineering Ireland, the Irish Mountain Running Association, Cycling Ireland, the Irish Orienteering Association and Scouting Ireland. It seeks, in all that it does, to also consider and promote the requirements of the majority of users (families / casual walkers) of the Dublin Mountains who are not members of any of its affiliated organisations.

In 2007 the DMI drew up a document entitled ''A New Vision for The Dublin Mountains''. Many of the items listed under Progress to Date, immediately below, were first suggested in that document. There are also a considerable number of vision items from that document yet to be realised – principal among these are a fundamental change in the remit from the State to Coillte, a change in forest management practices in targeted areas and the creation of a recreational forest park.

The Dublin Mountains Partnership (DMP) was subsequently established in 2008 under a Memorandum of Understanding between Coillte Teoranta, the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, South Dublin County Council and the Dublin Mountains Initiative. Dublin City Council later joined the DMP and also signed up to the MOU. The vision outlined in that MOU was, and is, that ''the Dublin Mountains is a well-resourced and well managed area of significant scenic and high nature conservation that provides a high quality and recreation amenity and experience for the people of Dublin and responsible visitors and sustainable economic activity for those who own or manage the land.''

Since its inception, the DMP has been functioning well and has achieved much, as is outlined briefly below. However the DMI now strongly feels that, ten years on, it is time for a paradigm change and that a fresh approach is required to how the core recreational forestry areas are managed. Central to this must be a change to Coillte's current clear-felling policy, the remit to Coillte that drives that policy and also a reconsideration of the vision for the area, outlined in a fresh Memorandum of Understanding.

Dublin Mountains Initiative

PROGRESS TO DATE

The DMP has had a considerable impact in the ten years of its existence – chief among its achievements to date have been the following:-

- Waymarked trails throughout the region
- The Dublin Mountains Way (Featured in 1001 Walks You Must Experience Before You Die)
- Purpose built single track mountain biking trails
- Slí Na Slainte trails
- Permanent orienteering courses
- Wheelo disabled access orienteering course
- The Volunteer Ranger programme
- Regular guided walks
- A consultative forum that engages with the local communities in the Dublin Mountains
- Bike hire in Ticknock
- Zipit Forest Adventures in Tibradden

Thanks to the implementation of this program over the last 10 years the number of users has grown substantially and there has been a considerable increase in the numbers of walkers, runners, cyclists & other recreational users throughout the area. In particular, it is gratifying to see the increase in the number of family groups and casual walkers spending their time in the forests and mountains.

There is a greater sense that individual sports are now more actively welcomed in the area with the many new walking and cycling paths that have been established. Participant numbers are rocketing - for example, IMRA (the Irish Mountain Running Association) now regularly attracts 250 participants to their midweek races. These utilise almost the entire range of the Dublin Mountains, with races commencing from Hellfire, Tibradden, Ticknock, Ballyedmonduff, Ballinscorney & Cruagh forests.

Orienteering is also very active in the Dublin Mountains, with many of the forests and mountain regions having been recently re-mapped. The principal challenge for orienteers lies in the regular felling programs undertaken by Coillte, with some prime areas seriously affected.

The most successful sport in terms of growth in numbers has undoubtedly been mountain biking - currently all the official trails are in Ticknock, with Biking.ie's bike hire operation now in its second year of business there.

General hiking & rambling is also more evident in the area - the Dublin Mountains Way and the Wicklow Way both attract large numbers, as do events such as Walk the Line and the Dublin Mountains Challenge. Most importantly there are also increasing numbers of casual ramblers, including many families drawn by the pleasure of being out in the countryside with fabulous views across the city and the coastline.

The recent purchase, on behalf of the National Parks and Wildlife Service, of the land stretching up the Dodder catchment area and into the Glenasmole Valley was a progressive and very welcome step. Hopefully this will now ensure that its natural integrity will be maintained and secured for the people of Dublin.

The recent announcement of South Dublin County Council's plan for the development of the Hellfire Forest & Massey's Estate is also of note. This is an area steeped in history that has been long neglected, with widespread anti-social activity and little regard for the historical significance and ecological value it contains. It would be our hope that this development will lead to the preservation and restoration of the beautiful mixed forestry in Massey's Estate and perhaps, in time, even its old walled gardens.

Dublin Mountains Initiative

CHALLENGES

A. RESULTING FROM THE CURRENT SUCCESS

If increasing numbers are a metric of success then the DMI and the DMP have been successful. An analysis by MCA Consulting of counter data from four areas for the twelve month period from July 15 to June 16 estimated the total visitor numbers as follows:- Ticknock (160,000) / Hellfire (79,000) / Cruagh (42,000) / Barnaslingan (25,000). Weekend car counts in Ticknock have risen, over the period of the existence of the DMP, from an average of approximately 30 parked cars at any one time to an average of approximately 120 parked cars.

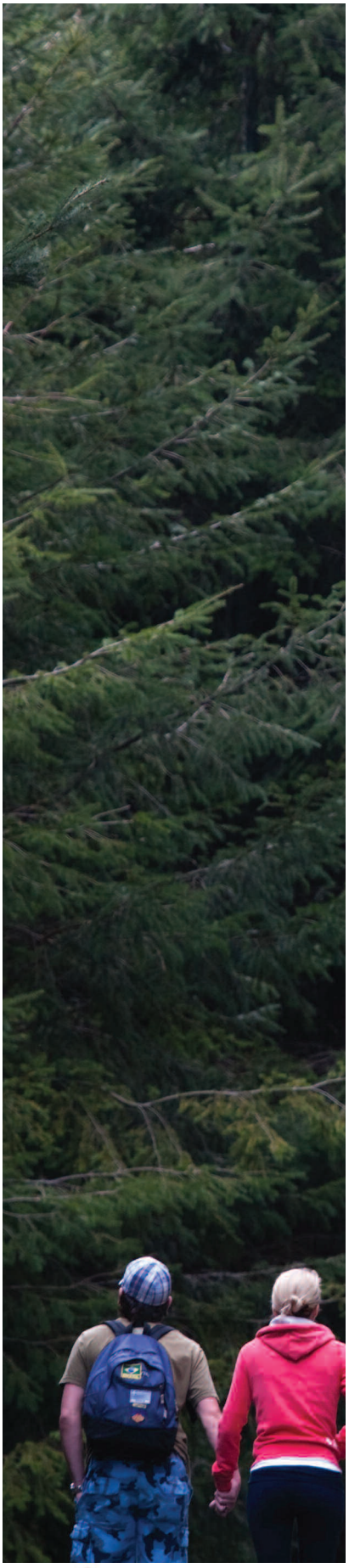
However, success always brings challenges and we would like to touch briefly on those posed by the increasing numbers and the ever increasing popularity of outdoor recreation.

One of the primary issues of concern is the access to the various forests and the parking facilities available. The most contentious areas in this regard are Ticknock, Tibradden, Cruagh and the Hellfire Club. Parking is available in each of these forests but often these are full to capacity and it is not unusual to see the overflow causing considerable disruption on adjoining roads. In addition to this, barriers are occasionally left locked at weekends which causes major disruption for forest users, local residents and passing motorists. The installation of automated barriers is a help but consideration may need to be given to expanding the parking facilities within certain forest car parks and possible provision of alternative parking and access points.

Issues of overuse and erosion of (or alongside) popular trails will always be a concern in such a heavily trafficked area and will need constant vigilance and sensible use of resources for repair of trails and adjacent ground. We would urge that erosion of paths and trails would be addressed in accordance with the Helping the Hills guiding principles (www.helpingthehills.ie).

Conflict between the different recreational users is rare but not unknown – it arises most commonly between mountain bikers and walkers. This has been mitigated to a certain degree by the installation of purpose built singletrack for bikers but it is not unusual (despite signage) for walkers to use these trails, nor is it unusual for bikers to use other “unauthorised” trails. The reality is that mountain bikers, and other users also, will not remain restricted to ‘’authorised’’ trails only, particularly in a situation when the trail network is still relatively small and confined to one area of the mountains, with no connectivity to other areas. Inevitably they will continue to seek out, create and explore new routes – this is human nature. We would contend that unenforceable rules serve simply to bring the landowner and, by extension, the DMP into potential and unnecessary dispute with the user groups. It is for this reason that we would suggest that a concept of the Dublin Mountains as The Friendly Mountains, with an emphasis on responsible usage of trails, mutual respect amongst the different user groups and more liberal access for all be developed.

The problem of off-road motor bike usage in the area has not yet been solved, although activity has been somewhat displaced by the volume of other users. For reasons of pollution (in particular noise pollution) and the safety of legitimate users, the DMI has always been vehemently opposed to use of any motorised vehicles in the recreational areas of the Dublin Mountains and we believe the message needs to go out that such activity is illegal in these areas and that offenders will be vigorously pursued.



Dublin Mountains Initiative

B. RESULTING FROM ONGOING CLEARFELLING FOR COMMERCIAL GAIN

In formulating this position paper, we are mindful that the primary driver behind the creation of the DMI, and our subsequent part in the setting up the DMP, was Coillte's logging activity in Ticknock forest – just over 10 years ago. It is somewhat ironic that, eleven years on, we are once again discussing proposed logging plans – and once again in Ticknock forest, which now has over 160,000 visitors annually. Great strides have been made in improving recreation in the Dublin Mountains over that period and we would wish to fully acknowledge the positive role that Coillte has played in making that possible. However we believe we have come to a point now where the current practice regarding commercial felling & planting throughout all the forests of the Dublin Mountains is in conflict with the core objectives of the DMP.

From the inception of the DMP, Coillte stated that it reserved the right to treat all of the forests in the Dublin Mountains as it would any other commercial forest, with priority given to standard commercial felling and re-planting to be carried out as it saw fit. While this approach is appropriate in lightly used forests in remote areas, it is no longer sustainable in those of the Dublin forests that are extensively used for recreation. The DMP has overseen the implementation of the considerable trail infrastructure and many activities listed above, with hopefully more to come. All of this is contained within Coillte forests and we are seeing increasing conflict between so-called normal forestry activity and increasing recreational activity. Examples of problems arising from this conflict include a wonderful walking trail through an attractive mixed forestry area on Cruagh mountain, built by Mountain Meitheal volunteers on behalf of the DMP, damaged in several places a number of weeks later by a clearfell; felling activity destroying what was probably Dublin's finest orienteering forest in Barnaslingan and extensive clear-felling of the very popular Hellfire area. The majority of this was done with notification to the DMP, but no consultation or regard for the recreational importance of the areas concerned.

It would be our opinion that current thinking in Ireland on forest management is too uniform and is becoming outdated. The vast majority of forests on publicly owned land are managed as a commercial crop – this stems from the current remit from the State to Coillte, which is simply a commercial one. District and forest managers have financial targets to meet - the result is clearfelling and subsequent replanting with what is essentially a monoculture of spruce. These replanting plans have shown no signs of a change in mind-set or an appreciation of the increased recreational usage in certain forests. Any degree of biodiversity is token at best – the current re-planting plan for the proposed Ticknock harvest area is 85% Sitka spruce, with only 5% of the remainder being broadleaf trees. We appreciate the constraints posed by exposed sites and shallow rooting soils - but there needs to be more imagination and a complete change of focus. We have a phenomenal resource for our population, considerable amounts of state finances have been expended promoting and encouraging people to spend more time there – it is illogical and unacceptable to flatten these forests wholesale and then replace them like-for-like, with no consideration given to the inevitable growth in future recreational usage or to the creation of woodland areas.

There also needs to be a realisation that one trail through a forest is not forest access, people need to be able to enter the forest, to walk & stroll through the trees, to enjoy their time deep in the forest, among the trees, not simply walk on a manmade trail. Sitka monoculture forests are largely impenetrable for a large portion of their lifespan with an initial hostile environment of brashings, undergrowth and tightly packed saplings progressing over a period of years to a poorly lit forest floor with light blocked by the maturing trees. A relatively short proportion of such a forest's lifespan provides an environment suitable for biking, running, orienteering or for simply experiencing the pleasure of being in a natural environment. Such active and passive recreation is of immense value - to the individual and to society generally.

We fully appreciate that the core of the problem lies with the current remit from the State to Coillte, which is essentially a commercial one to grow and harvest a crop – and then to repeat ad infinitum. This remit needs to reflect the times we live in and to be modified so that, where relevant, that remit is instead to manage the forests for

Dublin Mountains Initiative

the benefit of all, rather than with a narrow commercial focus. The State should permit the inclusion of all the ecosystem services provided by Coillte (habitat management, biodiversity, carbon sequestration and recreation) in their annual accounts, in the same way as the value of the timber they sell is included. We call on the Ministers for Finance and Agriculture (the joint owners of Coillte, on behalf of the people of Ireland), in consultation with their colleagues, to make the necessary changes. In other European countries, for example Finland and the UK, state subvention is available to managers of state forestry for the provision of amenity and for other forest management services - this should be the case in Ireland also.

We believe firmly that, with sufficient pressure and political vision and will, these changes will inevitably happen. We also believe that Coillte should be preparing for that day and should now be making anticipatory alterations in policy, plans and operations in targeted areas.

In that context, the DMI welcomes Coillte's current review of its forest management in the Dublin Mountains as a most positive initial step. It is our hope that, starting with this document, the DMI can make an important and meaningful contribution to that process. This is a wonderful opportunity to move in the right direction and to finally agree a program that will work for all stakeholders and ultimately result in a recreational zone that encompasses the majority of the Dublin Mountain forests and woodlands, where commercial logging & replanting will not dictate access or activity.

As we have stated above, the DMI feels strongly that the time has now come for a fresh approach to how the core recreational forestry areas in the Dublin Mountains are managed. We are suggesting this for the benefit of all the stakeholders – each of the DMP organisations, visitors to the area and, most importantly, the approximately 1.3 million people of Dublin City and its suburbs. We wish to emphasise that we do not have an ideological objection to commercially driven forestry operations in general, or even in certain areas in the Dublin Mountains. Nor are we suggesting that there can never be felling of trees in areas of high recreational usage. However we do feel strongly that to manage areas of recreational woodland beside a city of over a million people from a primarily commercial standpoint is neither correct nor sustainable. Aspects of the public good, public health and tourism need to be considered – and considered first.

There needs to be a realisation that there is a real value to the prioritisation and provision of outdoor recreation – the Fitzpatrick report of 2005 on the economic value of forest recreation in Ireland placed a very conservative value of €5.40 (€6.50 in 2017) on a visit to a forest recreation area. This would give a value of over a million euro for the 160,000 annual visitors to Ticknock alone. The Seven Stanes mountain biking network in Scotland is a major tourist attraction - the Tourism Intelligence Scotland Report (2013) estimated that visitors whose sole or principal reason for visiting was mountain biking spent 46.5million GBP annually.

We accept that change cannot and will not come without consideration and moving of minds - for that reason we present a medium term and a long term vision.

Dublin Mountains Initiative

THE VISION

A. MEDIUM TERM VISION

The imminent review of Coillte's management of forestry in the Dublin Mountains must be open minded and must make a significant change to the clear-fell policy in certain forests, if it is to be of any value. It must additionally result in a change to future planting plans in those forests. We would suggest that a three-tier approach be adopted, whereby agreed Forest Priority Areas (FPAs) are created as follows: -

A - Recreational priority B - Shared priority C - Commercial priority

Have consulted extensively among the member organisations, and bearing in mind both current & potential future usage as well as the issue of long-term sustainability, the DMI would suggest allocation of the principal forests in the Dublin Mountains as outlined below.

FPA A - RECREATIONAL PRIORITY (See Map in Appendix)

Areas

The four forest areas below are those with the highest recreational use. For reasons of accessibility, natural beauty and existing facilities they have been adopted for significant leisure use by the people of Dublin - we would contend that essentially they name themselves for priority attention. They are:-

- Ticknock / Kilmashogue / Ballyedmonduff
- Tibradden / Cruagh (Pine Forest)
- Hellfire / Massey's
- Carrickgollogan (Leadmines) / Barnaslingan

General Management Policies

Recreational use always a priority - all future forestry management, including felling, must reflect this fact.

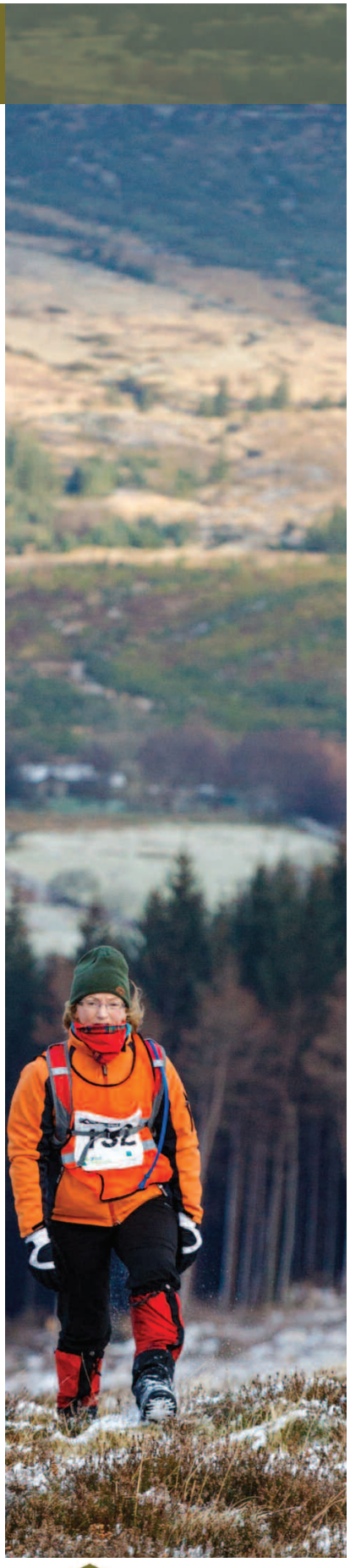
Future planting - to be as diverse as possible including extensive use of alternative conifers (e.g. Scots Pine / Douglas Fir) and, where practicable, be broadleaf based with use of species such as elder, oak, beech, mountain ash and birch. Promotion of the conservation and enhancement of woodland biodiversity through the expansion of The Native Woodland Scheme and the restoration of important habitats.

There should also be immediate steps taken to better promote these areas for recreational use than is currently the case. The DMP should budget to employ a person with the task of marketing the current and future recreational facilities to the people of Dublin and beyond – this could possibly be done in conjunction with the relevant County Councils and Failte Ireland, who would also benefit from such a step.

The aim should be to immediately start establishing the template for the long term vision now and to put in place an overall management plan for a multipurpose recreational area that includes integrated mountain biking trails, erosion management on existing trails and other informal walking routes, more walking trails, grade A orienteering and with a particular focus on family friendly facilities.

Consultation

All major decisions regarding felling, re-planting and provision of facilities to be a partnership consultative process between Coillte and the DMP.



Dublin Mountains Initiative

Decision Making

Final decisions following consultation to reflect the Recreational Priority status i.e. resulting in:-

- Zero clearfelling
- Continuous cover forestry
- Maintenance of mature and mixed woodland zones
- Planting of broadleaf and hardwood species where possible.
- Maximisation of recreational potential.

FPA B – SHARED PRIORITY

Areas

The areas below are also used for recreation but less extensively than the areas above - The Dublin Mountains Way currently runs through the Featherbed Forest. It is an area of considerable potential where cautious recreational development could be used to reduce the pressure on the popular recreational areas listed in FPA A.

- Saggart Hill (Slievethoul)
- Lugg / Slade Valley
- Featherbed Forest

General Management Policies

Equal priority to be given to recreation and commercial forestry.
Recognition of the future recreational potential of these areas.

Consultation

Notification of Coillte Forest Management Plans to the DMP, with right of comment to each of the member organisations.

Decision Making

Coillte, having taken due account of the DMP comments, and the above, will make the final forestry decisions.

FPA C - COMMERCIAL PRIORITY

Areas

In general, the forest areas below are lightly used for recreation. However Seahan is the second highest mountain in Dublin with great views and the bi-annual Lug Walk to Seskin in County Wicklow starts at the base of this mountain.

- Ballinascorney / Ballymorefinn
- Seahan
- Butter Mountain
- Crooksling
- Tallaght Hill (Knockannaveagh)

General Management Policies

Priority to be given to commercial forestry.
Provision for recreational facilities (parking / access trails etc.) wherever possible.

Consultation

Long term management plans for both felling and replanting to be made available to the DMP as early as possible. Felling notification to DMP as soon as decision taken.

Decision Making

All decisions on felling and re-planting to be taken by Coillte.
Provision of recreational facilities by the DMP.

Dublin Mountains Initiative

B. LONG TERM VISION

Core to our long term vision is the creation of a forest recreation park in the Dublin Mountains area, with an absolute emphasis on sustainable woodland management, biodiversity and recreation. This park would comprise, at a minimum, the key forests listed in Forest Priority Areas A & B above and Rathmichael Wood, with consideration being given to including the state owned portion of the Glenamasole Valley and Fernhill Gardens.

JUSTIFICATION

There are few capital cities in the world where the inhabitants and visitors alike have such ready access to a mountain range – it is possible to travel from the centre of Dublin to the mountains and to be looking down on the city from a mountain top in well under an hour. This is a unique asset right on the door of the city and it is one that is severely under-developed from a sustainability, recreational and amenity perspective. Proper development of targeted areas in the Dublin Mountains as a forest recreation park would result in benefits in the following ways:-.

1. Social & Environmental Benefits

As mentioned above, biodiverse recreational woodands and trails greatly increase the quality of life in an increasingly dense urban environment. They also contribute to community involvement and cohesion, in that activities such as walking and cycling are inexpensive and socially inclusive. Finally they act as a hands on environmental and educational classroom.

2. Health Benefits

The Obesity Taskforce reported that ''a large proportion of people are not meeting the recommended level of physical activity for general health benefits; and even fewer achieve the target to prevent weight gain and an increase in hypokinetic diseases including obesity, type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, cancer and osteoporosis.'' Research in the USA demonstrated that, where walking trails are provided locally, people increase their exercise rates by 44% - research by Slí na Slainte backs up this finding in an Irish context.

Additionally there are also significant psychological benefits gained from spending time in the outdoors – this can be by either active or passive recreation. For example a study by UCD in 2015 found that participants in the Woodlands for Health project improved their mood by 75% and sleep by 66%.

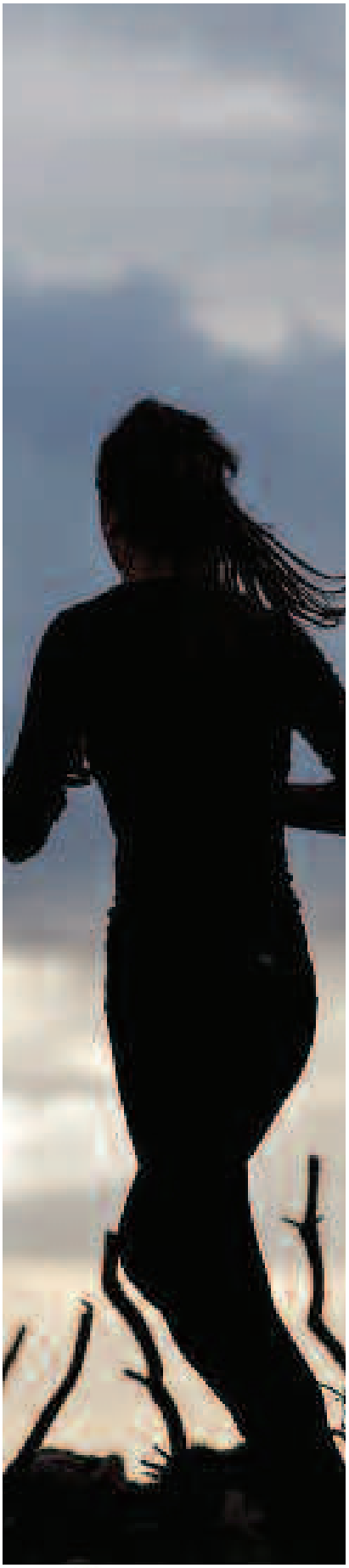
Analysis of the Irish Sports Monitor shows that recreational walking makes a significant contribution to the likelihood of meeting the National Physical Activity Guidelines, with over four times as many walkers meeting the Guidelines than those who don't walk. The higher participation in recreational walking amongst women, older adults, full-time homemakers, retired people and the unemployed also makes recreational walking something of an equaliser in narrowing the social gradients that exist in terms of the overall likelihood of people meeting the National Physical Activity Guidelines.

Coillte has already made a very significant contribution in this arena with the Woodlands for Health programme, involvement with the DMP and with other initiatives countrywide.

3. Economic benefits

The obvious economic benefit is that of tourism – Dublin and its mountains are easily accessible by the 70 million people who live in the UK and weekend breaks are an ever increasing source of tourism. The current ''Dublin – a Breath of Fresh Air'' promotion is aimed at an international market and already promotes the value of the Dublin Mountains.

The further, and probably greater, economic impact from the provision of proper outdoor recreational facilities results from the tangible and intangible health benefits associated with a decrease in the diseases listed above, greater mental well-being and the accruing increased productivity.



Dublin Mountains Initiative

Simply put, there needs to be a complete change of mindset - in the remit from the State to Coillte, in how we view key recreational forests and in the manner in which these key woodland areas are managed. This applies throughout the country - however our remit is confined to the Dublin Mountains.

IMPLEMENTATION

In order for a far-seeing vision of the core area outlined above to be properly and fully realised as a recreational forest park, it is the strong belief of the DMI that the project requires a single strong driver in the form of an independent body charged with the initial implementation and ongoing management of the project. The brief given to this body would include liaison with Coillte, the County Councils, private land owners, service providers and other statutory bodies. It would not need to be a large body and we would suggest that it could be resourced by a combination of central and local government funding. In this context we would mention the template of the Belfast Hills Partnership, which is funded by numerous agencies including the UK National Lottery, the National Trust, the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs and the European Agricultural Fund.

The park would be managed by the Dublin Mountains Partnership – however that partnership would now be a stand-alone entity created for the purpose, and with full legal status. It would have a Board, a manager and a staff of paid rangers, as well as a continuation of the current successful volunteer ranger programme – delivery of our vision will require inspiring and encouraging responsible behaviour amongst visitors by those who have a sense of the needs of this area.

Major decisions on management of all forest and woodland areas within the park would be made by the Board, based primarily on core recreational, conservation and biodiversity objectives. This would not mean the end of commercial forestry within the park – but commercial areas would be managed by continuous cover forestry. Wherever possible, broadleaf species would be planted over time – in those areas where, due to exposure and soil conditions, this would not be possible there would be a considerably broader range of conifers planted than is currently the case.

An ethos of shared usage with mutual respect, trust and responsibility, rather than unenforceable rules, would be emphasised. The park would become a clearly identifiable entity for the people of Dublin to be proud of and to use more than they currently do. The following should all, in time, become reality:-

- Signage alerting people that they were now entering a recreational forest park.
- Multi-use way marked trails - half, one, two and three hour walking loops / cycling trails / educational trails. All these would be clearly signed and colour coded with an ethos of yielding way to the smallest / slowest user.
- Considerable expansion of the existing mountain-bike trail network including consideration of trails in the outlying western areas of the Dublin Mountains.
- The current engagement with local communities would be continued and expanded, so that representatives from social, environmental and economic groups could obtain information about DMP plans, input into decision making and be part of incentivised programmes. For an ambitious project such as this to succeed, there will need to be considerable buy-in from local communities.
- A programme of becoming a friend of the Dublin Mountains – this has worked well in other areas such as the Belfast Hills.
- Improved public transport access to the recreational areas.
- Provision of cafe and toilet facilities in a few key areas – these are essential if families are to be attracted to use the area on a regular basis.
- Development of additional access points / parking for the honey pot areas (Ticknock, Pine Forest, Cruagh and Hell Fire Club).
- Themed / educational trails designed in consultation with the local schools and with reference to the SESE (Social, Environmental and Scientific Education) Programme.

Dublin Mountains Initiative

- Simple orienteering courses for children.
- Family cycling trails.
- Novel outdoor attractions such as Outdoor Climbing Walls / Fitness trails / Summer Sled Runs

We acknowledge that there would be a significant financial cost to this vision, resulting from: -

a) The reduction to Coillte's asset base.
b) Decreased revenue from commercial forestry.
c) Provision of facilities.
d) The cost of staffing the park.

However we would contend that the benefits outlined above, particularly in the areas of health and tourism, would mean that the cost to the State would be greatly outweighed by the value it would obtain from the creation of such a park on the doorstep of the capital city and its 1.3 million inhabitants. The existing facilities and structures have been put in place on a budget of less than 250,000 euro per annum - an appropriate allocation of resources by the State, to match the benefits outlined above could achieve much. One only has to look at the current outstanding success of the Wild Atlantic Way and the Western Greenways to see what can be achieved. Our capital city deserves the same.

To drive and promote proper provision of outdoor recreational facilities the State needs to recognise that the benefits outlined above are substantial and real. It then needs to put adequate funding and structures in place, so that a vision along the lines we outline can be realised. At a minimum this would require the following:-

a) State allowance to Coillte for delayed / more sensitive methods of felling and for sustainable replanting.
b) Funding the provision and ongoing management of recreational facilities.
c) A centralised mechanism for funding trail provision as envisaged in the recent Irish Trails Strategy.

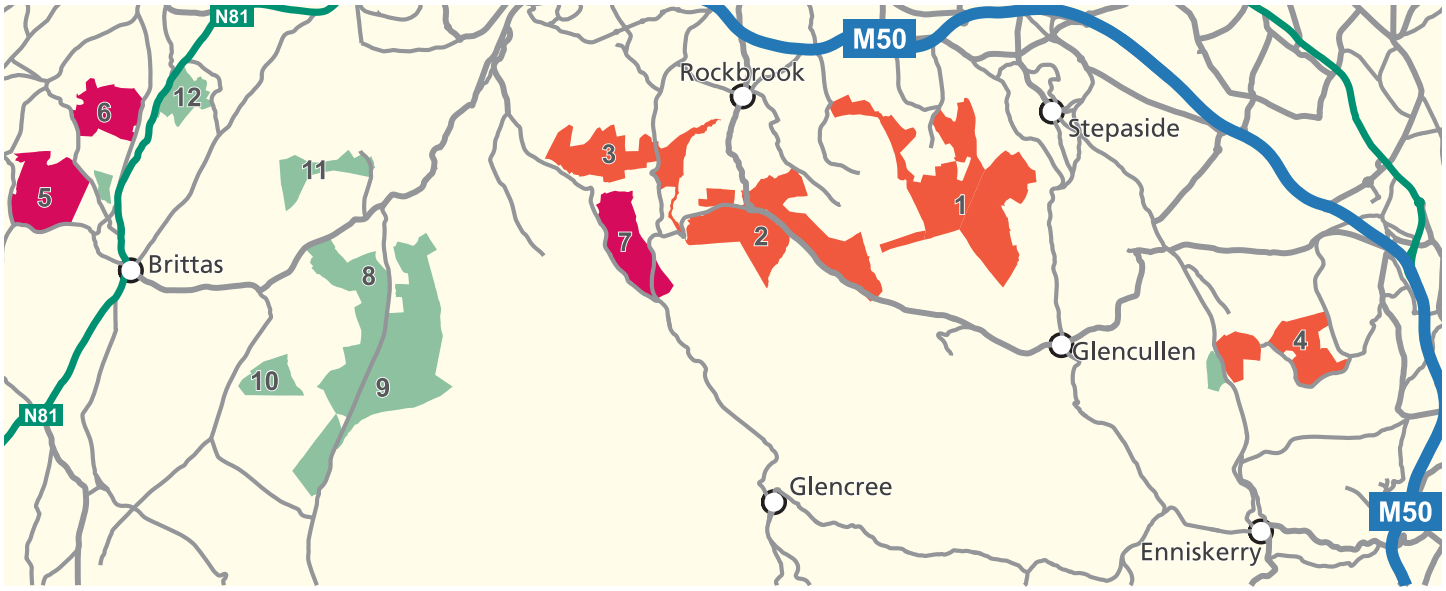
There will need to be political vision and will to make this happen – this is always the case when significant change is required. It is our hope that this document will become the start of that change. We would urge that the process of altering how we view this amazing asset on our doorstep should start now so that, when the trees that are currently being planted reach maturity, they are in a park of outstanding, sustainable beauty that is seen internationally as an example of how to manage an outdoor area on the urban fringe for the benefit of all.

In time, if the correct decisions are taken, it should be possible for the people of Dublin, and its visitors, to look up to the mountains and see their colours change with the seasons, to visit them with ease, to stroll with their family deep within a broad-leaf forest or to vigorously pursue their particular sport on a wide network of trails.

This is our vision and the time to start is now.

Dublin Mountains Initiative

Appendix



FPA A - RECREATIONAL PRIORITY

1 Ticknock / Kilmashogue / Ballyedmonduff
2 Tibradden / Cruagh (Pine Forest)
3 Hellfire / Massey's
4 Carrickgollogan (Leadmines) / Barnaslingan

FPA B – SHARED PRIORITY

5 Saggart Hill (Slievethoul)
6 Lugg / Slade Valley
7 Featherbed Forest

FPA C - COMMERCIAL PRIORITY

8 Ballinascorney / Ballymorefinn
9 Seahan
10 Butter Mountain
11 Crooksling
12 Tallaght Hill (Knockannaveagh)

Dublin Mountains Initiative