

SIMILAR PROJECTS

WATERFORD GREENWAY

At 46km, the Waterford Greenway is currently the longest Greenway in Ireland. It links Waterford City to Dungarvan, predominantly using the alignment of a disused rail line. The rail line itself was originally constructed in the 1870's and closed to passenger trains in 1967. However, the section of the line between Waterford and Dungarvan continued to be used to transport freight up until it was closed in 1982. The Greenway officially opened to the public in March 2017. However, almost half of the route had been completed by Autumn 2016, including a short section at the Dungarvan end of the route, which had been redeveloped in 2011.

The Waterford Greenway has made a significant impact on the local economy. It is estimated that the Waterford Greenway attracted an estimated 250,000 uses in 2017. Similar to the pattern of usage in the early years of the Great Western Greenway, the vast majority of users of the Waterford Greenway (98%) are from Ireland with two thirds originating from County Waterford.

The early success of the Waterford Greenway has been heavily driven by the quality of the finished product and the marketing of the greenway both at home and overseas. The Waterford Greenway also demonstrates that facilities such as bike hire, accommodation, restaurants and coffee shops come on stream quickly in response to demand from Greenway users.



GREAT WESTERN GREENWAY

The Great Western Greenway opened in 2010 and consists of 42km of mainly off road cycling and walking. The Greenway traverses Ireland's Atlantic coast between Westport town and Achill Island and visits the picturesque villages of Newport and Mulranny in Co. Mayo. The Greenway development has been very successful both as a tourism and recreational amenity. In 2011, a study undertaken by Fitzpatrick Associates estimated that there were 80,000 uses of the Greenway. Mayo County Council estimate that by 2015, the Greenway attracted 265,000 uses annually.

Visitors accounted for an estimated 25% of total usage in 2015 which equates to 66,250 uses. There is strong interest from both locals and also from visitors from other parts of the country attracted to the novel outdoor experience.

