



WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENTS ACTS 2000
(AS AMENDED) & PLANNING & DEVELOPMENTS REGULATIONS 2001 (AS AMENDED)

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

ROUNDWOOD RECREATION PROJECT – MULTI USE FAMILY FACILITY

Description

The Vartry Trails are heavily used walking trails circumnavigating the Vartry reservoir at Roundwood. The main entrance is at Mullinveagh forest, Roundwood, where a car park was built in recent years reducing the impact of illegal parking around the alternative entrances to the trail network. WCC would now like to add additional facilities at Mullinaveagh, Roundwood, Co. Wicklow to meet the needs of the most frequent visitor – families. This will entail a family cycling area, natural play trails, 3km and 5km running routes, an area for a café/log cabin structure, eco toilets, car parking area, fencing and ground works and also the installation of signage and information boards.

Specification

Item A – Family Cycling

The family cycle area will incorporate a simple trail in line with cycling Ireland specification of gentle slope and natural surfaces.

The trail will be no more than 100cm in width with a compounded Ballylusk dust surface. It will loop through the area and provide up to 1,000M of trail.

Item B – Natural Play

The main forest roads circumnavigating the site will be waymarked as a Natural Play Trail. No changes are anticipated to be made to the actual forest road surfaces, but way markers and way marker posts will be added.

The trail will include built infrastructure in five zones across the site. These are not traditional playgrounds, there will not be swings/slides/climbing frames. The aim of each installation is to inspire imaginary play and challenge

Timber, rustic rope and some stainless steel rope will be used to construct these.

- 1 – Younger children – a “birds nest” structure where users can climb, hide and engage in imaginary and adventurous play. This is marked as area 1.
- 2 – Physical challenge – a linear play feature incorporating a low ropes challenge on two difficulty levels. Traversing approximately 50m, its finishes at a timber stack with platforms at various levels for users to climb to their own “summit”
- 3 – Sensory area – an area dedicated to music, sound and sensory seekers. This will be a cleared grass area with artistic interpretation of musical instruments for use (made from natural materials, and recycled materials) and is aimed particularly at members of the ASD community but with attraction for users of all abilities
- 4 – Central structure – a timber giant hidden in the centre of the commercial forestry block. This is built for all users and accessed by a winding path (90cm width, compounded Ballylusk dust surface). It is not visible from the main trails. It inspires climbing, hiding, place making and a story point.
- 5 – Finally – small play features will be placed around the site alongside rustic benches for use by all visitors.

Item C – Running trails

Roundwood athletic club is very active and has a large membership. Many members and visitors run at Vartry. The addition of waymarking and measured routes will be of benefit to all.

A 3km route and a 5km route will be designated. Predominantly on forest roads, these will not require significant construction. Interim stretches will be constructed, no more than 90cm in width with Ballylusk dust compounded surface.

Items D and E – Log Cabin and eco toilet

Vartry is currently a location that provides 2-3 hours of activity per visit. The additional features will increase visitor time and therefore appropriate resources are required.

A simple log cabin (8m x 3m) will be constructed at the southern side of the car park for future use as a storage facility, or café.

A set of dry toilets will be included along the trail at point 6. These are self contained units which have been extensively tested in Wexford, Dublin and Kildare, provided much required toilet facilities. Installation requires excavation of a small hole in the ground and sitting the unit into it.

These will be installed on a trial basis, with educational collateral adjacent.



Images of all components are available on the map file.