

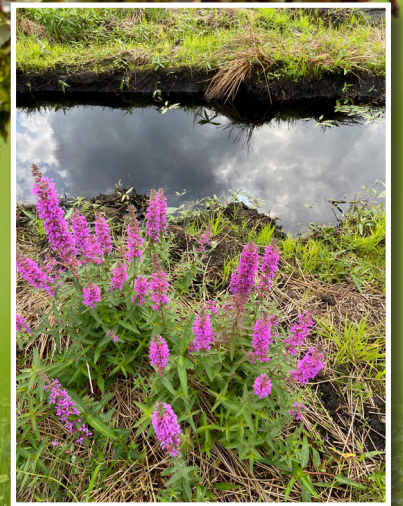


# Inishowen Rivers Trust

Strategic Plan 2022 - 2027

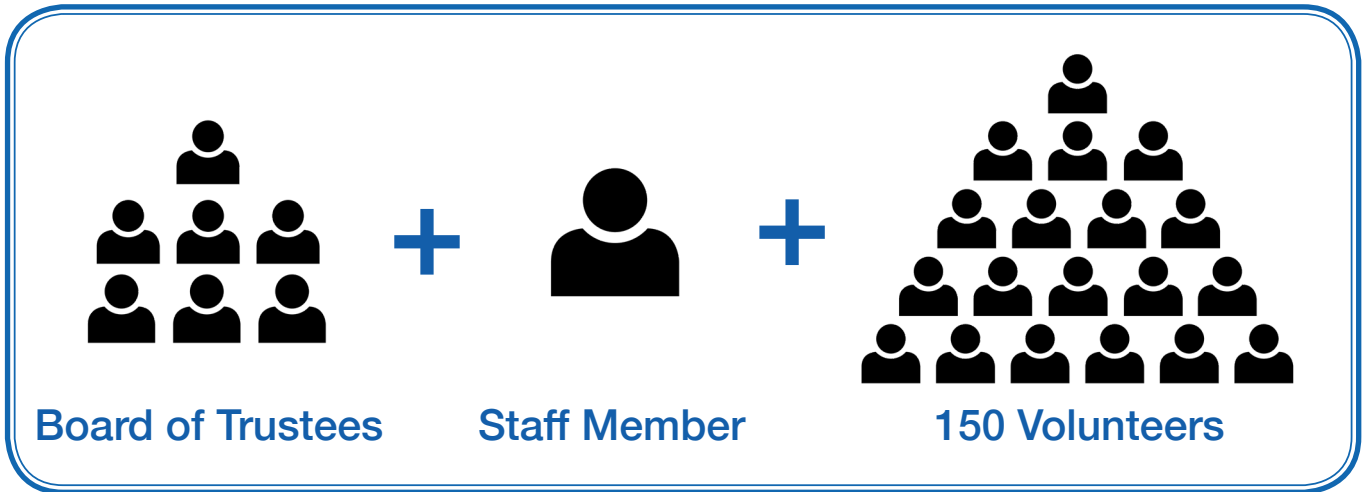
Inishowen  
**Rivers**  
Trust







The Inishowen Rivers Trust covers an area of approximately 900km<sup>2</sup> and includes all the rivers, lakes, streams, estuarine and coastal areas of the Inishowen Municipal District. Inishowen includes 3 Water Framework Directive catchments, 10 sub-catchments, 2 lakes and 61 river sub-basins.



## About Inishowen Rivers Trust

Since it was founded in 2016, the Inishowen Rivers Trust (IRT) has built strong relationships within the community, working to protect, restore, and improve the natural waterbodies in the area. The IRT has a strong focus on **education**, upskilling the community to care for and regenerate aquatic environments. Another key focus has been **Natural Flood Management**, researching and implementing an innovative project involving leading experts, as well as agencies and local skilled workers.

The declining water quality, loss of habitat and threatened flora and fauna that our rivers, lakes and oceans are experiencing gives us grave concern. Over the next 5 years our aim is to protect the health of our waters and their wildlife. This will provide us with a clear focus and direction and inspire us to realise our vision.

Currently the Trust is governed by a seven-member Board of Trustees, working in a volunteer capacity, and one full time Project Officer. We have 150 registered volunteers. The Trust is registered as a Company Limited by Guarantee and as a charity.







# Our Vision

Thriving waterbodies for the benefit of wildlife and communities



# Our Mission

To conserve, protect and improve the waterbodies of Inishowen using nature-based solutions and to inspire communities by building skills and partnerships



## **Our Five Year Plan**

Over the next 5 years we have set out to:

- Continue to build relationships with stakeholders, agencies and the community
- Develop projects that use nature based solutions and demonstrate their value
- Provide high quality water education and skills to the community
- Grow into a financially stable charity with sufficient capacity to deliver our desired projects

It is our intention to be fully inclusive in carrying out our plan by involving youth, the wider community, stakeholders and agencies. A collaborative approach is frequently shown to be the strongest and most effective. The IRT would like the community to recognise the value of our waterways and to feel empowered, knowledgeable and supported in effecting the changes necessary to restore our waterways to good health. Our plan going forward is to continue to build on the work we have done so that we can achieve this.

We hope that when you read through this strategy, you will be able to see how the Inishowen Rivers Trust can provide continued benefit to the waterbodies, riparian habitat, and wildlife, as well as the communities of Inishowen.



## Goal 1: Relationships

To build excellent relationships with stakeholders and agencies whilst engaging the wider community.

Our environment will thrive when the whole community is aware of its importance and is involved in its protection.

- By 2027, we will establish a landowner engagement programme, recognising the significance of key stakeholder involvement in protecting our waters.
- We will develop a calendar of community outreach events in order to inspire local people to become proactive in caring for our environment.
- We will expand our working relationship with other agencies to enable better information sharing and decision making, understanding that a collaborative approach is an effective strategy in achieving our aims.







## Goal 2: Nature-based Solutions

To implement innovative NBS projects which enhance and improve our local environment.

Working with our natural environment means that biodiversity and the protection of our ecosystems have a central focus when carrying out any work in and around our waterbodies. It is vital that projects are designed which increase and support the resilience of ecosystems in order to maximise the benefits to the environment and the community. The Inishowen Rivers Trust hopes to demonstrate the value of this NBS approach.

- By 2027, we aim to further develop NBS projects which create thriving riverine habitat and help promote the natural function of rivers.
- We will explore and evolve NBS for our peatlands and headwaters, recognising the unique role of this habitat for biodiversity and climate.
- We will plant up to 2000 trees annually.
- We will advance the use of NBS in flood management and climate resilience, recognising the devastating impact that floods can have on our wildlife and our communities.



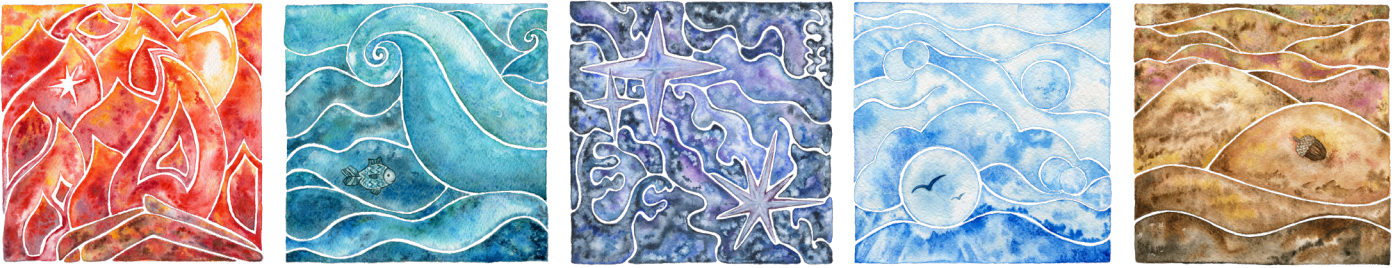


### Goal 3: Education

To provide high quality training within the community in the skills and knowledge needed to protect our waterbodies. In order for productive action to be taken to restore and protect our waters, we recognise the need for all those involved to feel inspired and confident. Investing in our volunteers will result in a skilled force increasing the success of projects, enriching the lives of those in the community and enhancing our natural habitats more effectively.

- By 2027, we will have 200 highly skilled active volunteers.
- We will continue to develop and implement a full and varied River Guardians Programme, including a youth programme.
- We will endeavour to deliver projects which are collaborative in their approach, co-designed and co-produced particularly empowering landowners to feel confident implementing solutions which help protect our environment.
- We will develop education initiatives which increase awareness of the role our soils play in water quality and biodiversity.





## Goal 4: Finance

To grow into a financially stable and resilient charity, we need to be financially resilient in order to deliver for Inishowen's waterbodies.

In increasingly uncertain times, we need to be as secure as we can, enabling us to optimise the protection of our environment to safeguard the future. We also recognise that we will have increased effectiveness with more capacity through increased staff.

- By 2027, we will diversify our income, particularly identifying multi-year core funding sources.
- We will employ an additional 2 staff members.
- We will attract corporate sponsorships.





## Relationships

## Nature-based solutions

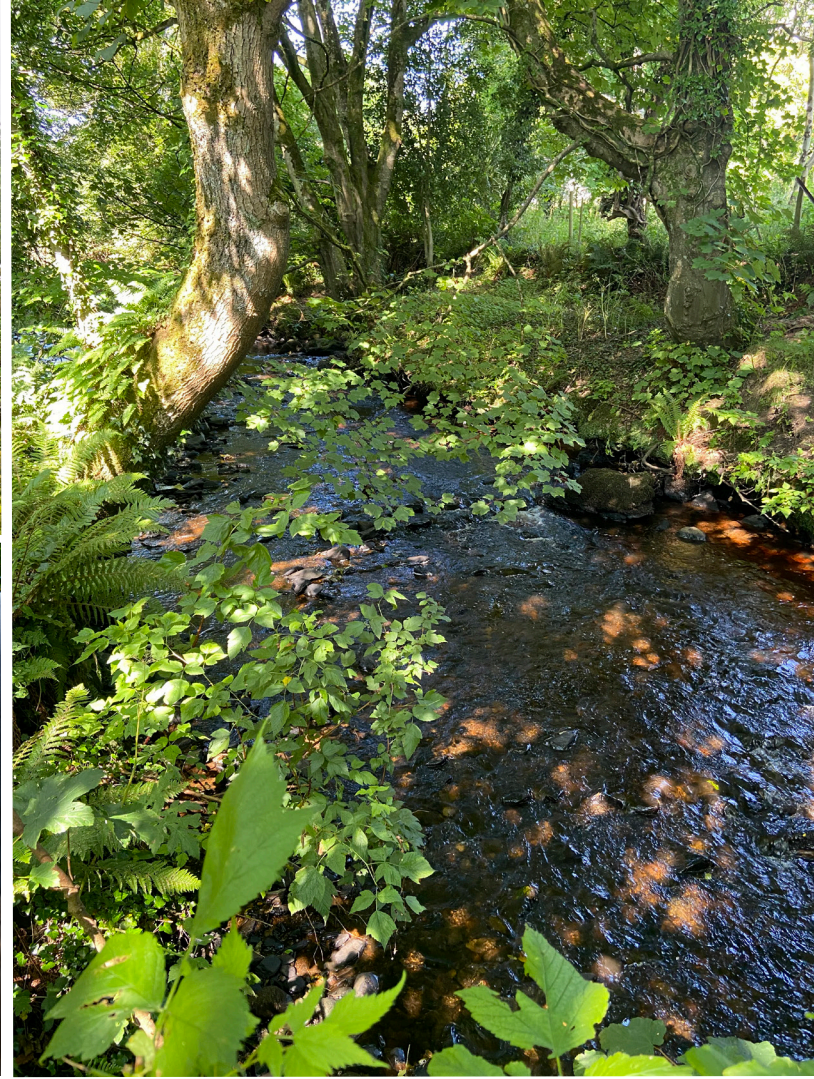


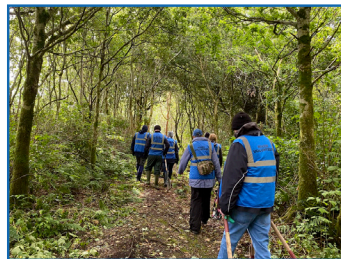
## Education

## Finance









## Acknowledgements

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Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta  
Department of Housing,  
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