

The Impact & Value of

Darkley Forest Community Trail

Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland conducted a New Trail Impact Survey for Darkley Forest Community Trail in February 2021 using the Social Return on Investment methodology. The approach focused on the return on investment from the path users' perspective. Key findings are below.



Launched: **2018**

Length: **5km multi-use trails**

Annual Visits (2020): **20,617**

Funders: **SportNI, DAERA & ABC Borough Council**

Social Return on Investment



£10

Positive Outcomes



87% of visits involved physical activities

69% have better health/fitness since trail opened

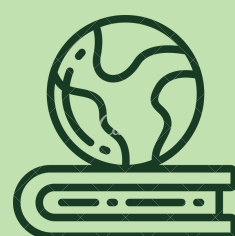
16% achieving CMO physical activity targets*



83% of users strongly agreed the trail gave them mental health and wellbeing benefits.



66% strongly agreed that the trail made them feel closer to nature



47% strongly agreed that they learnt about nature of their local heritage

The total social value generated over the lifespan (25 years) of Darkley Forest Community Trail will be **£2,340,275** across physical health, wellbeing, environmental and learning benefits. This means that **for every £1 spent to create the trail, it will generate £10 in return.****

Proximity of trail to users' homes

2%



< 300m

7%



1km

17%



2km

42%



5km

16%



10km

17%



>10km

Transport to trail



93%



6%



1%

“Improves my mental wellbeing as well as fitness in a safer environment than walking on the roads.”

“Develops my connection to nature, helps my mental health as well as my physical wellbeing. It is a peaceful and beautiful place to spend time with friends and family, walking and exploring.”