

## Getting Ireland active

### Sport Ireland

#### The Challenge

- Support central and local government sports planning and policy decisions
- Provide easy access to information about local sport facilities

#### The Benefits

- A single, authoritative source of sport information
- Analysis and insight to inform future developments
- Inspiration for a more active, healthy nation
- Successful cross-government collaboration

**Sport Ireland, the national authority responsible for developing sport and outdoor recreation in Ireland, has used Esri's ArcGIS system in a ground-breaking initiative that is expected to help people in Ireland to become more active. Local and central government organisations use an ArcGIS Hub to make better-informed sports policy and planning decisions, while members of the public use an ArcGIS-based website to find nearby sports facilities and activities.**

#### The Challenge

Throughout central government, there was a long-held desire for a single, authoritative source of data about sports facilities in Ireland that could be used to support policy decisions and inform the development of new sports facilities. To address this need, Sport Ireland set out to audit the sports facilities available across Ireland and create a central data hub for use by central and local government organisations and other stakeholders.

Before the project had even begun, however, Sport Ireland realised that the initiative would deliver significant additional value if members of the public could access the audit information too. It envisioned that if people could find local sports facilities, fitness classes, walking groups and other activities more easily, they might become more active.

#### The Solution

To deliver this ambitious project, Sport Ireland collaborated with Esri Ireland's Professional Services, which partnered with Derilinx. Working together, the three organisations built a complete end-to-end solution for collating, verifying, analysing and sharing data using Esri's ArcGIS system.

First, around 150 stakeholders, including local authorities, national sports bodies and individual sports clubs, were invited to upload data about their local sports facilities. The project team built a number of data collection forms, using ArcGIS Survey123, to simplify and standardise the data upload process. Local Authorities and National Governing Bodies of sports uploaded data about multiple facilities and activities in bulk, and all of the data is held and managed within ArcGIS Online.

Next, the project team created an extract, transform and load (ETL) process using ArcGIS Notebooks, enabling authorised users to validate the data uploaded by stakeholders. This process was designed to be completely iterative, so checks can be performed on the data at regular intervals to ensure its completeness and accuracy. Stakeholders can, therefore, add new data or update information at any time.

All of the validated data, for the whole of Ireland, is now available to stakeholders via a fully interactive, online data hub, created with ArcGIS Hub Premium. This hub includes around ten ArcGIS Dashboards and ArcGIS web apps, which enable stakeholders to visualise and analyse the data, alongside development and planning information and socio-demographic information. Consequently, users can, for example, see where large numbers of people aged 60+ live, evaluate if sufficient facilities are available in these areas for older people and identify where sports clubs can offer more opportunities to be active for specific cohorts.

Finally, the project team created a public-facing 'Get Ireland Active' website, [www.getirelandactive.ie](http://www.getirelandactive.ie), with an embedded web map that allows members of the public to search for sports facilities and physical activity amenities near them. The web app was built using ArcGIS Experience Builder and serves up the same authoritative data that is made available to stakeholders via the data hub.

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Louise Burke, Director of Participation, Sport Ireland

### The Benefits

#### **A single, authoritative source of sport information**

Sport Ireland has undoubtedly achieved its original objective to audit sports facilities in Ireland and create a single database of information about participation opportunities, from squash courts to walking trails, for the whole of Ireland. “There is now one authoritative source of information, which is growing every day,” says Louise Burke, Director of Participation at Sport Ireland. “Working with our key stakeholders, Sport Ireland has provided an excellent resource for the public to find activities, facilities and sports clubs around the country.”

#### **Analysis and insight to inform future developments**

Stakeholders from central and local government and sports bodies can perform a huge amount of analysis from within the hub and examine, for example, where there are gaps in the provision of tennis courts alongside where development land might be available to site new tennis facilities. As Burke says, “The database presents information clearly and quickly to the people who are making decisions and designing policy. ArcGIS is going to significantly change the way that we plan the development of sport in Ireland.”

#### **Inspiration for a more active, healthy nation**

With up to 15,000 visitors anticipated per month, the public website will play a key role in inspiring people to increase their physical activity levels and get involved in sport, to improve their health and wellbeing. “People can now go to the ‘Get Ireland Active’ website and find over 12,000 ways to be active in Ireland – with more to come,” Burke explains. “Our hope is that it will open up peoples’ eyes to what’s on in their communities and will help us create an active nation, where people have the opportunity to participate in and excel in sports activities.”

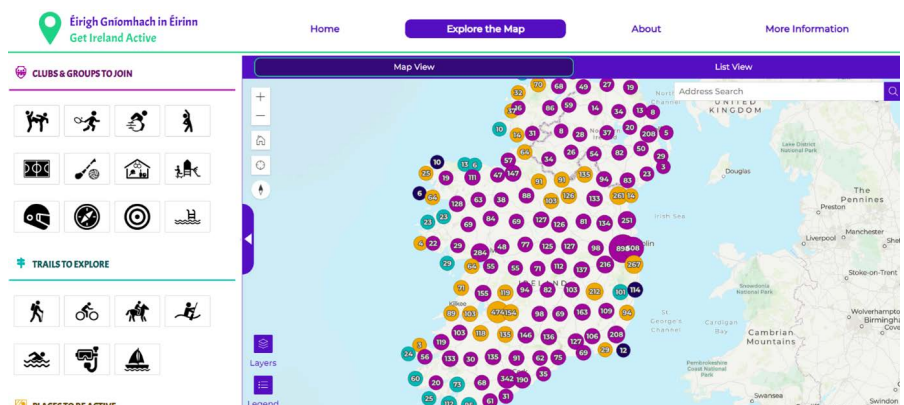
#### **Successful cross-government collaboration**

Burke is justly proud of how successful the project has been in facilitating improved cross-government collaboration. “This project created a mechanism to bring eight government departments, six state agencies, sixty-five national governing bodies of sport and 31 local authorities, as well as many other stakeholders together, and we all fell in behind one shared vision,” she says. “I don't know if I could ever thank Esri Ireland enough for what the ArcGIS system is going to do to support Sport Ireland in achieving its vision of creating an active nation where people are encouraged to start, continue to participate, progress and achieve in sport.”

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Sport Ireland's Get Ireland Active web map