

Donaghadee Pump Track

A brand-new space for fun, fitness, and community connection.



What is a Pump Track?

A pump track is a compact, continuous loop made up of rollers and berms. It's designed to be ridden without pedalling – instead, riders use their body movements (called “pumping”) to build and maintain speed.

Who is it for?

Pump tracks are for everyone – whether you're on a BMX bike, skateboard, scooter, or rollerblades. They're great for all ages and skill levels, from beginners to seasoned riders.



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What you will find at Donaghadee Pump Track

- **Rollers** – Wavy sections that help you gain speed by pumping.
- **Berms** – Smooth, banked corners for flowing turns.
- **Jumps** – Optional features for those who want to try tricks or catch some air.

Why use a Pump Track?

- **Fun and Skill-Building** – Improve your balance, coordination, and confidence on wheels.
- **Healthy and Active** – A great way to stay fit while having fun outdoors.
- **Free and Accessible** – Open to everyone, anytime.

Built to Last

The Donaghadee Pump Track will have an asphalt surface- designed for durability and low maintenance, so it stays in great shape for years to come.

More than just a track

This park is about more than riding – it’s about bringing people together. It’s a shared space, where everyone is welcome. A place to meet, play, and build connections across the community. What we hope to achieve?

- Grow, develop, and maintain relationships between all communities
- Create a safe, shared space where everyone feels welcomed
- Enhance awareness of Donaghadee’s commitment to peace and a healthy environment
- To create a common ground for all communities to come together in celebration of their community, area, and heritage

Why it Matters

The Pump Track is not just about riding – it’s about creating a space where everyone feels welcome. It’s a place to be active, meet others, and enjoy the outdoors together.

Comments can be made in writing to:
peace@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk

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Background

In 2021 Ards and North Down Borough Council appointed consultants AECOM to develop a Masterplan for Donaghadee Commons Park.

As part of the Donaghadee Commons Park masterplan, an activity hub has been proposed to inject new energy and vibrancy into the area. A key feature of this hub is a pump track, designed for enthusiasts of wheeled sports.

The pump track is envisioned as a driving force for continued enhancements in the park, fostering a sense of community and inclusivity. It aims to create a lively, welcoming space where individuals of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities can gather, interact, and enjoy shared experiences.

Listening to our Residents

This project has been shaped by local voices. Here's how people got involved in the Commons Masterplan:

- Stakeholder workshops (Nov 2021)
- Presentation to the Donaghadee Town Advisory Group
- Online public consultations (Jan & Feb 2022)
- In-person public meeting (Oct 2022)
- Paper and online surveys

Your feedback helped guide the design and purpose of the Commons Masterplan.

Project Funding

PEACEPLUS is a cross-border EU funding programme (2021–2027) aimed at strengthening peace and prosperity across Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland. Under Theme 1: Building Peaceful and Thriving Communities, Ards and North Down Borough Council has been allocated €5.68 million to deliver a co-designed local action plan. This plan focuses on community regeneration, building inclusive and peaceful communities, and celebrating cultural diversity. Through the PEACEPLUS Partnership, made up of elected members, public sector reps, and community voices, the programme will support projects that promote shared spaces, tackle division, and bring people together to create a more connected, inclusive, and resilient community.



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Policy and Strategy Alignment

The Pump Track fits into several of Ards and North Down Borough Council's long-term plans:

The Big Plan for Ards and North Down 2017-2032

- Encouraging healthier lifestyles
- Promoting equality and good community relations
- Making public spaces more inclusive and welcoming

Corporate Plan 2024-2028

Priority:

- Reducing carbon emissions as we transition to net zero. Net zero means reducing emissions that are generated from using oil, petrol, gas and electricity while also trying to remove carbon from our atmosphere through activities like planting more trees
- Improving wellbeing through social inclusion and reducing inequality

Outcomes:

- An engaged Borough with citizens and businesses who have opportunities to influence the delivery of services, plans and investment.
- An environmentally sustainable and resilient Council and Borough meeting our net zero carbon targets.
- A vibrant, attractive, sustainable Borough for citizens, visitors, businesses and investors.
- Safe, welcoming and inclusive communities that are flourishing.
- Opportunities for people to be active and healthy

Ards and North Down Play Strategy 2021-2032

Play is a vital part of growing up. It helps children and young people stay physically and mentally healthy, build social and thinking skills, become more resilient, and feel connected to their community.

To make sure play stays a part of children's lives, we need to think beyond just the usual playgrounds. A mix of different types of play spaces and opportunities should be included across the Borough. And whatever we provide, it's important that it offers real value—spaces that encourage all kinds of play, for all kinds of children. Inclusive play is especially important, and it should be a key part of every play space we create.

The Play Strategy has identified a clear gap in provision for older children in Donaghadee. There is currently no dedicated space for this age group to engage in active, social play. However, there is strong potential to address this need through new facilities at The Commons and/or Hunts Park—such as a skate park, MUGA (Multi-Use Games Area), or pump track.



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Bringing People Together

This park is about more than just wheels and ramps, It's about connection.

Ards and North Down Borough Council is committed to equality, inclusion, and good relations – and this project is a step towards that shared future.

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Case Studies

1. PC Craig Buchanan, from Wishaw Police Office, echoed the fire service's claims about youth disorder in the area.
"There has been a marked decrease in youth disorder calls", said PC Buchanan.
"We would have expected a lot more particularly with the summer we have had".

Source: www.dailyrecord.co.uk

2. The early goal of the pump track was to provide somewhere safe for kids to ride their bikes, and stem the decline in riding participation, explains Clive Powell, who came up with the idea. "There were no kids cycling anymore, and what I thought they really needed was somewhere to ride their bikes, and close to the centre of town."

Source: www.mbr.co.uk/news regarding Elan Valley, Wales

3. First, there is the economic impact when a community uses these trails and parks in their strategic planning. Second, there are the obvious and not so obvious health benefits that are realized through this plan. Third are the ways in which athletes can learn and grow using these facilities. Finally, these mountain bike trails and pump tracks create a sense of belonging and ownership, dramatically improving the quality of life in the community. All of these factors come together in a very obvious conclusion; building mountain bike trails and pump tracks are the right things for communities to do.

Source: <https://www.shorelinedirtworks.com/the-social-and-economic-advantages-of-bike-parks>

4. The team at Socialtracks were on hand to provide bikes to kids so that they can ride and the atmosphere was incredible. Who knows what they might have been up to but instead they were riding a world class facility in the middle of their community. If only everyone had this on their door step, the social impact is just huge"
– Brendan Fairclough

5. "There is nothing better than seeing kids of all backgrounds ride one of our tracks. Seeing the joy and fun the new track in Lesotho brought to the local community only reinforced the positive change #pumpforpeace can help bring about" said Caluori.

Having built his pump tracks worldwide, Caluori noticed a common experience wherever he would go: Crowds of children would gather and the area would be abundant with smiles and laughter. It didn't matter the skill level, gender, or background, people all met on the track with the same purpose—to have fun.

Source: <https://www.tetongravity.com/video/bike/pump-for-peace-breaking-down-barriers-through-pump-tracks>

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Case Studies

6. The BMX track hasn't just helped the riders with their prospects but as Flash explains, it has enhanced the area. He says: "It's changed the vision of what people thought of the area around Burgess Park. It was known as a park not to walk through but adding this to the other work that's been done on it has made people want to come here, cycle here and get involved in the park. It's done a lot for the area, a lot of youngsters see it and say 'we need to do something positive'. It shows people do care about the community and people like The London Marathon Charitable Trust do care and help."

Source: www.lmct.org.uk

7. A south Wales valleys bike track is being praised as an example for police across Europe to engage youths and cut anti-social behaviour.

8. The Trehafod BMX project in Porth, Rhondda opened in 2009 after residents complained youths were riding their bikes dangerously in the area. Trehafod's neighbourhood beat manager Pc Nigel Bird led the initiative after local youths keen on BMX biking told him they had nowhere to ride. Since it opened, South Wales Police said the number of bicycle-related incidents reported by the public had fallen by almost half.

Source: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-south-east-wales-23456413>

9. The whole ethos behind the pumptrack is that it should be a resource that is fun and beneficial for all to use – all ages, all abilities, all wheeled sports. A good pumptrack is designed as such that anyone can use it – all they need is the basic ability to ride their bike, scooter, skateboard, roller skaters or any wheeled

equipment. The process of generating speed and momentum through 'pumping' means the risk involved with a pump track is self-regulating - you need a high level of skill to get up to a high speed. Pumptrack has a similar appeal to skate parks in that they allow users to interact with each other and be creative in their use of the facility without the intimidating nature of skate parks. Packs are a place where it's not unusual to find professional riders riding alongside a four year old on their balance bikes. Everyone is having fun on the same track, and importantly the facility is safe for everyone to use.

Source: www.shorelinedirtworks.com

10. "On the opening day there were youngsters on there for five hours with no break, barring a drink and a bite to eat," he says. "There seems to be enough variation to get people wanting to try different things and keep them coming back for more."

Source: www.mbr.co.uk/news

11. Pump Tracks help to focus teenagers. They are easy to ride, but hard to ride fast. Once the pumping action has clicked, riding a pump track becomes addictive and it's hard to stop going until you reach the limits of your physical ability. On each lap your speed and flow increases but eventually you'll reach a limit, and to progress further you might need to learn to manual a feature – that is to "wheelie" on your rear wheel, or maybe you need to jump from one roller to another. It's this continuous challenge and development that really engages and focuses people and encourages them to think creatively.

Source: www.templecloud.org.uk

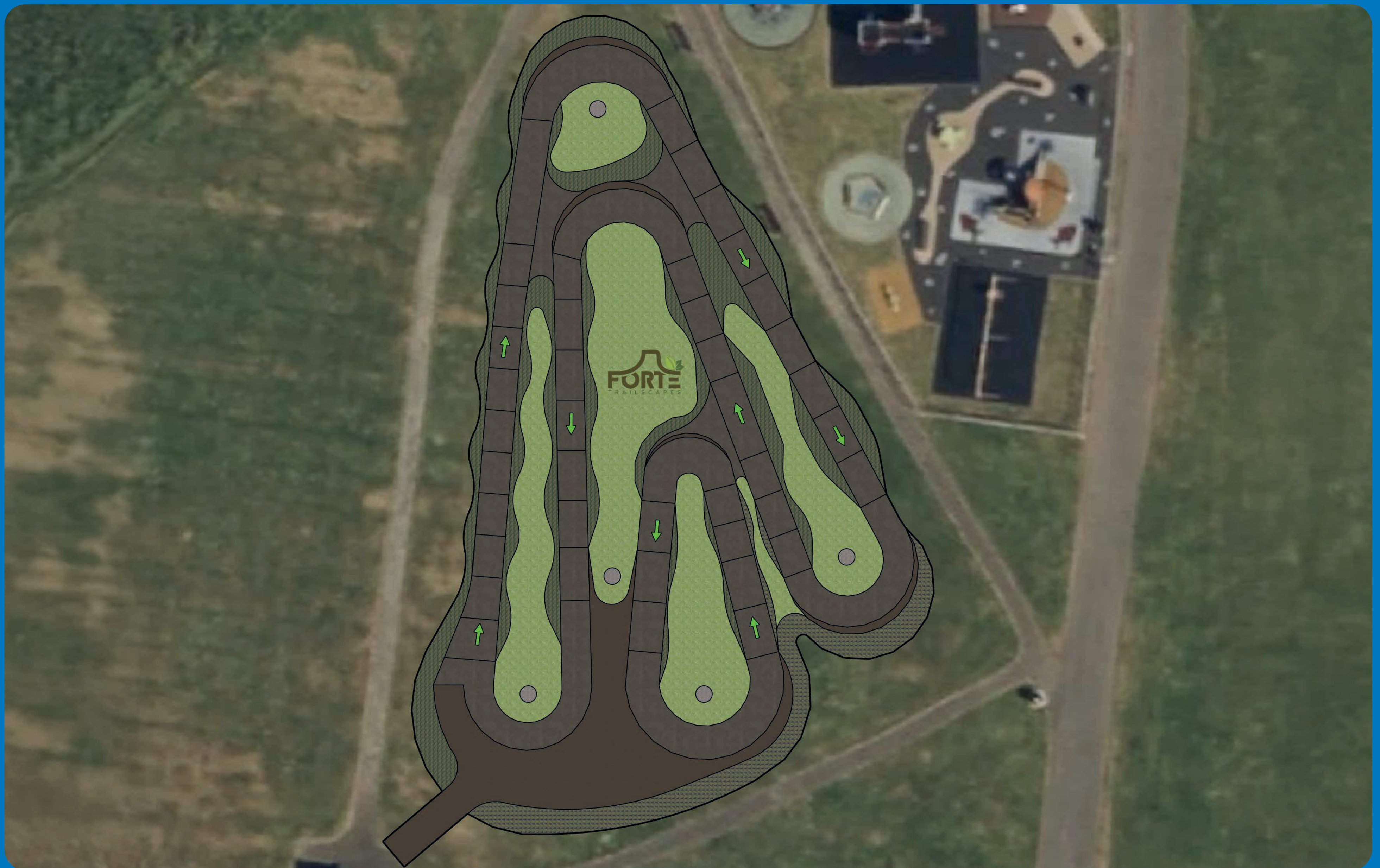


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Site Location Map



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