



Páirc an Athar Uí Choileáin Father Collins Park

- Circuit track
- Skate park
- Health stations
- Playground
- Entrance

- Chess tables
- Toilets
- Changing rooms
- Trains

- Sports pitches
- All purpose pitch
- Staff depot
- Amphitheatre

- Wetland area
- Ancient hedgerow
- Woodland
- Archaeological site

Sustainability — “to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” (Brundtland Commission)

Wind Turbines

Father Collins Park is a leading demonstration project for the innovative application of sustainable wind turbine technology in public open space in Ireland. The 5 wind turbines help power all the park systems and it is estimated that the energy produced by the five 50 kilowatt wind turbine generators in Father Collins Park will save about 320 tonnes of CO₂ per annum.

Biodiversity

The ancient hedgerows at Father Collins Park dating back to the 19th century were retained. Nearly two thirds of Ireland's bird species nest in hedgerows, so by allowing some areas of vegetation to grow naturally and undisturbed, the park supports diverse habitats for a range of animal and plant species.

Over 1200 trees, mostly indigenous, and 2000 native saplings were planted in the park in 2009 to help integrate the existing woodland, maximise biodiversity and vastly increase the ecological value of the park.

Wetlands Ecosystem

The Wetland Areas filter and clean the water in the park as part of a recycling system that replenishes, and helps clean the lake and water features.

Water drains to the Wetland Areas from the lake where it is filtered and cleaned naturally by a series of reed beds and other flora planted there. The Wetland Areas mimic the characteristics of natural wetlands and create a special ecosystem that encourages greater biodiversity within the park.

Sports, Leisure & Recreation Facilities

The park is designed to be a place to be enjoyed by all the community. Five grass playing pitches and changing room facilities (with 'green roof') are provided together with a 1.5km circuit track for cycling, running or walking around the full perimeter of the park. Six health stations along the route provide informal exercise equipment.

There are two playgrounds with equipment to cater for different age groups and in keeping with the sustainable agenda, the playground surface is made from recycled rubber from old runners! Adjacent to the playgrounds are seating areas with permanent chess and draughts boards.

The plaza design skate park is the first of its type and size in Ireland and is designed for street skaters using 3 levels containing a variety of Steps, Edges, Straight Lines and Grind Rails. The stage and amphitheatre to the north of the park cater for park events and performances.



History and Redevelopment

Father Collins Park is named after Fr. Joseph Collins (1924-1979), the first Parish Priest of the Holy Trinity Parish, Donaghmede, who worked tirelessly for the community of the parish.

The park was located in one of the last greenfield areas of the city called *The North Fringe*. Dublin City Council's vision for the North Fringe Area, presented in an Action Area Plan in 2000, was to provide for sustainable development through the early delivery of infrastructure, such as schools, amenity and transport links, to serve the expanding residential community. This landmark public park forms the heart of the vision for the area and is designed to link to green spaces and pedestrian routes in the wider area. Father Collins Park is intended to be a park for all, a place of both active and passive recreation for the community.

The 52 acre Park, opened in May 2009 by the Lord Mayor of Dublin Eibhlín Byrne, is the end result of an international design competition held by Dublin City Council in 2003. Environmental sustainability was a key aspect of the winning entry by Abelleyro + Romero Architects, Argentina. The construction works commenced in Autumn 2007 and were completed in Spring 2009. Delivery of the park was undertaken by the partnership ArArq, Ireland and the Parks & Landscape Services Division.



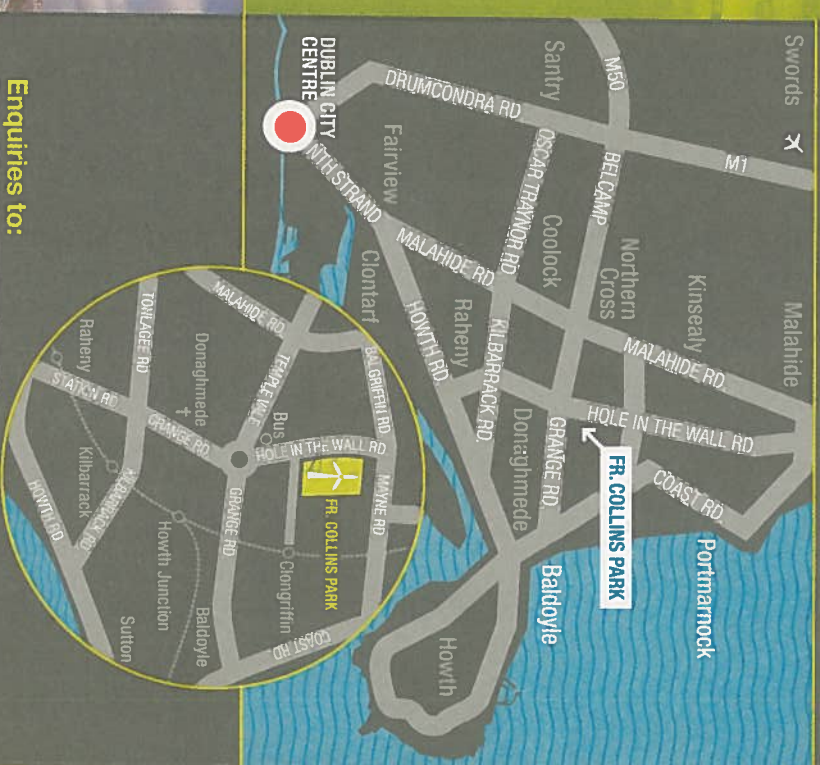
How to get there:

Father Collins Park is situated at The Hole in the Wall Road, Donaghmede, Dublin 13.

CAR: From M50: Take the N32: Straight at junction with R107 Malahide Road through to Grange Road; Left at 2nd Roundabout From Connolly Station; R105 North Strand Road; R107 Malahide Road; Right at Junction with N32 to Grange Road; Left at 2nd Roundabout.

BUS: 29a from Eden Quay to End of Route at Fourie at Grange Road. 128 Rathfrines via city centre to Clongriffin.

TRAIN: Howth Junction and Clongriffin stations nearby. Check Irish Rail for service availability and timetable.

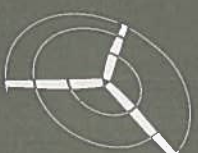


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Páirc an Athar Uí Choileáin
Father Collins Park



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