

Section 4: Resources and Services



Dublin City Centre

4.1 PARKS

Dublin city has over 200 public parks of various size, distribution and character within its administrative area. These parks function to create recreational, cultural, environmental and social benefits to Dublin and the key function of Park Services is to plan, design, maintain and manage this resource.

City parks are not evenly distributed or of consistent quality throughout the city. This strategy assesses these issues so that it can inform future parks provision, funding policy and management.

A parks typology is defined below to organise the array of existing parks, which are described and assessed in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility.



Policy

- Parks Services' objective is to plan, design, maintain and manage the city parks resource to best serve the recreational, cultural, economic, environmental and social needs of Dublin.

4.1.1 Park Typology

Dublin, like many other European cities, did not benefit from a pre-determined masterplan for the provision of its parks and open space. Instead, as the city grew organically each development era left its own kind of park, which we now collectively value and manage.

In order to analyse this resource, a typology of parks and open space is derived as follows:

- Flagship Parks
- Community Parks (Grade 1)
- Community Parks (Grade 2)
- Greenways
- Other typologies: Graveyards, Incidental Open Space, Housing

4.1.2 Flagship Parks

These parks are the top city parks and are defined as significant visitor/tourist attractions because of their historical context and location, their natural and built heritage or the high standard of design and horticultural presentation. They welcome thousands of visitors each year.

The key purposes and functions of Flagship Parks are:

- to provide natural environment connections, specialised functions and features higher levels of activity for the entire city
- to be managed to the highest standard
- to act as a destination for tourists
- to serve users from across the city and beyond in particular parks

The main characteristics of Flagship parks are:

- Large-sized park that can extend across large areas of the city, providing connections and accommodating significant trail systems
- Can range in size and shape
- Can contain natural heritage, built heritage or cultural features and visitor facilities
- Typically have many entrances
- Easily accessed by public transport
- Adequate provision of parking



City Parks

There are currently 13 Flagship parks in Dublin City, which are indicated in the following table. These parks are managed by both the City Council and The Office of Public Works. In order to maintain and enhance their functions and characteristics, management plans shall guide their future as Flagship parks. Currently management plans have been prepared for the North Bull Island, St Anne's Park, Merrion Square Park and Herbert Park and the OPW have prepared plans for The Phoenix Park and St Stephen's Green and The Irish National War Memorial Gardens.

Flagship Parks

Park	Management	Character
Father Collins Park	DCC	Contemporary park
North Bull Island	DCC	Biodiversity reserve
St. Anne's Park	DCC	Historic park
Merrion Square Park	DCC	Historic park
St. Patrick's Park	DCC	Historic park
Herbert Park	DCC	Historic park
Phoenix Park	OPW	Historic park
St. Stephen's Green	OPW	Historic park
National Botanic Gardens	OPW	Historic and botanical park
Iveagh Gardens	OPW	Historic park
Garden of Remembrance	OPW	Contemporary park
The Irish National War Memorial Gardens	OPW	Historic park
Formal Garden, Royal Hospital, Kilmainham	OPW	Historic park reconstruction



Action

- To prepare management plans for all designated flagship parks under the management of the City Council.

North Bull Island

North Bull Island is unique in Dublin as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, as well as being part of the Natura 2000 network, a National Nature Reserve and the first national bird sanctuary in Ireland.

The island, of some 300 ha. in size was formed after the city carried out works in the 1800s, including the building of the South and North Bull walls to deepen the sea channel in Dublin Port. This changed the natural tidal effects, causing silt to be deposited north of the Bull Wall resulting in a new island being formed.

The island is only 200 years old, and supports sand-dunes and a saltmarsh habitat, along with supporting species protected under the EU Habitats Directive. Bull Island is part of the Dublin Bay Biosphere, one of the most highly designated biodiversity areas in the country.

Its unique habitat is widely studied by students and academics.

Dollymount Strand, the 5km long beach on the island is a Blue Flag beach. Swimming, windsurfing and kite-surfing are all popular sports on the Strand and it's also a popular walking area.

The focus of management of this natural area is:

- conservation management of its flora & fauna.
- development and improvement of visitor facilities including a new interpretation centre.
- improving traffic management.



Actions

- To implement planned traffic management solutions for access to the island.
- To construct a new visitor centre subject to planning approval.



Fr Collins Park in Clongriffin.
(Image: Anthony Woods)

Father Collins Park

Ireland's first sustainable park was completed in 2009. It is the result of the open space requirement of a sustainable Action Area Plan in 2000 on one of the City Council's last remaining greenfield sites now called Clongriffin and Belmayne.

The park design, which called for environmental sustainability and linked green space, was a result of an international competition won by an Argentinian firm called Abelleyro and Romero Architects. It is a contemporary design focusing on sustainability and deploys an array of wind turbines to demonstrate the use of renewable energy and to act as an iconic landmark to the area.

The park also promotes biodiversity through the inclusion of an extensive planting scheme and constructed wetland using native plants. The delivery of the park took place with the arrival of new residents and provided an immediate recreational resource for them.

The focus of management of this park is:

- to maintain it to the original competition design as far as practicable.
- to study the effectiveness of the wind turbines and promote sustainable design.



Actions

- To prepare a park management plan to include adjoining recreational lands.

St Anne's Park

This is the second largest public park in Dublin and is approximately 97 ha. in size. It is formed of the historic core of an original estate property of the Guinness family, which was purchased by Dublin Corporation in 1937 and used for housing and the creation of the current public park. The park is a designated Conservation Area under the current Development plan.

Major changes in the park have included the loss of the estate's mansion through fire in 1943, the formation of the Rose Garden in the 1970s and the introduction of sports facilities, an arts centre and an allotment garden. New features continue to be added including the Irish Suzhou Garden, which was gifted by the Peoples Republic of China to the City. The focus of management of this park is:

- to study its historic landscape and conservation value with the objective of retaining the historic estate character.
- to develop the current master landscape plan to guide future development and conservation, in particular its role with regards, to the Dublin Bay Biosphere.
- to enhance visitor facilities, in particular in the area of the Red Stables.



Irish Suzhou Garden at St Anne's Park.
(Image: Steve Humphries, Irish Independent)



Actions

- To develop a destination playground.
- To obtain ideas for the original area of the mansion.
- To restore the range of follies which form part of the historic estate landscape.
- To assess the potential of the park as a sculpture park.
- To implement plans for the Red Stables to enhance it as a visitor centre.

Herbert Park

This park formed part of the Pembroke Estate and was gifted to the then Pembroke Council as lands for a public park, named after Lord Herbert.

The lands were first used as the grounds of the successful Irish International Exhibition of 1907. Following this a competition was held for a new design which was won by J Cheal and Sons.

The current park contains original historical features, such as the pergola and the lake, that contained the Canadian Water Chute, a key attraction of the exhibition in 1907. The land on which the park stands was first opened to the public in 1911.

The park is approximately 11 ha. (27 acres) in size and has numerous amenities including three tennis courts, a croquet lawn, a bowling green as well as Gaelic and soccer pitches.

The key management objectives of this park are:

- to study its historic landscape and conservation value with a view to appropriately balance historic conservation and contemporary recreational demand.
- to enhance park visitor facilities.

St Patrick's Park

St Patrick's Cathedral, which dates from 1220, lies adjacent to this inner-city park. It is one of the top visitor attractions in Dublin and is the final resting place of such notable Dubliners as Jonathan Swift.

The park was developed by Lord Iveagh under a plan by Arthur Dudgeon in 1904 and involved demolition of existing slum buildings in that area. It provides a graceful setting for the cathedral and is largely used for passive recreation with a large central fountain and pond feature.

A 'Literary Parade' of sculpture plaques was installed in 1988 to honour some of Ireland's greatest literary figures and the park also holds Vivienne Roche's sculpture entitled Liberty Bell. The park also contains newly refurbished tea-rooms and a playground.

The key management objectives of this park are:

- to maintain its historical design layout and its landscape as a setting for the adjacent Cathedral.
- to enhance visitor facilities adjacent to the Cathedral, which is a key tourist attraction in Dublin.



Action

- To implement actions arising from the conservation and management study of the park.



The Garden of Remembrance
(Image: OPW)

Merrion Square Park

This is one of the City’s popular historic parks which was developed in the Georgian-era by the Pembroke Estate. It is one of five Georgian parks in the city. In typical Georgian fashion, the park is central to surrounding terrace dwellings whose occupants would originally have had exclusive access to the park. The park was purchased from the Estate in 1930 by the Catholic Church and was intended as a site for a cathedral, that did not proceed. Dublin Corporation leased it from the church in 1974 to manage it as a public park.

The railed park includes extensive lawns that provide event space, a flower garden, a miniature arboretum, heather garden and tree arched pathways.

It covers over 12 acres and offers a retreat from the outside world through its wide thick border of shrubs within enclosed railings. The square contains a number of sculptural artworks and a newly refurbished playground themed on the Oscar Wilde children’s story called ‘The Selfish Giant’.

The focus of management of this park is:

- to study and appropriately enhance this historic landscape in accordance with its conservation plan.
- to enhance visitor facilities.



Actions

- To implement the park’s conservation plan, including upgrading perimeter paths and seating in sympathy with the original Georgian-era park character.
- To construct a park tea room in sympathy with the historic landscape character
- To interpret the historic park and artwork within, in particular to exploit the use of digital media for interpretation .

OPW Flagship Parks

These parks and gardens are under the management of the Office of Public Works (OPW) and serve as flagship parks for the purposes of this strategy. Their management policy is determined by the OPW.

Phoenix Park

The Phoenix Park is the largest enclosed city park in Europe with an area of 707 ha. It is also one of Dublin’s oldest parks. The park was created in 1662 when James Butler, Duke of Ormonde enclosed the lands and stocked it with fallow deer from England.

The park is home to a number of institutional uses such as Áras an Uachtaráin, the United States Ambassador’s residence, the Garda and Army headquarters and the Zoological Gardens.



The management objectives of the park are set out in the Phoenix Park Conservation Management Plan under the overall vision of:

“To protect and conserve the historic landscape character of the Phoenix Park and its archaeological, architectural and natural heritage whilst facilitating visitor access, education and interpretation, facilitating the sustainable use of the Park’s resources for recreation and other appropriate activities, encouraging research and maintaining its sense of peace and tranquillity.”

St Stephen’s Green

St Stephen’s Green lies in the heart of Dublin and evolved from a peripheral marshy common of the 1600s to a very popular Victorian-era public park today. Its current 9ha. layout was designed by William Sheppard, funded by Sir A.E Guinness and opened in 1880. The park contains a collection of notable sculptures, including a Henry Moore work dedicated to W.B. Yeats. The park won the Academy of Urbanism Award for Ireland in 2006.

The park’s Conservation Management Plan vision statement is:

“The long-term vision for St. Stephen’s Green combines its protection, conservation and, where appropriate, restoration as an important and unique historic landscape with the facilitation of appropriate access and use.”

The National Botanic Gardens

The National Botanic Gardens serves a dual role in providing functions associated with botanic gardens worldwide, such as research, education and conservation, but in addition it also provides passive recreation normally associated with a public park.

It is a major tourist attraction for Dublin and achieves visitor numbers in excess of 500,000 per year. This significance undoubtedly has been aided by the investment in the award winning restoration of historic glasshouses and expansion of quality visitor facilities in recent years combined with their tradition of excellence in horticulture and maintenance.

Iveagh Gardens

This park has a secluded character although it is located in central Dublin. Its design by Ninian Niven dates from the Victorian-era and has influences of the French and English styles. It was originally a private pleasure garden, and was then developed as the site of the Dublin Exhibition Palace and Winter Garden in 1865.

The park came into state ownership in 1991, and a program of restoration followed, which has allowed conservation of the original features. The park also functions as an event space and hosts the successful annual Taste of Dublin festival, which attracts some 30,000 visitors.



The Irish National War Memorial Gardens
(Image: OPW)

The Garden of Remembrance

This contemporary 1960's memorial space lies on what was originally the northern area of Georgian-era Rutland Square, called the Vauxhall Gardens, which were attached to the Rotunda Hospital.

The garden was opened on Easter Monday 1966 to commemorate the Golden Anniversary of the Easter Rising.

The garden was designed by Dáithí P. Hanly, former City Architect of Dublin City Council. The design features a cruciform pool with a mosaic surface depicting broken spears, a reference to the Celtic custom of throwing weapons into lakes and rivers after battle.

Sculptor Oisín Kelly was commissioned to design the garden's main sculptural piece, the Children of Lir, which depicts the transformation of King Lir's children into swans as a symbol of the birth of the Irish State.

The Irish National War Memorial Gardens

Designed by the celebrated architect Edward Luytens, this garden is a memorial to Irish service men killed in both World Wars.

The gardens were built by Irish and British war veterans, mainly using manual labour, and was completed in 1937.

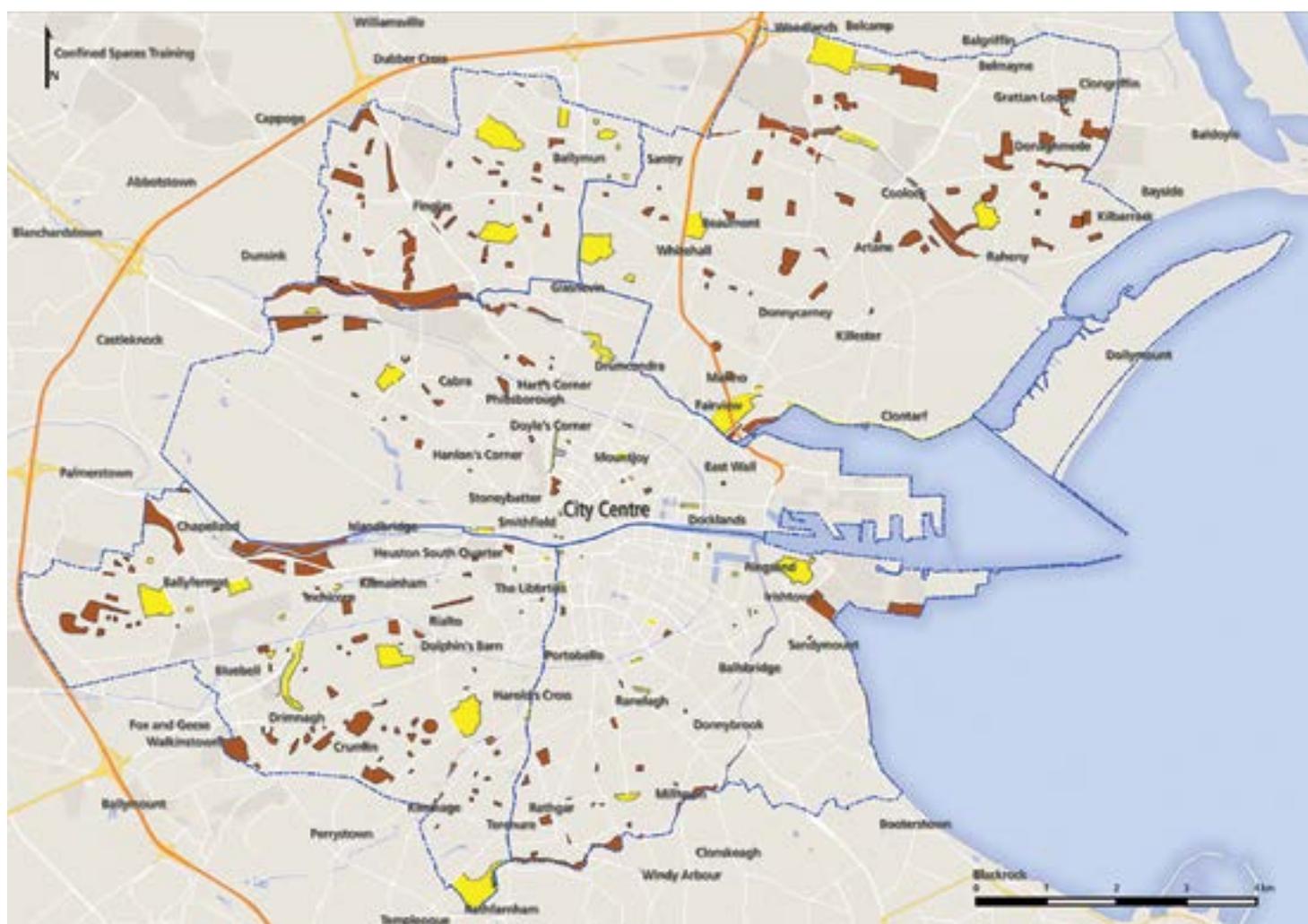
The design centres on an altar War Stone with adjacent fountains containing obelisks, representing candles. Four granite Bookrooms, representing each province, are at the edge of the central space. The Bookrooms contain the Books of Remembrance with the names of those who died in the wars. Two sunken rose gardens lie east and west of the central altar. A planned bridge linking across the River Liffey to the Phoenix park north of the garden was never realised.

The Formal Garden, Royal Hospital, Kilmainham

The gardens lie within the grounds of the Irish Museum of Modern Art in Kilmainham, formerly the Royal Hospital, which was established in the 1680's.

The Hospital was given to the Irish Free State in 1922 after the last occupants were transferred to the Royal Hospital in Chelsea. Substantial restoration was carried out in the 1980s, which included the creation of the gardens.

They were built interpreting a French formal style that was in vogue during the time the hospital was built.



Community Grade 1 (yellow) and Grade 2 (brown) parks distribution

Adjacent Councils

The adjacent councils of Fingal, South Dublin and Dun Laoghaire manage the following parks, which are considered of Flagship status and are accessible to all of Dublin.

- Ardgillan Demesne
- Malahide Demesne
- Newbridge House and Farm
- Santry Demesne
- St. Catherine's, Lucan
- Marlay Park

4.1.3 Community Parks

The majority of parks within the administrative area are Community Grade1 (approx. 279 hectares) or Grade 2 (approx. 438 hectares) parks.

The Community Parks are defined into two grades as follows:

Community Grade 1

Serve local communities, have a good range of amenities and have a high standard of design or horticultural presentation.

Community Grade 2

Serve local communities and have a range of amenities or are primarily used for active recreation.

The key purpose and functions of a Community Park are:

- Serves local communities and acts as a focal point
- Provides natural environment connections, specialised functions and features
- Can connect to other city parks through natural features and trails
- Provides active and passive recreation

Characteristics:

- Can range in size and shape
- Can contain natural heritage or cultural features
- Have a good range of amenities
- High standard design or horticultural presentation
- Within walking distance of communities
- Adequate provision of parking



Kylemore Park
(Image: Anthony Woods)

The following examples of Community Parks demonstrate the difference between a Grade 1 and Grade 2 park.

Kylemore Park **(Community Grade 1 Park)**

This community park of .5ha located in Ballyfermot, was refurbished in 2008–2009 with funding of approximately €1 million and strong involvement from the local community during the design consultation process. The park provides a balance between active and passive recreation areas so that there is something for all. As part of the park design, high quality materials were used including natural stone and sculptural corten steel lamp standards. The active recreational facilities provided include all-weather basketball, a football pitch and children's play areas. The park refurbishment also received a commendation from the Irish Landscape Institute Awards in the 2009 annual awards.

Brickfield Park
(Image: Siobhan McNamara)



Brickfield Park **(Community Grade 2 Park)**

As its name suggests, this park was previously used as a brick works. As urban development expanded in the 1940s, the land was constrained by the previous excavations and today uneven surfaces caused by settlement are visible within the park. This is a highly active park of 11ha in size and is dominated by playing pitches and other facilities including changing rooms and a playground. One of the key issues associated with similar parks is the dominance of playing pitches, which are used for only a specific period during games for only one section of the community. A more balanced provision of active and passive areas within parks catering for all age groups and abilities within communities is more desirable.



Action

- To prepare management plans for all designated Community Grade 1 parks.

4.1.4 Greenways

The greenway concept has become more popular in recent years with the successful implementation of new projects. A good example is the Waterford Greenway, which is located along a disused railway and provides over 46km of trails for recreational use with links to accommodation and activities along the way.

In Dublin linear connections are possible where adequate open space provision exists along river corridors, canals and the coast. They serve as good alternative cycle and walking routes that are typically more pleasant than roadside locations. Constraints to creating full connections do exist, in some cases existing private property may block potential routes and in others habitats for flora & fauna are preferably conserved without disturbance.

Waterford Greenway
(Image: Waterford City & County Council)

On urban greenways there is also serious concern of conflict between commuter cyclists and other users. There is a need for a clear and consistent approach to signage and education of users in greenway etiquette. Existing and potential greenways are as follows:

- Tolka Valley
- Santry River
- Dodder River
- Turnapin-Mayne River
- Royal & Grand Canals
- Dublin Bay Greenway



Policy

Parks Services will support and promote the planning and implementation of Greenways within Dublin as shared spaces for pedestrians and cyclists within public parks.

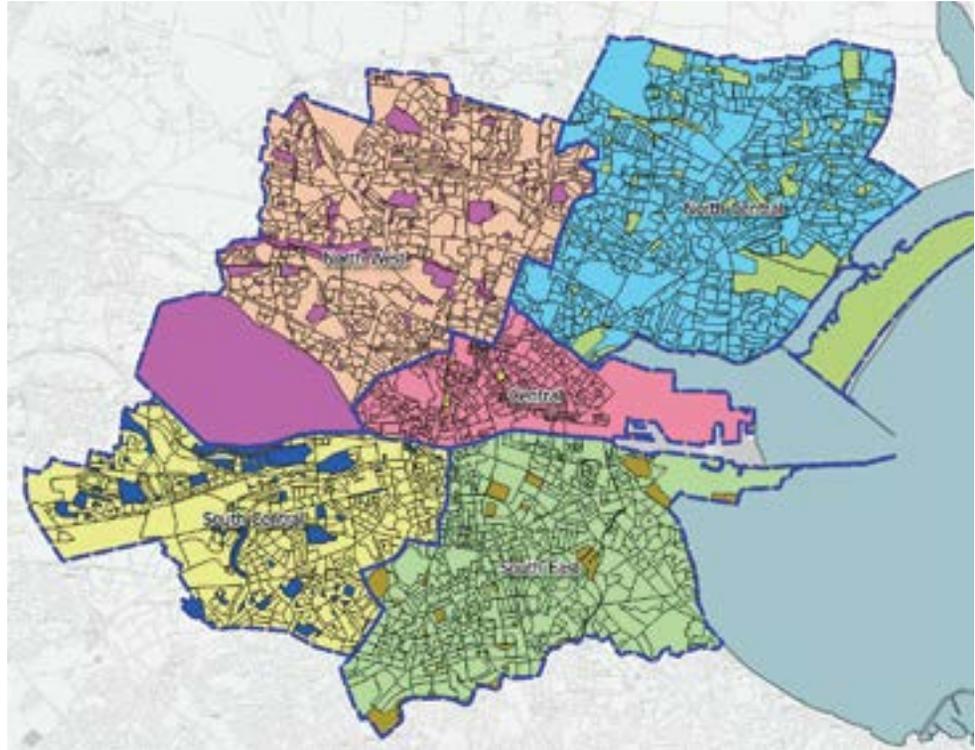
Greenways are communication routes reserved exclusively for non-motorised journeys, developed in an integrated manner which enhances both the environment and quality of life of the surrounding area. These routes should meet satisfactory standards of width, gradient, and surface condition to ensure that they are both user-friendly and low-risk for users of all abilities. In this respect, canal towpaths and disused railway lines are a highly suitable resource for the development of greenways.”

Lille Declaration, 12 September 2000
– European Greenways Association



4.1.5 Quantity of Parks

Within the Dublin City Council administrative area, there are 13 Flagship Parks, 59 Community Grade 1 Parks and 228 Community Grade 2 Parks.



City Council Administrative Areas

Park Typology Area (ha)	Total Area	Central	North Central	North West	South Central	South East
Flagship	1305.79	1.73	505.77	726.62	40.43	31.24
CG1	278.31	7.56	75.33	81.12	48.44	65.86
CG2	438.13	4.12	130.21	131.73	126.64	45.43
Total Park Area	2022.23	13.41	711.31	939.47	215.51	142.53
Total Land Area	11764	960	3294	3196	2003	2311

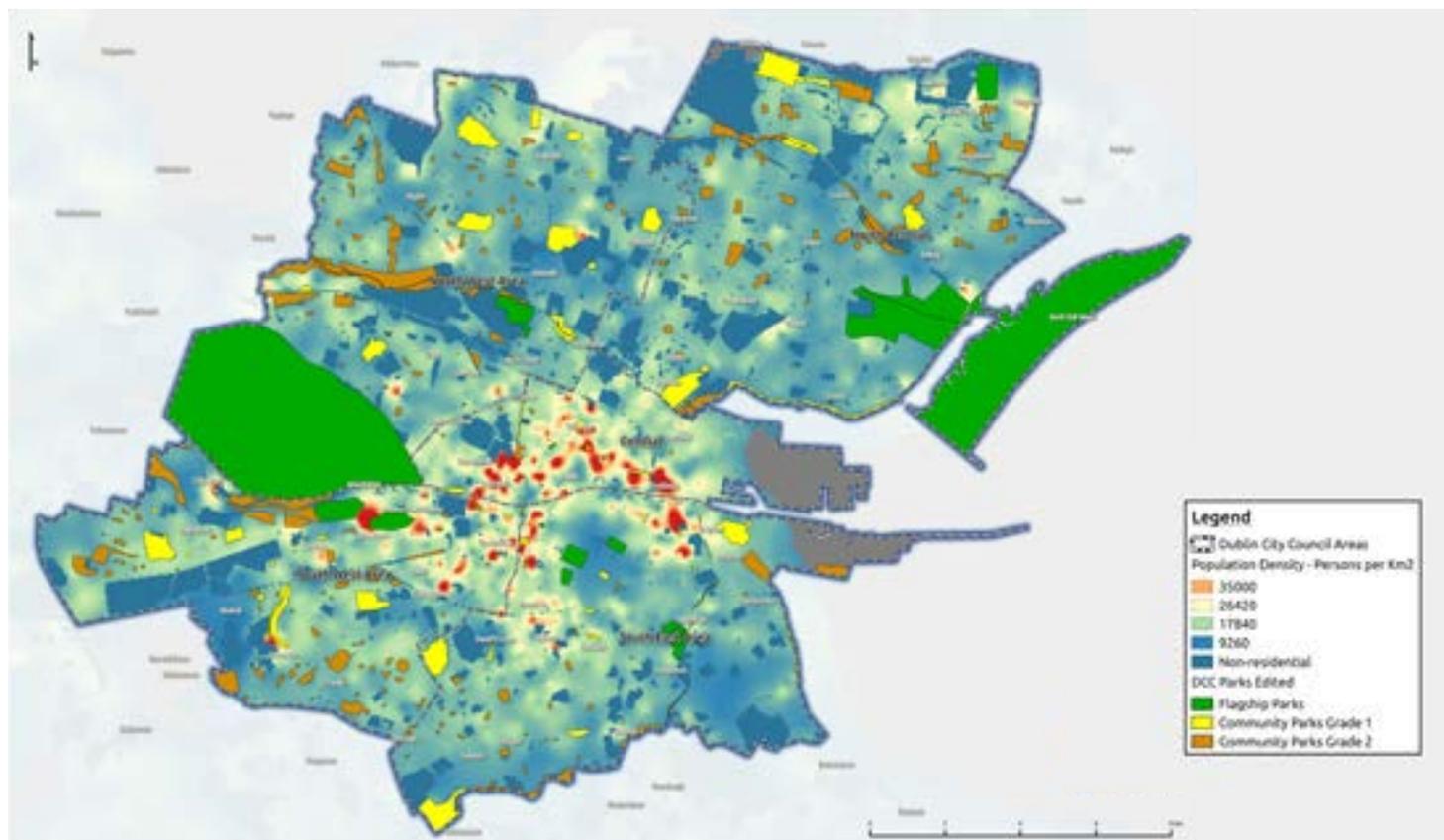
Park Typology % Area	Total DCC	Central	North Central	North West	South Central	South East
Flagship	11.10	0.18	15.35	22.74	2.02	1.35
CG1	2.37	0.79	2.29	2.54	2.42	2.85
CG2	3.72	0.43	3.95	4.12	6.32	1.97
Total	17.19	1.40	21.59	29.40	10.76	6.17

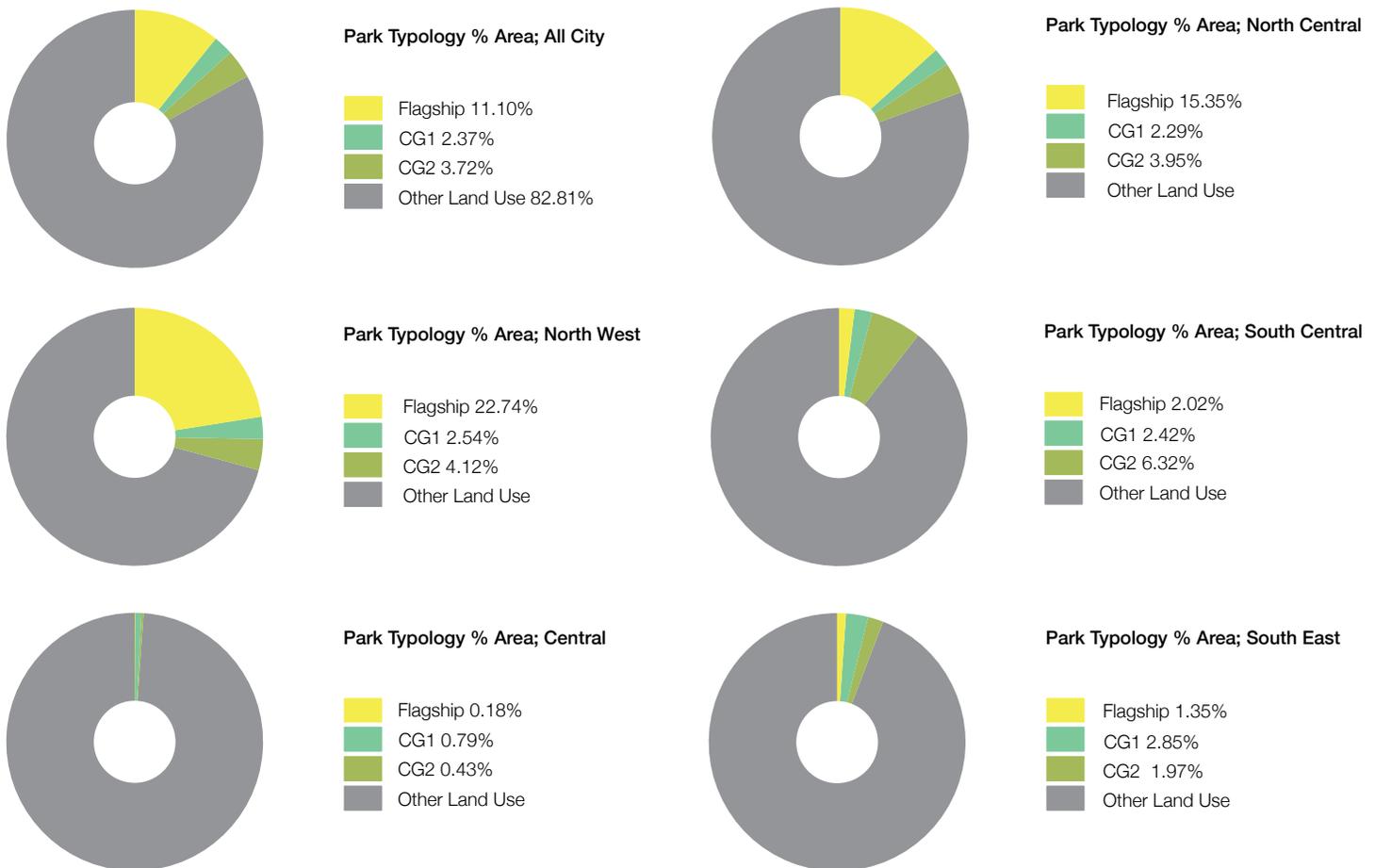
Population (Census 2016)	Total DCC	Central	North Central	North West	South Central	South East
Population	554554	72982	131445	119886	109065	121176
Flagship (m ² /pers.)	23.55	0.24	38.48	60.61	3.71	2.58
CG1 (m ² /pers.)	5.02	1.04	5.73	6.77	4.44	5.44
CG2 (m ² /pers.)	7.90	0.56	9.91	10.99	11.61	3.75
Total (m ² /pers.)	36.47	1.84	54.11	78.36	19.76	11.76
Census 2011	527612	67309	125597	113625	104685	116396

Parks form just over 17% of the land area of the city, that is some 2,020ha of the 11,761ha available. Flagship parks form the bulk of the provision due to the extensive size of the Phoenix Park, Bull Island and St. Anne’s Park. The remainder is community Grade 1 and 2 parks. When compared internationally the provision in Dublin is good, however it is important to look towards the future and expect the city population to continue to grow with associated demand for recreational space. The protection of existing open space is therefore crucial to meeting both current and future recreational demands.

The density of residential population within the administrative area varies. A notable higher density zone is located in the inner-city between the canals as indicated (red & orange areas) on the map below. Between 1991 and 2011 the population of Dublin City increased by just 9.8 per cent. However, in the inner-city there was an increase of 62% in the same period. This increase reflects the high level of apartment building there from the late 1980s onwards. Apartments typically have less open space for occupants compared to individual houses and therefore there is a greater need for good access to public open space.

Dublin Population Density





The geographic location and size of parks are not uniform throughout the city, which reflects the organic growth of the capital over many years. In order to quantify their distribution more clearly, analysis of the 5 management areas (Central, North Central, South Central, North West and South East) within the city has been conducted in terms of total park area.

As can be seen in the diagrams above, the North West and North Central areas indicate the highest percentage area of flagship parks in the city at 22.7% and 15.3% respectively, whereas the Central Area has 0.18%. However, it is noted that the high percentage in the North West area is due to the large area of the Phoenix Park. The provision for Community Grade 1 and 2 parks ranges from 4.82 % to 8.74%, except for the Central Area, which has a low 1.22%.

In terms of total provision, the Central Area has the lowest parks provision at 1.40%, compared to 29% for North West and 21% for North Central. Taking account of the entire city, parks area per 1,000 population indicates a total provision of 3.64 hectares or 36m² per person. Based on the recommended standards for local authorities of 2 – 2.5 hectares per 1,000

population (20-25m² per person) as indicated in the Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas (2009) and the guiding figure of 18 hectares per 10,000 population in the 1987 Parks Policy for Local Authorities, the aforementioned figure represents an above average provision.

The Central and South East areas fall below this average where the provision is 1.84m² per person and 11.76m² per person respectively. The South East area has in fact a lot of open space but this is in private or institutional use and may or may not be freely accessible.

The size of parks is not uniform. Fewer and smaller parks are located in the inner-city where there is a higher population density. While the average provision of open space per person is 36m² per person city-wide, this reduces to less than 5m² per person in the city centre area excluding the Phoenix Park.

The inner-city, between the canals is therefore deficient both in community open space and public recreational resources due to the small unit size of the parks.

The key measures identified to address open space deficit and small park unit size are as follows:

- Create new parks by rezoning lands within the city centre. This requires a review of existing vacant lots or derelict sites to determine current potential to convert land use.
- Land ownership, value and accessibility. Conversion of private open space to public open space. This potentially includes Fitzwilliam Square, Mount Pleasant Square, Kenilworth Square and Brighton Square.
- Combining smaller open space provision from individual developments into large more meaningful units of open space through land swap arrangements or financial contributions in lieu of open space.
- To seek financial contributions in lieu of open space provision for proposed developments in areas outside the city centre already adequately serviced by open space and to deploy these funds to provide or upgrade parks in inner-city deficit areas.
- To enhance the general public realm quality of the inner-city to compensate for the lower provision of parks.

A study is required to identify potential new parks between the canals to address the existing lower provision of public open space there. These new parks would represent an investment into the liveability of the city. It is recommended that their design and park name reflects Dublin contemporary literature to reinforce the UNESCO City of Literature designation and to commemorate writers who had a connection to the city.

New parks commemorating contemporary writers
(Images: RTE Archives)

! **Policy**

Dublin City Council will maintain a provision of between 2.5ha and 3.6ha of parks per 1000 population in its administrative area. This accommodates the existing provision while allowing for expected future population growth.

⚙️ **Actions**

To undertake a feasibility study into facilitating public access and the provision of new parks between the canals to service this area of high population density and to contribute to the identity of Dublin as a City of Literature.



4.1.6 Quality of Parks

Quality varies across the provision of parks in the City. The introduction of methods to assess quality of open spaces has occurred in recent times and, while a full city wide assessment of parks is not currently available, it can be seen that there are parks of concern, particularly in the South Central and North West management areas.

Green Flag Awards Scheme

This scheme was introduced in the UK over 20 years ago as a reaction to concerns over declining park quality there in the 1970s and 1980s. It is considered that the introduction in the UK of quality assessment has improved the overall quality of its parks as it creates a standard to be achieved. Currently over 1,600 parks have succeeded in obtaining this quality standard there.

The process involves an application that is assessed by trained judges with regard to specific criteria. Those successful are awarded a green flag for display.

An Taisce (The National Trust for Ireland) administer the scheme in Ireland. The Dublin local authorities and Office of Public Works have now introduced the scheme into a selected number of parks over the last four years.

In the City Council five parks were selected, one for each management area:

- South East Area: Bushy Park
- South Central Area: Markievicz Park
- Central Area: Blessington Street Park
- North West Area: Poppintree Park
- South Central Area: St Anne’s Park



Policy

Park Services will continue to work towards improving the quality of its parks to ensure all citizens have access to a quality park in their neighbourhood and will deploy the Green Flag award scheme to assist in achieving a recognised quality standard.



Actions

- To carry out selected Green Flag assessments annually for each of the Council administrative areas.
- To carry out a full assessment of all Flagship and Community Grade 1 Parks, subject to resource availability, within the next five years.
- To upgrade specific Community Grade 2 parks to Grade 1 parks in management areas with a higher proportion of Grade 2 parks, as follows:
North West Area: Kildonan Park
South Central Area: Ballyfermot Civic Centre Park & Cherry Orchard Park



Green Flag Award

Assessment Criteria:

1. A welcoming place
2. Healthy, safe and secure
3. Well maintained and clean
4. Sustainability
5. Conservation and heritage
6. Community involvement
7. Marketing
8. Management

4.1.7 Access to Parks

An assessment of accessibility seeks to indicate the areas serviced by city parks and those that are not. This analysis will determine deficit areas where policies can be focused.

Accessibility standards are based upon reasonable walking distances from residents' homes. It is therefore helpful to confirm, as indicated in the results of the questionnaire in Chapter 3, that the majority of people walk to their local park, as it supports the methodology.

Where possible more sustainable means of travel to parks in Dublin should be encouraged, not only for environmental reasons, but also as there is normally limited car parking available.

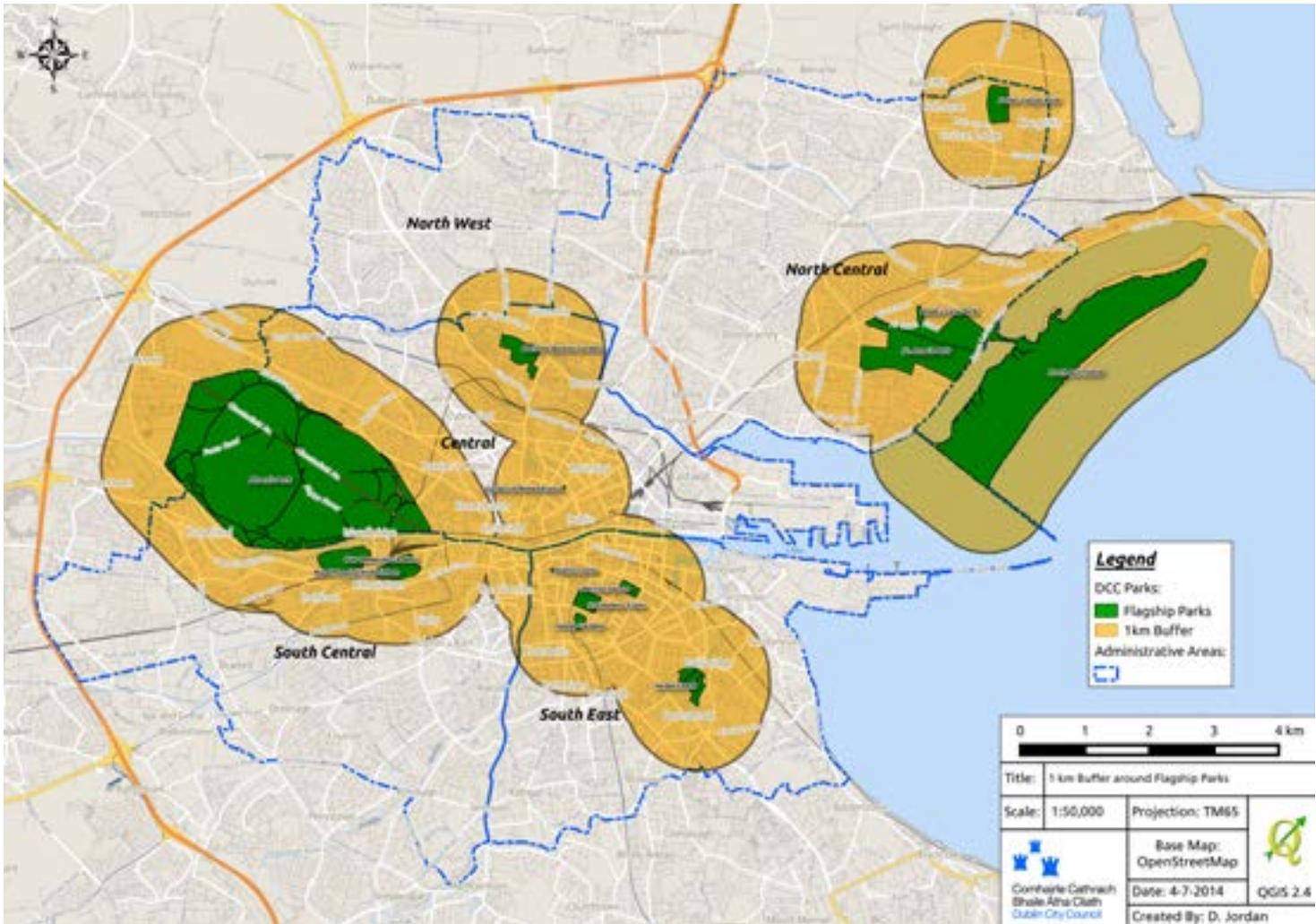
Access to Flagship Parks

The distribution and access to flagship parks is illustrated below. A 1km buffer zone, illustrated in yellow, has been provided which indicates a reasonable walking (10 – 20 minutes) or cycling distance to get to flagship parks. Access to these parks is also possible by public and private transport and it was also noted in the questionnaire returns that residents anywhere in the city will use flagship parks.

It can be seen in the plan that flagship parks are clustered in the centre of the city and along the north coastal area. Key deficit areas are prominent in the North West, North Central, South Central and to a lesser extent in the South East management areas.

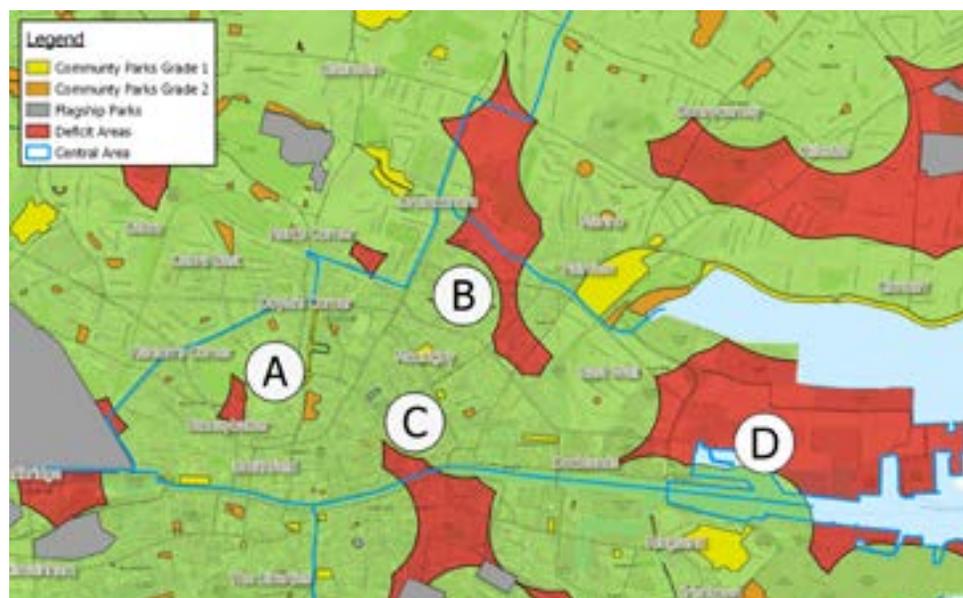
To address the deficit an upgrading programme is proposed. This long-term objective will upgrade a number of existing community grade parks to flagship status (see table below).

Overall this will bring the provision of flagship parks from the current provision of 13 to 17. This will bring new flagship parks to peripheral areas and elevate the overall quality of city parks to a higher standard reflecting Dublin's position as a capital city and an international city. Under this strategy it is proposed to focus on upgrading two parks to flagship status.



Access to existing Flagship parks

Area	Proposed Flagship Park	Attributes
Central	Mountjoy Square Park	A Georgian period park that requires historic landscape reconstruction in accordance with its conservation study proposals.
North Central	Fairview Park	An original tidal mud flat before reclamation and development into a park in the 1920s.
North West	Albert College Park	The park originally was the home of an agricultural and horticultural college and named after Prince Albert in the 1850s. Restoration and new visitor facilities are required.
South East	Fitzwilliam Square Park	A Georgian period park that is in private ownership. Requires a conservation and historical landscape study, followed by sensitive restoration.



Access to Community Parks in Central Area

Access to Community Parks

Access to community parks is assessed for each of the five management areas of the city administrative area.

A 500m buffer zone, illustrated in green on plans is used to indicate the areas that are well serviced by the parks and equates to a 5 – 10 minute walking distance. A review of areas showing reduced service (indicated in red) by management area is also given.

Overall and presently, there is limited scope to introduce new public parks into these deficit areas. Opportunities to create new open space could however occur as a result of new residential development where provision of public open space is required.

Furthermore, it is noted that some areas benefit from access to local institutional lands such as schools and colleges. In deficit areas, quality public realm and improved linkages to open space can help service deficit.

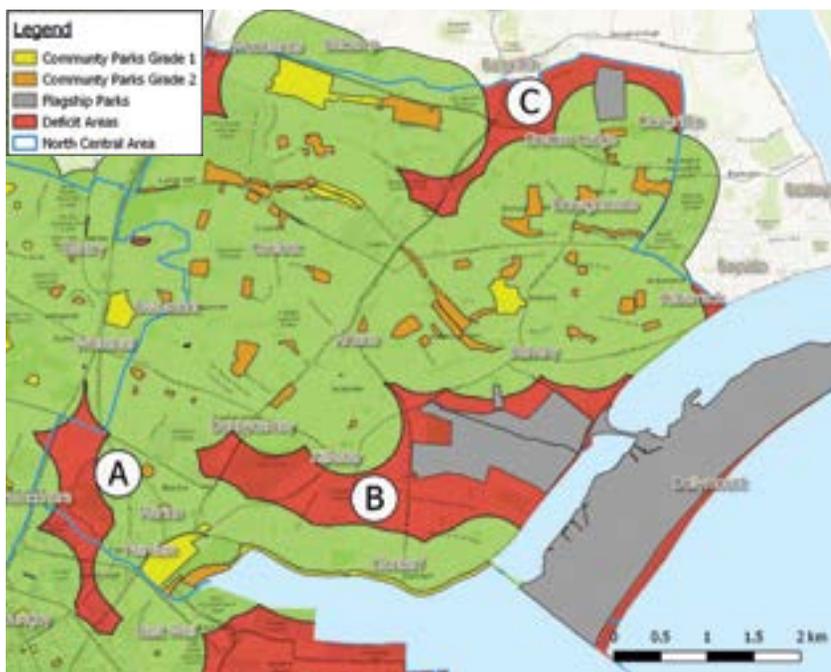
Central Area

The mapping of the Central Area indicates adequate access to local parks overall, however it is noted that the unit size of parks decreases towards the city centre. Therefore residents and visitors have good access, but it is to smaller parks compared to suburban areas.

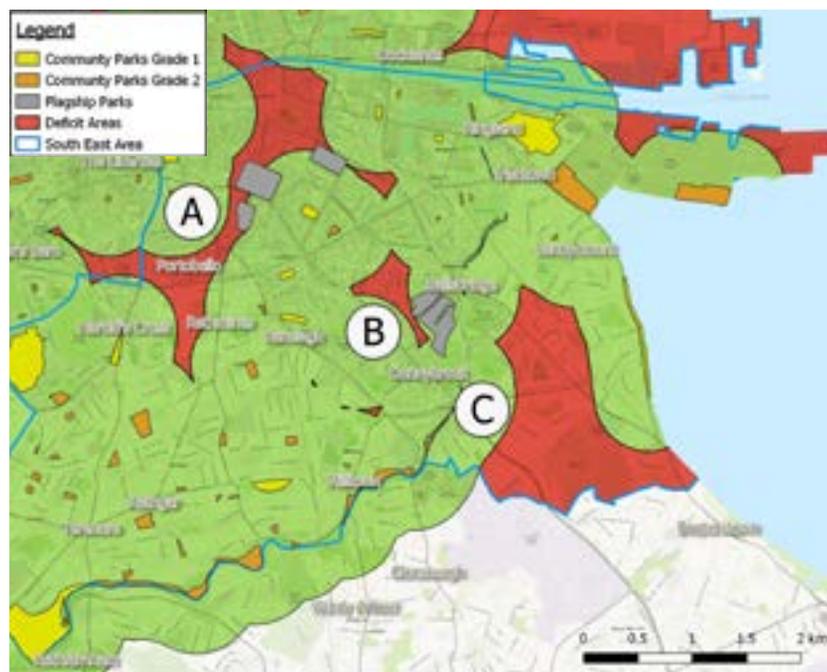
Small pockets of the Central Area not within the 500m serviced zone are as shown in the following table.

Area of Reduced Service		
A	Stoneybatter	This is a largely mixed use area, dominated by institutional uses and the new Dublin Institute of Technology campus at Grangegorman. There are no new parks proposed for this area, however residents will be able to avail of passive recreation within the grounds of this new campus.
B	Drumcondra – Clonliffe Rd	This area mainly serves residential and some mixed uses. There are no new parks planned for this area. However, possible future development of institutional lands may create further public open space in this area. Residents have the benefit of the Royal Canal and Tolka Valley Park adjacent for both passive and active recreation.
C	City Centre	This area includes O’Connell Street and Trinity College which is serviced by the Flagship Parks of St Stephens Green and Merrion Square.
D	Dublin Port	This area includes predominantly port related facilities and there are no parks proposed. Public realm proposals under the Docklands SDZ Planning Scheme relate to the western part of this area.





Access to Community Parks in North Central Area



Access to Community Parks in South East Area

North Central Area

The North Central Area indicates adequate access overall with a mix of park sizes. However, there are 3 key areas that have reduced service:

Area of reduced service

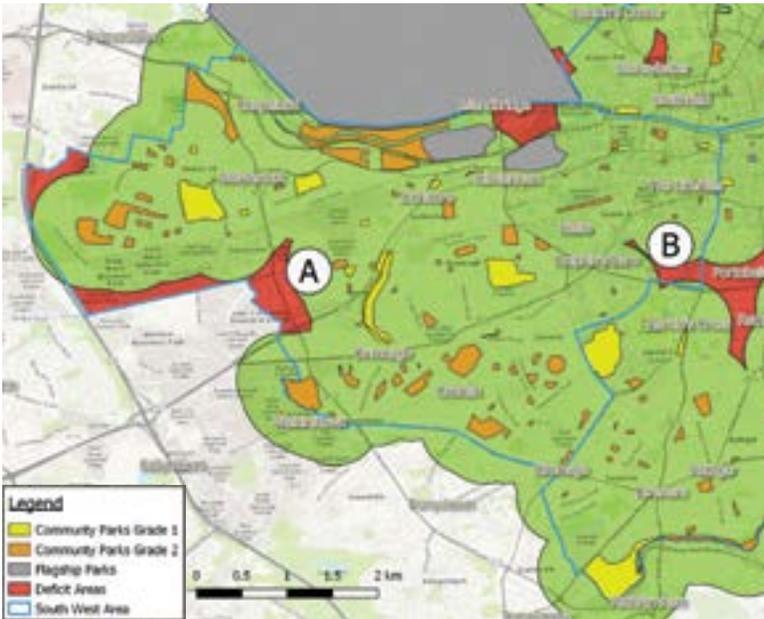
- A** Drumcondra - Grace Park Road, This area is dominated by institutional lands including sports grounds. It merges with Clonliffe Rd in the aforementioned deficit area in the Central Area. There is a proposed new park within the grounds of St Josephs, which will help service this area on completion.
- B** Donnycarney This is a largely mixed use area, with a number of private sports facilities, such as Clontarf Rugby and Golf Club. The grounds of the Casino under the management of the Office of Public Works is also within this area, which provides adequate open space. St Anne’s Park (Flagship) also services this area. There are no new parks proposed for this area.
- C** Belmayne This area is characterised by new housing estates surrounded by undeveloped lands. There are also some retail and industrial uses. The undeveloped land is zoned for residential uses. A Community Grade 1 park will be provided as part of new residential development and further open space will be provided along the River Mayne corridor.

South East Area

The South East Management Area has reasonable access overall to community parks, however they are of smaller unit size. There are a number of privately owned open spaces, including Fitzwilliam Square, Mount Pleasant Square as well as a number of private sports grounds.

Area of reduced service

- A** Portobello/ Rathmines Area This is a largely residential and mixed use area with a military barracks in Rathmines. The Grand Canal intersects this area and provides opportunities for passive and active recreation. There are no identified opportunities for new park provision. The area is also served by the flagship parks of St. Stephens Green and the Iveagh Gardens.
- B** Ballsbridge (Centering on Wellington Road Area) This is a well established residential area. There are no identified opportunities for new park provision, and the area is serviced by Herbert Park, which is a Flagship park.
- C** Sandymount/ Donnybrook/Mt. Merrion/Belfield Area This is a well established residential area with some institutional uses. There are no identified opportunities for provision of new parks. There are several private sports facilities, such as Elm Park Golf Club, Old Belvedere Rugby Club and Wanderers Football Club.



Access to Community Parks in South Central

South Central Area

The South Central Area has good overall access to community grade parks. However, similar to other areas, there is a smaller unit size of park towards the city centre in comparison to outlying suburban areas. Key deficit areas in the South Central are Bluebell and Portobello.

Area of reduced service		
A	Bluebell	This area is dominated by several large industrial estates on the southern and western perimeters, with some residential use. The Grand Canal, immediately north provides opportunities for passive and active recreation. There is no identified requirement for new park provision.
B	Portobello	This area is dominated by residential and institutional (Griffith College) uses. The Grand Canal immediately south, provides linear recreational space for active and passive recreation. There are no identified opportunities for new park provision.



Access to Community Parks in North West

North West

In the North West Area, there is overall good access to community grade parks. Notable to this area is the cluster of contemporary designed Grade 1 parks developed as part of the Ballymun regeneration scheme.

Area of reduced service		
A	Cabra West – Bannow Rd	This area primarily contains residential and industrial uses. There are no new parks proposed for this area. However, residents have the benefit of the Royal Canal being immediately adjacent. Improvements to the canal open space corridor are desirable.
B	Drumcondra – Whitworth Rd	This area mainly serves residential and some mixed uses. There are no new parks planned for this area. However, residents have the benefit of the Royal Canal being immediately south of this area for both passive and active recreation.

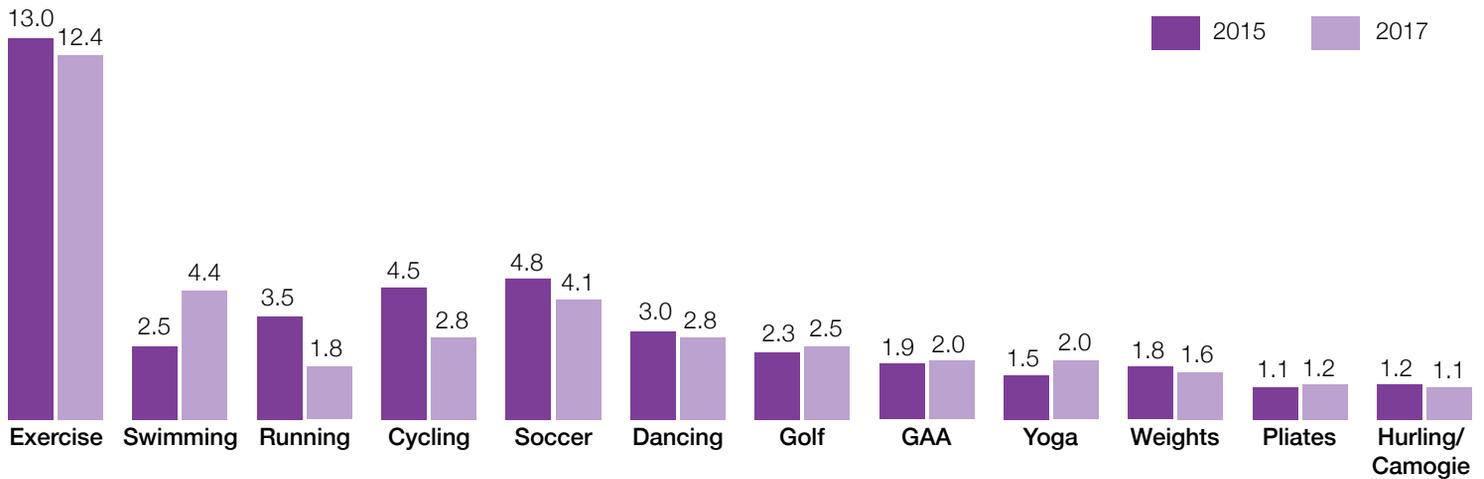
Policy

- To maintain a hierarchy of parks within reasonable access of the residents of Dublin.

Actions

- To improve access to Flagship Parks by the upgrading of community parks to flagship status as follows:
 Central Area: Mountjoy Square Park
 North West Area: Albert College Park
- To seek public access to Fitzwilliam Square Park.





Most popular forms of Sports (%) 2015-2017 (Source: Irish Sports Monitor).

4.2 PARKS AND RECREATION

The parks and open spaces of the City provide for a wide range of sporting and recreational uses, which are available to all ages to engage in exercise to suit their individual needs and abilities. This includes tennis, bowling, boules, athletics and field sports of many codes. More recently, outdoor gyms have been installed in many of our parks and their use has increased significantly as the experience of exercising in public has gained greater resonance with the public than it once might have had.

The main form of exercise, however, is walking and people particularly favour walking through and around parks, along rivers, canals and the ribbon of open spaces which follow the coastline. It is noticeable that where pavements have been improved or new ones provided there is an increased use of the park for walking. Pavements facilitate access for the elderly or infirm and parents with small children who would not otherwise be able to use the park. There are in addition many ‘trails’ in the larger parks and the Bull Island which are favoured by more able walkers and which provide a sense of countryside in the City.

Running and jogging are becoming increasingly popular in parks. Thousands of people participate in weekly runs in St. Anne’s Park, Bushy Park, Poppintree Park and others organized by local running groups. Boot camps and fitness classes are also a common sight in parks. These are commercial activities and so are granted a permit to use a particular park.

Facilities in parks are typically allocated by a letting arrangement, licence or permit to

community clubs who schedule their games and manage some facilities. This is the case for changing room pavilions (for field sports), tennis, bowling, boxing and the national velodrome in Sundrive Park, Crumlin.

Sillogue Golf Course is administered and marketed by a commercial golf company for public use.

4.2.1 Guidance on Participation and Provision

Active recreation in Ireland is monitored by the Irish Sports Council. Their research indicates that there is increasing participation in sport and most noticeably in general exercise and walking.

The City Council operates 5 leisure centres and 3 swimming pools. However, sports that require indoor facilities, such as swimming, gymnastics, etc. are not considered as part of this report.

There is guidance from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government on facilities provision in the 1987 report ‘A Policy for the Provision and Maintenance of Parks, Open Spaces and Outdoor Recreational Areas by Local Authorities’. This would be considered somewhat out of date but it remains the only guidance in Ireland on the provision of recreational facilities. The report ‘Planning & Design for Outdoor Sport & Play’ by the UK’s Field in Trust Organisation provides useful guidance on the quantitative provision and travel threshold for the public to access facilities.

For example The Fields in Trust document recommends a standard of 1.15 hectares per 1,000 population of playing pitches in urban

areas and we have used this as a best practice model for our assessment of access to playing fields in Dublin.

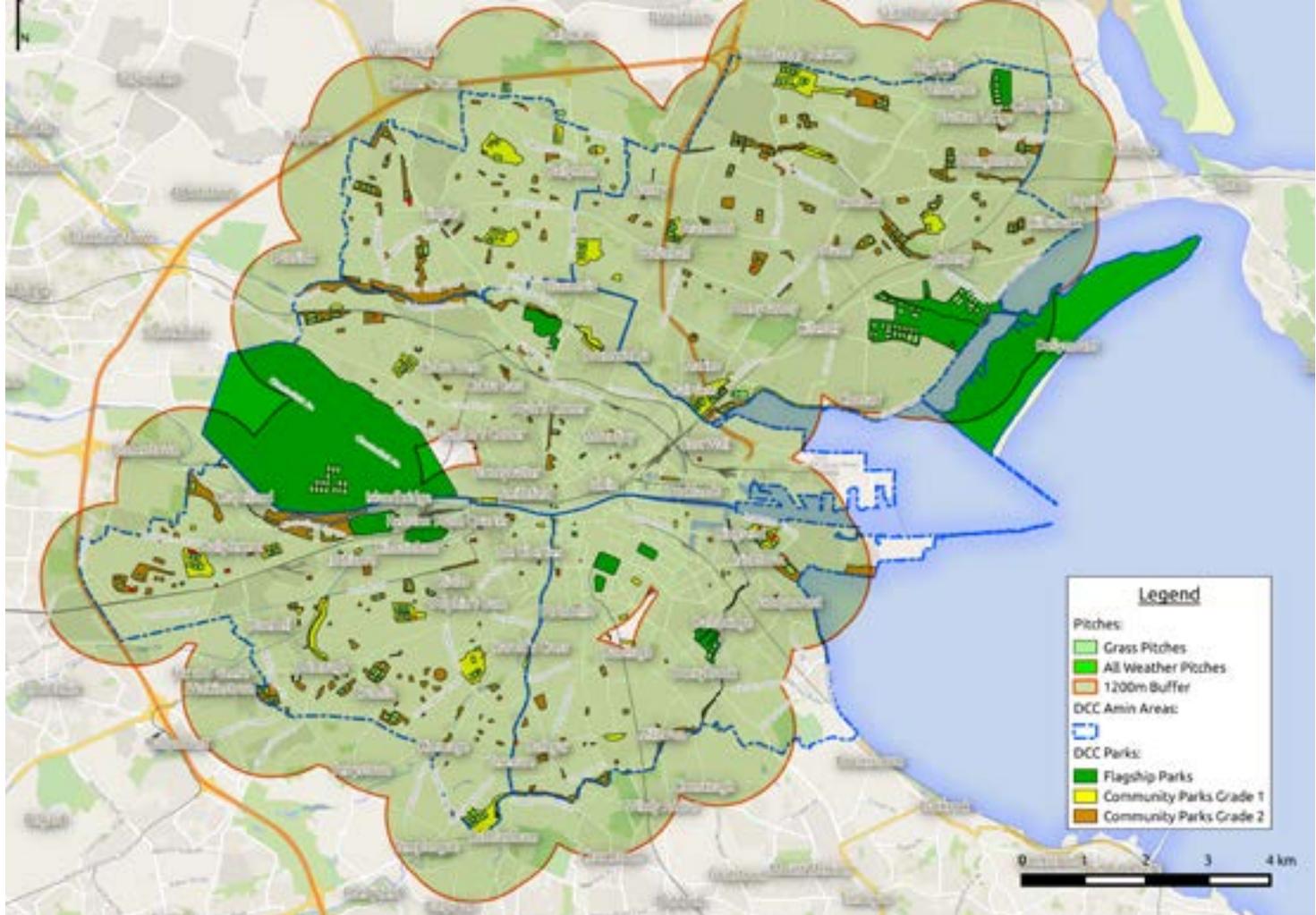
Other factors may also impact on the availability of recreational lands across the City, such as the conversion of private and institutional lands with playing fields to other uses (e.g. residential). The loss of such playing fields would inevitably increase the pressure on public parks to be developed for active recreation, thereby displacing other uses.

However, planning for recreation facilities involves much more than applying just a rigid set of standards. It requires the development of criteria that are sensitive and flexible to the requirements of each neighbourhood and community.

4.2.2 Field Sports/Playing Pitches

There are in the order of 230 playing pitches set out in Dublin City Council’s public parks and open spaces primarily for soccer and gaelic games. It is estimated that up to 5,000 people participate weekly in field sports in City parks. Other field games such as rugby, soft ball, tag rugby, cricket and ultimate frisbee are also accommodated on these pitches.

Playing pitches are allocated following an annual application by clubs for their use for a ‘season’. The soccer season generally begins in September and finishes in May. There is some debate at present to vary these times so as to facilitate a close down of pitches for the winter months and to allow the clubs to avail of the better weather and ground conditions between March and October, similar to the GAA season.



Access to Playing Fields

The UK Fields in Trust recommend a standard of 1.15 hectares per 1,000 population for playing pitches in urban areas. The total parkland allocated for field sports by Dublin City Council and OPW (grass and all weather) is in the order of 495.73 hectares or 0.1 ha per 1,000 population. This however does not take into account the pitches on private grounds, schools and colleges.

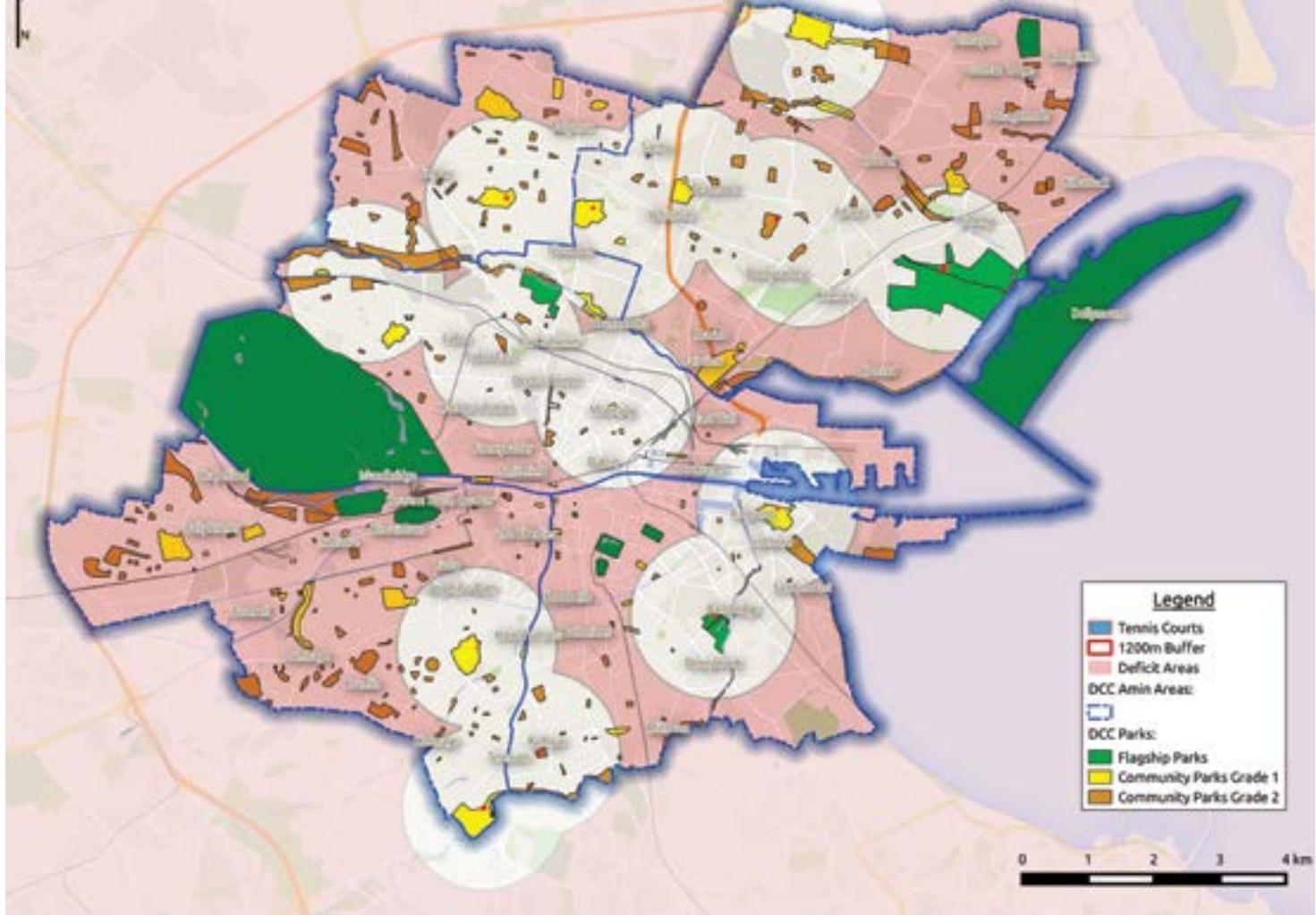
A 15 minute walk is considered in the UK (Fields in Trust) to be a reasonable distance for people to walk to a playing pitch, which equates to a 1.2km distance. Using this buffer for each playing pitch indicates that the city is reasonably well catered for as regards playing pitches as shown on the above plan. However, there are anomalies that relate to Dublin City which would not be replicated in many UK urban areas. Firstly, the size of a senior GAA pitch is almost twice the size of a senior soccer pitch and it is may be difficult therefore to set out a pitch of this size in many open spaces.

Also there are no public pitches in the city centre within the Grand Canal and North Circular Road (Trinity College, Blackhall Place and Grangegorman Campus are the only

private pitches in this area), which is an issue for communities in the city centre that have to travel outside the canals to access playing fields. The provision of all weather training facilities within the canals is an important consideration.

This situation has been highlighted as a particular problem in the south west inner-city and Dublin City Council has committed to developing all weather training facilities closely associated with schools.

It should be noted that school facilities and other all weather facilities under private management have not been included in this analysis, such facilities provide further opportunities for community sports clubs to train.



Access to Tennis Courts

4.2.3 All Weather Pitch and Training Facilities

There is an increasing demand for all-weather facilities for training and indeed league matches. The development of synthetic surfaces is improving the ability of such surfaces to simulate natural grass. They increase the frequency of use for games and reduce the wear and tear on grass pitches, which would otherwise be used for training. There is significant investment required to plan for all-weather facilities and the City Council has an obligation to ensure that any such investment on its lands is sustainable both in terms of the community use and financing the on-going maintenance and renewal of such facilities.

Retro-fitting all weather pitches into existing parks is problematic as these facilities are fenced and so parts of the public open space are isolated solely for the use of football clubs (which are often the most vocal of the representative groups that use a park). This may exclude those who value the open and green nature of a public park for informal play, walking, rest and relaxation and general passive recreation.

All weather pitches also require careful planning with regard to flood light spill onto residential

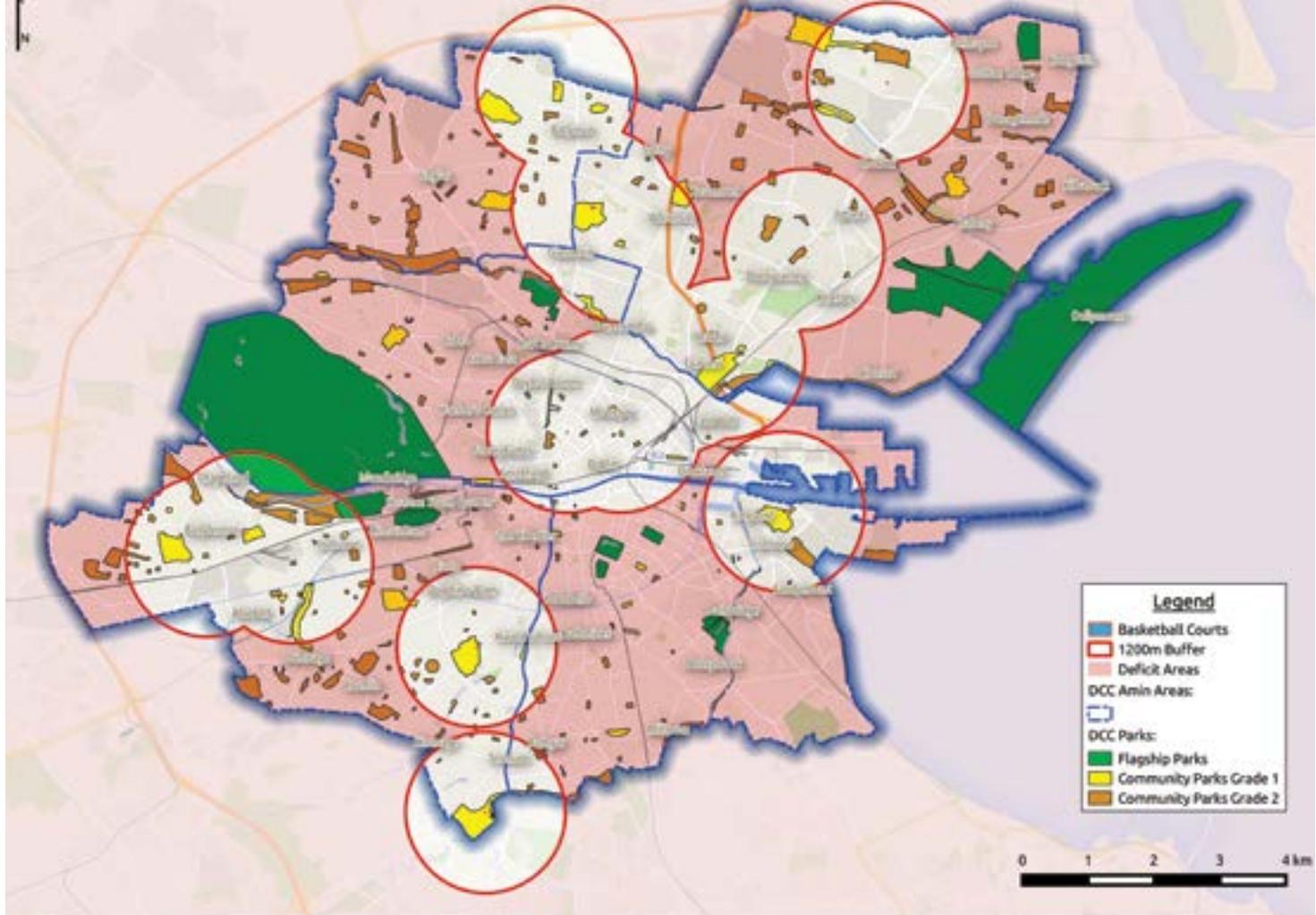
areas, provision for changing room and storage facilities and car parking

To achieve suitable accessibility Parks Services will be guided by sports governing bodies, such as the GAA and FAI to identify the locations in the city that they consider the most appropriate for the development of shared all-weather and training facilities which will then be available to local clubs to utilise. Partnerships with schools and other institutions/organisations will also be considered to develop sustainable community all weather facilities that will not deplete the available greenspace in any particular part of the city.

4.2.4 Tennis

The Parks Service supports the development of public courts and community tennis clubs. The infrastructure for establishing these clubs is planned and provided by the City Council and licenced to a community group to operate the courts and pavilions for the benefit of the local community. This model has been very successful in the wider Dublin area and will be replicated where there is an identified need. Provision will typically include a cluster of 8 or 10 courts with a club house facility. Existing public courts and community clubs are located as follows:

Public Tennis Courts
St Anne's Park
Herbert Park Public Courts
Albert College Park, Glasnevin
Ringsend Park
Ellenfield Park
Johnstown Park, Finglas
Belcamp Park
Dean Swift Sports Club
Courtlands, Glasnevin.
Ashington Park
Mount Bernard Park
Eamonn Ceannt Park



Access to existing Basketball Courts

Community Tennis Clubs

Herzog Park
(Rathgar Tennis Club)

Bushy Park Padel and
Tennis Club, Terenure

Rockfield Tennis Club, Edenmore

There are approximately 98 public courts in total or a ratio of 1:5,653 courts/population which falls short of the 1987 guidelines target ratio of 1: 1,000. There are also a number of private tennis clubs in the City, predominantly in the south-east, which add to the overall provision of tennis facilities in the City.

The most significant deficit areas include the city central area, the west of the city (including Chapelizod, Ballyfermot, Inchicore, Drimnagh, Kilmainham) and the north east (Donaghmede, Coolock and Darndale).

Dublin City Council's objective therefore, in association with Tennis Ireland, is to increase the accessibility to this sport throughout the city with a target provision of 1 court per 4,500 persons in the medium term.

The enhancement of existing facilities is ongoing and future projects include the provision of a new

clubhouse and upgraded courts at Rockfield Park and refurbished courts at Bushy Park and Herbert Park.

4.2.5 Athletics

It was acknowledged earlier that running is one of the most popular sports, however the infrastructure requirements in parks for this form of exercise is minimal. Indeed most runners would prefer to run on soft ground rather than a pavement. A standard 400m synthetic athletics track together with the ancillary but essential physical enclosure, changing rooms and car park are a significant size and investment and there are such facilities located in Irishtown and Santry. These facilities are also of a regional nature, so people travel to other facilities in the wider Dublin area in Tallaght, Clondalkin, Marlay, Cabinteely and UCD.

A smaller facility operates successfully at Chapelizod, managed by Donore Harriers. This is a model for athletics that requires greater consideration for other locations in the City and a feasibility study will be carried out with Athletics Ireland in this regard.

4.2.6 Basketball

There are 20 basketball courts provided within city parks of varying size and associated facilities. In comparison to other core facilities, their provision is relatively low. Their distribution is indicated above, highlighting the deficit areas of Finglas/Cabra, Kilmore/Beaumont, Donaghmede/Raheny/Clontarf, Donnybrook/Ranelagh/south inner-city.

Basketball provision typically consists of individual courts or sometimes as part of a MUGA (Multiple Use Games Area). The usage levels of the city's public basketball courts is unknown, however the sport is considered to be one of the top 6 participatory sports in the country, the number one indoor sport and the premier sport for females under 16 years old.

4.2.7 Non-core facilities

Facilities for non-core sports are unevenly distributed throughout the city and include: golf courses/pitch and putt greens, bowls, boules, skateparks, table tennis, handball and fitness trails/outdoor gyms. The provision of these facilities should be developed where significant interest arises or on a one per electoral area basis.



Golf Course:

Sillogue Park

Pitch & Putt:

St Anne’s Park

Longmeadows Park

Bellcamp Park

Edenmore Park

Tolka Valley Park

Golf / Pitch and Putt

There are no golf courses in the City, however there are a number of courses located on the periphery, including the Dublin City Council operated Sillogue Park Golf Course near the Airport. This is an 18 hole championship public golf course, officially opened by Christy O’Connor Senior in 1984. Since then the golf course has matured beautifully with tree-lined fairways in a parkland setting.

The provision of pitch and putt courses is not based on a specific demand but the availability of suitable locations that can accommodate the land requirement. Dublin City Council operates 5 golf and pitch and putt facilities, each offering its own unique experience and benefits for every type of user.

Lawn Bowls

Kenilworth Bowling Club, based in Kenilworth Square in Rathgar was built in the 1890s and was the first in Dublin. Apart from Herbert Park Bowling Club, which is over 60 years in existence, Crumlin Bowling Club and a new provision at St. Anne’s Park, the provision for lawn bowls in Dublin City is by private clubs with competitions organised by the Bowling League of Ireland.

The provision of new facilities in parks will be considered subject to the formation of a club that will use the facility.

Boules/Petanque

This game, which is normally associated with France and Italy, is played in St Anne’s Park, Herbert Park, Bushy Park and Albert College Park. The game, involving teams competing to throw their boules as close as possible to a target ball, requires the provision of a gravel piste or playing surface. The game can be played informally or through clubs organised by the Irish Petanque Association.



Cycling

Traditionally cycling in parks has been banned by bye-laws but this makes less sense in the context of encouraging more active life styles. ‘Greenways’ are defined in the context of cycling as non-motorised transport routes for cyclists which are shared by walkers and other park users. Issues do arise however where cyclists come in conflict with other park users because ‘cycletracks’, which are constructed as part of road carriageways specifically for commuters, are now being confused with greenways. Cycling through a public park, whether a river valley or an urban park, needs to be done responsibly and with due respect for other park users. The City Council is yet to develop a policy for how signage and awareness raising can be integrated with pavement improvements, for which significant funding is now available.

The outdoor velodrome in Sundrive Park provides for track-cycling training and events managed by Cycling Ireland. The original track was constructed in the 1950s and more recently upgraded in 2009.

Outdoor gyms

The number of outdoor gyms has increased over the past decade and a greater range of quality products have also become available. They typically comprise of equipment designed for particular gym exercises for general fitness and instructions for use are given on the equipment. Currently there are outdoor gyms located along the Sandymount and Clontarf promenades, California Hill Park, Blessington Street Basin Park and Fr Collins Park. Many more will be installed over the next few years subject to funding.

Sea based water sports

Sea bathing and swimming is increasingly popular and to facilitate this on Bull Island solar powered showers have been provided on the beach which is maintained to a Blue Flag standard. Shelters on the Bull Wall are being considered for adaptation to provide greater shelter for the bathers who use this location daily. Other shoreline locations will be considered for improvements to steps, handrails, shelter and solar showers to facilitate sea bathing.

The Bull Island has developed as a key location for kite surfing and similar water sports and is

considered to be one of the best locations in Ireland for this activity. Consideration is being given to providing a seasonal recreational centre on the beach at Dollymount for this activity. Beach Volleyball Ireland has requested areas to be identified in the city for this sport in addition to the use of Dollymount beach. Boat and yacht clubs access the bay from various locations, particularly on north Dublin Bay. Each of these locations, requires investment to promote these activities.

Other Sports

One handball court is provided in St Michan’s Park in the city centre. Handball as a sport was widely popular throughout the country from the 1940s to the 70s, however its popularity declined and the modern development of the game is provided for now by the GAA using indoor facilities.

Table tennis developed from a Victorian-era pastime into an Olympic sport with worldwide appeal. The sport is largely an indoor pursuit and in Ireland its governed by Table Tennis Ireland. However, one outdoor concrete table is provided for in Mountjoy Square Park and consideration will be given to providing others in appropriate locations.



Policy

- Dublin City Council will continue to provide and maintain a range of recreational opportunities within its parks and work with governing bodies of sport and activities to strategically plan development of facilities without impact on passive uses or character of particular parks or open spaces.
- To ensure that any future all-weather facilities are available to as wide a range of sports as possible in the local community, that local schools have access during the day and early evening and that all the users of the facility contribute to a fund that will cover the cost of renewal of the facility at the end of its efficient use period, e.g. 10 to 12 years for a synthetic surface.



Action

- To provide, where possible, park perimeter paths and paths between interconnecting parks to develop accessible walking routes and promote jogging.
- To assess the potential of provision of new all-weather pitch facilities within the canals area and the Terenure area, in particular where opportunities of new open space provision arise.
- To provide a new playing pitch as part of the St. Teresa's Gardens redevelopment.
- To identify opportunities to partner with schools within the canals area to develop community training facilities, particularly in the South Central Area.
- To prepare an audit of playing fields to ensure that the quality and maintenance is in accordance with best practice to maximise use.
- To enhance tennis facilities at Rockfield Park, Bushy Park and Herbert Park.
- To develop a policy for managing and signing cycling in parks so as to better manage the conflict between cyclists and other park users.
- To assess the potential of new beach volleyball sites in coastal parks/beaches
- To provide for new skateparks city-wide, commencing with LeFanu Park in Ballyfermot in 2019.



4.3 PARKS AND PLAY

Play is an important activity in the development of children as it promotes their physical and cognitive development and encourages socialisation. The provision of public playgrounds creates space in the city for children and their guardians to come together and enjoy play and they have become important places for local communities. Dublin City Council's vision is for Dublin to be a playful city where all children can enjoy their right to play. Children's right to engage in play and recreational activities is enshrined in Article 31 of the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child.

Playgrounds vary in size and type from large playgrounds with many pieces of play equipment in park settings, to smaller playgrounds with fewer pieces of equipment set closer to home. Significant investment has been made in playground development in parks and urban regeneration projects around the city; where children and young people have been consulted during the design process and where new and challenging pieces of play equipment have been installed.

Dublin City Council provides playgrounds (60) in public parks, which are located so as to cater for the needs of local neighbourhoods. There are also play facilities (62) provided in social housing schemes which service a need for play within the individual housing schemes. These are generally not accessible to the wider community so are not categorised as public playgrounds.

In the past there has been no measure as to how widely playgrounds should be distributed within a city. However, international best practice now seeks to set thresholds for access and proximity for communities to playgrounds and this can be measured by mapping the playgrounds against population distribution and density.

There is a hierarchy of playgrounds. Larger parks, such as St Anne's Park, have the infrastructure and capacity to accommodate what are termed 'destination' playgrounds. These are playgrounds which people will

travel to from a wider area and where there is the space for ancillary facilities, such as car parking, toilets and perhaps a café. Other than St Anne's Park and the Phoenix Park, there are no playgrounds which would be categorized at present as 'destination'. It should be noted that people do travel from the City Council area to park playgrounds in adjoining administrative areas, such as Malahide Demesne, Tymon Park, Templeogue, Marlay Park and Booterstown. However, there is the potential to develop such destination playgrounds in the City in the north west, south central and south east as well as the city centre.

In addition to St Anne's Park there are local playgrounds which have a range of equipment and would each have cost in the order €150,000 to construct.

There are also a number of small playlots which have a limited range of equipment and limited value other than to the immediate environs. For the purposes of mapping play facilities citywide, the facilities in social housing are also categorized as playlots.

In order to prioritise the provision of new playgrounds, census data were reviewed for deficit areas. This indicates areas with higher concentrations of children who would benefit from new playgrounds. The distribution of all playgrounds is illustrated on the plan below.

Access to playgrounds is assessed using a 500m (5-10minutes walk) and 1000m (10-20 minutes) walk-in zone. The 500m zone provides a good level of access, while the 1000m represents a reduced level of access.

The mapping of play facilities based on these thresholds highlights a deficit of provision in:

Belmayne / Kilbarrack
Coolock
Clontarf
Marino North
Sandymount

Natural play areas offer an alternative to mainstream playgrounds. They involve a more creative design of play spaces that can include natural elements such as surface mounding, sand, water, timber logs, willow tunnels, etc. They are suitable in certain locations and may take their design inspiration from particular places, such as woodlands and coastlines and give children a link to nature, which is important in the city environment.



Policy

- The City Council will continue to maintain and upgrade existing playgrounds and improve access to play for all children of Dublin City with a priority on current areas lacking provision but having a high population of children.
- To provide for new destination playgrounds in the North West, South Central, South East and City Centre.
- To assess the potential of provision of natural play through out the city to compliment the fixed playground resource.



Action

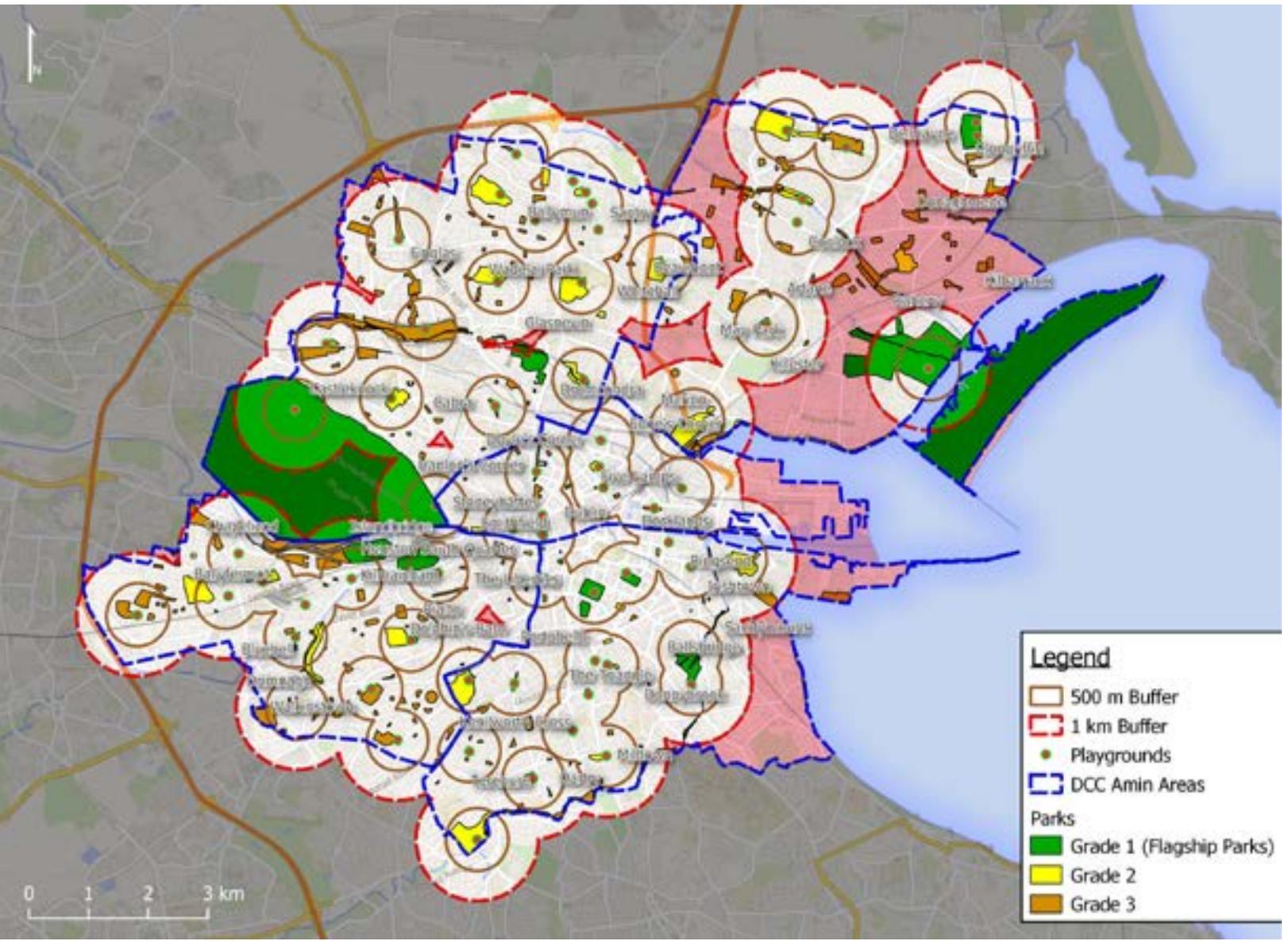
- To address deficit in provision of playgrounds and to prioritise their provision based on areas with higher population of children, the following locations will be assessed for the provision of new facilities:

North Central Area:

Belmayne
Kilbarrack
Coolock
Marino North
Clontarf

South East Area:

Sandymount



Access to playgrounds

4.4 PARK VISITOR FACILITIES

Dublin's parks have strongly emphasised the provision of recreational facilities over the years and in many cases have not fully met the requirements of modern day visitors to the city, in particular tourists.

It is therefore important that Dublin's parks, especially flagship parks, provide for such facilities and cater as quality destinations that invite visitors to stay longer and enjoy city parks.

4.4.1 Parking

The provision of car parking within city parks is limited and not normally provided, as it would limit space for other park facilities. Typically external parking is available or access by walking, cycling or public transport is possible.

External parking adjacent to parks requires careful planning and design. Key issues relating to on-street parking provision include excessive bus parking around the perimeter of parks that block views and pedestrian safety at crossing points into parks.

Cycle parking will be facilitated internally in the majority of parks, however in certain historic parks it may not be appropriate and external provision will be sought. In general, suitable bike parking arrangements will be provided for in all inner-city parks to further facilitate this mode of transport. Convenience and security will guide the placement of bicycle parking facilities in city centre parks.

4.4.2 Toilets

The provision of public toilets in Dublin has proved too difficult due to anti-social activity.

All stand alone facilities within city parks have failed and further provision will only be made as part of other facilities within parks, such as cafés/tearooms or sports buildings, where active management and monitoring exists.



Red Stables, St Anne's Park
(Image: Peter Kavanagh)

4.4.3 Cafés, Tea Rooms & Restaurants

The provision of cafés, tea rooms and restaurants encourage visitors to meet and stay longer in city parks as well as providing some income from operator licences. Currently there are tea rooms located in St Patrick's Park and Harold's Cross Park where existing buildings have been converted to accommodate this new use. The Red Stables in St Anne's Park, which were part of the original estate buildings, have been converted to accommodate a restaurant. The provision of these facilities takes into account commercial viability, food quality, as well as the park character, so that they are in keeping with the park setting. Ideally a range of food outlets allowing a price range option for visitors is preferable, however this may only be possible in larger flagship parks.

Food concessions, such as mobile ice cream vending and coffee stands, are also given by the City Council for various parks within the city.

4.4.4 Visitor Centres

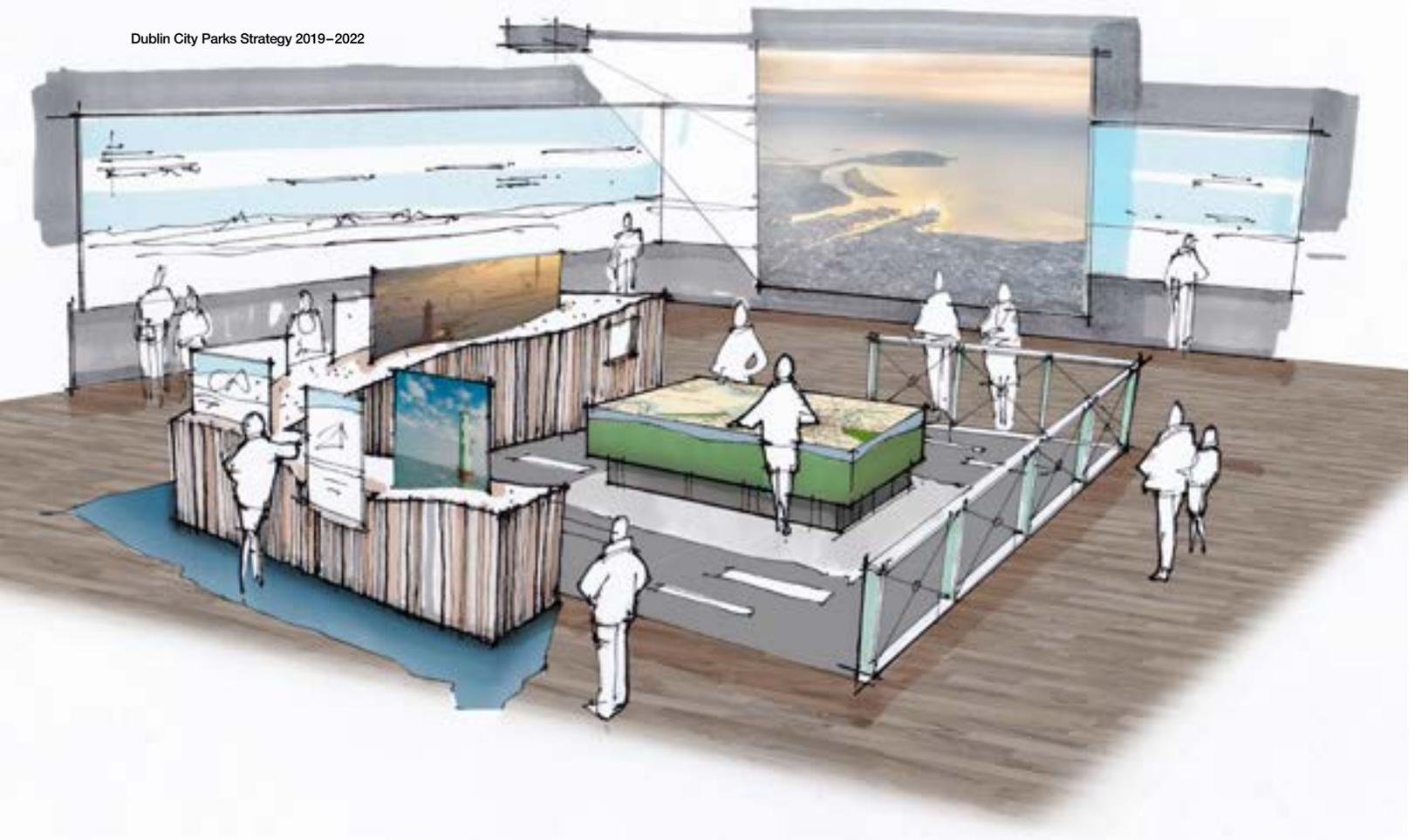
Visitor centres provide the benefit of coordinating facilities such as toilets, cafés and interpretation into one building and there are a number of successful ones in Dublin's parks and historic demesnes. In the City Council parks one

visitor centre is provided on the Bull Island, which caters for the interpretation of this coastal conservation area. Plans are now being developed for its reconstruction into an international standard facility providing for Bull Island and the wider Dublin Bay Biosphere.



Policy

- Visitor facilities will be developed and provided in parks where there is sufficient footfall and in particular flagship parks, to enhance their appeal and enjoyment.
- The provision of cafés/tea rooms and restaurants (with public toilets), will be promoted and expanded following consideration of their commercial viability and character of the receiving park.
- No internal public parking will be provided within inner-city parks. Parking within parks in other areas will be considered in exceptional circumstances and where needed, priority will be given to disabled carparking and family carparking. Cycle parking will be facilitated internally in most parks.
- The provision of toilets will be considered within parks as part of other built facilities where active management & monitoring is present.



Bull Island Discovery Centre development sketch
(Image: Howley Hayes Architects)



Actions

- New tea room facilities are being planned in Merrion Square Park & Bushy Park and are under consideration for Blessington Street Basin, Fairview Park and Palmerston Park.
- Bicycle parking facilities will be provided for in all inner-city parks.



4.5 PARK MANAGEMENT

Through the consultation process on this strategy, particular issues of park management were highlighted and this section reviews these.

4.5.1 Park Opening Hours

Parks within the city are either enclosed parks with a boundary around them or open parks. Many of the original city parks were enclosed to exclude the general public, however today reasons include preventing anti-social activity, such as unauthorised access by vehicles.

Opening hours for enclosed parks are standard and respond to available daylight through the seasons, with shorter opening hours in the winter months and longer in the summer months. The City Council does not currently have night parks, where a park is open and active all night, however evening openings to allow for particular events are catered for. Locking up parks at night has not always proven successful in preventing anti-social activity. In view of this alternative management regimes may be considered to this practice.

4.5.2 Dogs in Parks

Parks provide space for dog owners to exercise their pets; however dogs also raise concerns to other park users, including fear of attack and the effects of dog fouling, which can create a barrier to their enjoyment of parks.

Dog owners who use City Council parks are required under park bye-laws to prevent their dog(s) causing annoyance and worrying, are responsible for its conduct and are liable for it causing damage or injury. While these regulations are in place, the City Council also welcomes responsible dog owners to its parks and has developed initiatives to facilitate this including:

- The Green Dog Walkers Programme, which is run with the other Dublin Local Authorities and aims to combat dog fouling.
- Dog parks, which are fenced in areas within larger parks where dogs are free to run.
- Dog training and obedience sessions.
- Dog charity events are regularly approved in parks, such as the Irish Blue Cross Bark in the Park event in St Anne's Park.

4.5.3 Pesticide Use

Pesticides are in use in public parks and open spaces to control pests and diseases, such as unwanted weed growth in pavement or planting areas. There is growing concern about their use in general, since the mid-1900s where incidences of ecological damage and concerns on impact on human health were first documented. As a result of introduced controls on toxic chemicals, the early offenders, such as DDT and Dieldrin, have been removed from the market. Alternative approaches, such as integrated pest management seek to minimise the use of chemical intervention. In an ideal situation, a pesticide-free management approach in city parks would be preferable; however the appropriate use of approved pesticides by trained staff still presents an effective solution. Parks Services will continue to monitor and minimise its use of chemical pesticides and assess alternatives, such as the use of steam in control of weeds.

4.5.4 Parks and Open Spaces Bye Laws

The public use of Dublin's parks is controlled and regulated by Bye Laws, prepared by the City Council under the Local Government Act. As with all legislation and regulations there is a need to review them from time to time to assess their appropriateness.



Policy

- Parks Services maintain standard opening times for their enclosed parks and allow access at alternative times, such as for events, on a case by case basis.
- The City Council encourages use of public spaces, including its parks, by responsible dog owners. It will continue to seek and provide initiatives to encourage responsibility and enjoyment of these spaces and seeks the cooperation of dog owners to ensure other park users do not feel hindered by dogs in parks.
- Parks Services will continue to work towards the vision of a pesticide-free park system by monitoring and minimising the use of chemical pesticides and will seek alternatives to them.



Action

- Parks Services will review current Bye Laws with regards to contemporary urban living.



Nature in Dublin

4.6 NATURAL AREAS AND BIODIVERSITY

4.6.1 Nature in Dublin

Dublin has an urban ecosystem in which human activities largely direct the existence of species to survive in a highly fragmented landscape. Some species have not survived these human actions, due to loss of habitats, particularly those which have specialised requirements.

There are still areas of high nature value within Dublin City which remain as fragments of our historic landscape. Most of these are in public ownership, and the role of parks to preserve our connection with our natural history is vital.

Our connection with nature is crucial to maintaining our quality of life and the uniqueness of where we live. Therefore, it is essential that we recognise the importance of nature, not just for ourselves, but in terms of its own intrinsic qualities, which enrich our city and need to be respected in how we manage the environment.

Biodiversity is short for biological diversity, which is defined as ‘all living things’ and includes soil. Ireland is committed to implementing international agreements, therefore, our parks are managed not only for the people in the greater Dublin area who are using them, but also for the continuation of ecological networks spanning across Europe, North America and Africa and their migratory species.

In this way, it is recognised that biodiversity operates on many scales from the global level to city level to habitat level and parks are managed to reflect this.

The remaining natural areas in Dublin City have populations of native flora and fauna that date back through time several thousand years or more. They can be viewed as reservoirs or gene ‘pools’, which store the original genetic biodiversity in Dublin for these species. By keeping habitats intact for flora and fauna, the associated genes are banked. This can ensure survival of species into the future despite threats such as diseases, by encouraging more strains or genetic families to avoid extinction.



Policy

- To ensure parks management practices prioritise the protection of habitats for threatened species and for protection of rare species and habitats in our parks.
- To protect genetic biodiversity by planting only native species of Irish provenance (where available) in areas of high ecological importance, including river corridors and coastal habitats.



City Green Infrastructure

4.6.2 Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure

Biodiversity is a building block of green infrastructure. Green Infrastructure (GI) is defined as an interconnected network of green space that conserves natural ecosystem values and functions and provides associated benefits to human populations. The European Union has a commitment in its biodiversity strategy to promote and restore green infrastructure.

Green infrastructure systems are spatially made of three different parts:

Core Areas

Core areas, which are the nucleus of the network and provide essential habitat for sensitive native species to avoid extinction. Cities can have high biodiversity in terms of the total number of species, but many of these are not native. Core areas within and adjacent to cities provide source populations of native species which can be essential to maintain biodiversity in an urban region.

Core areas may need to be sufficiently large to meet the needs of some species, such as larger mammals. Core areas may be highly designated to preclude any development within them, although direct impacts may occur. Development can threaten or damage green infrastructure networks by indirect impacts on the environmental quality (air, land and water) of core areas or by increasing pressures on them from increased human populations surrounding them.

Hubs

Hubs are places buffering the core areas, made of the largest, least fragmented continuous areas of forest, wetlands, stream systems, or other native landscape types. They can protect core areas from disturbance by human activities and can have rich biodiversity. Development can threaten or damage green infrastructure networks by fragmentation or removal of hubs or the habitats within them. Management of hubs can be critical, as species don't always stay within designated conservation sites.

Corridors

These are vital to maintain connectivity in the landscape and provide for animal movement, seed and pollen dispersal, and plant migration. Connections between core areas can sustain populations of protected species by effectively increasing their breeding range or feeding territories. These 'stepping stones' are legally required under Article 10 of the Habitats Directive to support conservation of designated sites. Development can threaten or damage green infrastructure networks through severance of corridors, effectively cutting off options for wildlife to thrive.



Policy

- To manage our parks, open spaces and cemeteries as a connected network of green infrastructure that provides habitats of international importance for protected species and sustains ecosystems.

The promotion of a Green Infrastructure network in Dublin City is an action of the National Biodiversity Action Plan, the Regional Planning Guidelines and the Dublin City Development Plan (2017-2022). Dublin City's green infrastructure network is influenced by its historical landscape prior to urbanisation, its situation on Dublin Bay and the impact of over a million people each day using its resources. The Dublin City Green Infrastructure network is comprised of:

- Core areas of designated habitats and species of national and European importance:
- Dublin Bay (and its associated terrestrial, estuarine and marine ecosystems) including all Natura 2000 sites
- The Phoenix Park, a flagship park which lies adjacent to the River Liffey.
- Dublin City Council lands at Bohernabreena and Glenasmole Valley SAC.



Wildflower Meadow
at Cherry Orchard



Action

- To ensure that management plans are prepared and implemented for Natura 2000 sites with reference to other relevant statutory bodies.

Hubs, consisting of public parks, cemeteries and open spaces, as well some privately-owned green spaces and brownfield sites, which provide support to the core areas. Many public parks are situated over former brownfield sites such as reclaimed lands, quarries and landfills. These include:

- Irishtown Nature Park, Ringsend Park
- Clontarf Promenade
- Fairview Park
- California Hills Park
- Pope John Paul II Park
- Cemeteries



Policy

- Biodiversity initiatives that are specific to the protected habitats and species will be developed for all public green spaces, which are hubs supporting core areas. These will be prepared with reference to the management plans for the core areas.

Corridors are the City's rivers, inland waterways and wetlands, which contain designated species of national and European importance. All of the river corridors in the City have impacts on the receiving waters of Dublin Bay, which are designated as of European importance for birds

and wetlands and also for RAMSAR wetlands. The main corridors and their key parks and open spaces include:

- River Mayne: Fr. Collins Park, River Mayne Linear Park flowing into Baldoyle National Nature Reserve and Natura 2000 sites
- River Santry/Naniken: Oscar Traynor Road playing grounds, Springdale Road, Silloge Golf Course, Stardust Memorial Park, St. Anne's Park
- River Tolka: Tolka Valley Park, National Botanic Gardens, Griffith Park, Fairview Park, flowing into Tolka Estuary Natura 2000 site
- River Liffey: Liffey Valley SAO and NHA upstream, flowing into South Dublin Bay Natura 2000 sites, Liffey Valley Park, Islandbridge War Memorial Gardens
- River Dodder: beginning at Glenasmole Valley Natura 2000 site and NHA, flowing into River Liffey and Dublin Bay Natura 2000 sites
- River Camac: flowing into River Liffey and Dublin Bay Natura 2000 sites
- Royal Canal NHA and Grand Canal NHA



Policy

- To ensure that corridors are maintained throughout the DCC administrative area as continuous elements of green infrastructure to afford passage for wildlife and prevent severance of habitats by 'grey' infrastructure. To work to restore connectivity of corridors where insensitive development has taken place previously or where there are opportunities to work cooperatively with landowners to promote this.

4.6.3 Dublin City Biodiversity Action Plan

Dublin City has had a Biodiversity Action Plan in place since 2008. The current plan establishes four key themes, all of which will be implemented through parks management activities. There are specific actions related to the operations and management of parks.



Action

- To implement the Dublin City Biodiversity Action Plan (2015-2020).
- To renew and update the Biodiversity Action plan in 2019.

As part of the Biodiversity Action Plan, an Invasive Alien Species Action Plan for Dublin City will be implemented.

Invasive alien species (IAS) are flora and fauna (plants and animals) that are not native to Ireland and can take over Irish habitats without the usual predators and limits in their own native ecosystems to stop them. Examples in Ireland include Japanese Knotweed, Giant Hogweed and American Mink. They are the second greatest threat to biodiversity world-wide after habitat destruction.

Parks and open spaces often are affected by this serious threat to biodiversity, especially since these are areas where people pass through and can deposit garden waste, unwanted pets or even just carry IAS with them by passing through soil or water. Therefore, it will be necessary to make parks and open spaces a focal point of DCC's efforts to control IAS and raise awareness.



Action

- To implement the Dublin City Invasive Alien Species Action Plan (2015-2020).



Biodiversity Action Plan

4.6.4 Biodiversity and the Community

Communities have a key role to play in protecting biodiversity and having a high level of biodiversity will improve the quality of life of neighbourhoods. The City Council has for many years encouraged citizens to take an active role in protecting their local environment, and stewardship projects can be a way to overcome social exclusion, promote health and well-being and strengthen community spirit while increasing biodiversity and raising awareness of it. Business organisations have taken part in conservation activities in parks and open spaces as part of their corporate and social responsibility programmes. Third-level institutions have been working with Parks Services to provide training and support volunteerism for students in biodiversity management. These programmes are facilitated by the Parks Services' Biodiversity Section, working with many non-governmental organisations, community groups, businesses and voluntary bodies.

The City Council has taken a leading role in the implementation of national plans and programmes for biodiversity and citizen science. For example, it was the first local authority to implement Birdwatch Ireland's National Action Plan for Urban and Suburban Birds.

Dublin's parks and open spaces provide an important resource for learning about the environment and climate change. Educational bodies from primary through to third-level regularly use our parks network as 'outdoor classrooms'. Parks staff provide guided walks, lectures and information for schools and organise environmental education events and programmes year-round in parks, many coinciding with national events such as World Wetlands Day, National Tree Week, International Biodiversity Day and National Heritage Week. The development of Native Tree Trails in our parks is an example of an educational resource. North Bull Island Interpretative Centre hosts school tours and is a National Discover Science

Centre in association with Science Foundation Ireland to promote sustainability. The National Biodiversity Training Centre hosts public educational training workshops in DCC parks. These are just some of the many educational resources provided.

Policy

- To continue to work to enable NGO's to implement national strategies for nature conservation through public parks and open spaces.
- To develop the educational resources of Dublin City parks to promote sustainability and biodiversity through providing facilities for the public to use, making information about parks freely accessible online and through organisation of formal and informal activities by Parks staff.



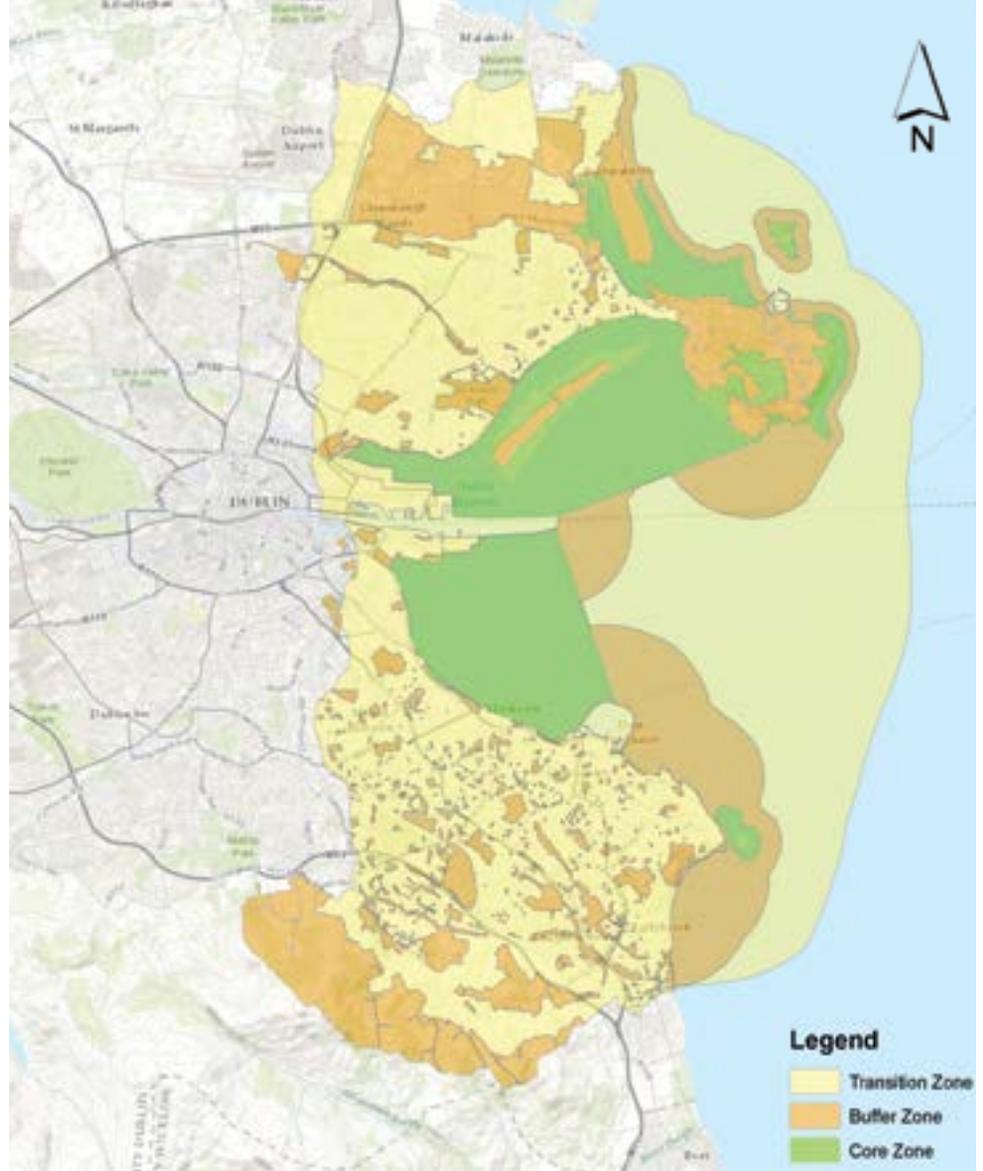
Beach clean-up at Dollymount Strand

4.6.5 Dublin Bay Biosphere

The designation of Dublin Bay as a Biosphere by UNESCO in June 2015 acknowledges the value of Dublin Bay and its environs to Dublin City. It recognises the biodiversity of the area, as well as the economic, cultural and tourism importance of this biodiversity, and the need for an ecologically sustainable economic model for the Biosphere. It is an important opportunity in the development of Dublin as a 'Living Bay' and a green tourism destination.

All Biospheres have three goals:

1. Conservation: promoting the protection of landscapes, habitats, wildlife and cultural values
2. Learning: supporting education and research, for a better understanding of nature and global issues
3. Development: fostering a sustainable economy and society for people living and working in the area



**Dublin Bay
Biosphere**

Under the auspices of the Dublin Bay Biosphere Partnership, a five year Conservation Programme, a five year Research Strategy, a three year Business Development Plan and an Education and Awareness Programme will be developed.

The Biosphere is divided into three distinct zones, which are managed in different ways: The *core zone* consists of protected areas, which are managed for the conservation of landscapes and biodiversity. It includes the Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) at North Bull Island, the Tolka Estuary, North Dublin Bay and South Dublin Bay, among others.

North Bull Island Nature Reserve is managed by Park Services. Work is being undertaken to control Sea-buckthorn on the site. If uncontrolled, this invasive species would spread with the loss of the native dune vegetation, which is protected under the EU Habitats Directive.

The *buffer zone* surrounds or adjoins the core zone and is managed to support the core zone. Scientific research, monitoring, training, education and other environmentally sustainable activities are encouraged here. It includes public and private green spaces, such as parks and greenbelts. e.g. Dublin City Council has developed a wildflower meadow in St Anne's Park, in close proximity to North Bull Island. This meadow contributes to the biodiversity of the area, supporting uncommon plant species such as orchids, and is also used for recreation, environmental education and cultural events.

The *transition zone* is the outer part of the Biosphere. Sustainable social and economic development is strongly promoted here. It includes residential neighbourhoods, harbours, ports and industrial and commercial areas. e.g. Dublin Port Company, a member of the Dublin Bay Biosphere Partnership, maintains pontoons within the port to provide nesting spaces for Common and Arctic terns, which are protected species under the EU Birds Directive.



Policy

- Dublin City Council will, in association with its partners, assist with achieving the goals of conservation, learning and development of the Dublin Bay UNESCO Biosphere.



Action

- Development of a Biosphere Conservation Programme, Research Strategy, Business Development Plan and Education and Awareness Programme for the Dublin Bay UNESCO Biosphere.



City Centre Masterplan - Proposed Strategic Tree Planting
(Image: AIT Urbanism + Landscape)

4.7 PUBLIC REALM

The public realm is made up of parks, streets, squares, accessible open space and the space around civic buildings. Together, these elements define the physical components of place-making and create a unique identity for Dublin City. Because the public realm is so essential to the everyday unique experience of the city, how it is planned and designed is very important.

The Dublin City Public Realm Strategy – Your City, Your Space, has been developed as an agreed vision that is shared by those who use it, design it, build it and manage it. This Strategy aims to build on the strengths of Dublin City’s public realm, linking the aforementioned components into a whole that is of greater value than its parts.

It offers a vision of how development can coincide with fundamental improvements to the area’s parks, open space and streetscapes

to ensure the city’s continued vitality and quality of life for its residents, workers and visitors. It incorporates safety elements, opening spaces up rather than closing them off and mobilising ignored lanes and streets. The Strategy also serves as a practical manual for all parties engaged in all development that interfaces with the public realm.

The presence of green space is a city’s most fundamental element in creating vitality and quality of life. As the city develops, the scale, location and connectivity of parks and open spaces need to be planned and designed to better respond to the needs of the growing population. It ensures that in areas where the provision of parks is low, public realm can still create an open space network that is meaningful and connected. It ensures that green space does not have to end at their edges, but extend along the streets, expanding and enhancing the public realm.

Dublin’s public realm is uneven and lacks definition in many parts. There are opportunities to develop an agreed vision for the public realm with all the stakeholders; one that is inspired by its historic context and shared by those who use it. Crucially, this includes agreeing the standard of public realm Dublin needs and identifying the important spaces and routes within that. A number of public realm initiatives have been and are being implemented around the city by Parks Services, which aim at creating a better experience of connected space with people’s interaction at its core.

City Centre Masterplan – improving pedestrian space

Image caption TBC



4.7.1 Docklands Public Realm Masterplan 2014

The docklands of Dublin have gone through extensive change following decades of urban regeneration in what was a decaying part of the urban fabric.

Its developing public realm vision is contemporary, international and reflects the ambitious nature of the area.

Following the economic downturn, new impetus is being given to its continued development there by the creation of a Strategic Development Zone (SDZ) for the North Lotts and Grand Canal. The resulting SDZ Planning Scheme recognises the value of a quality public realm with particular reference to the maritime character of the docklands and developing central squares in each of the five hubs of the scheme.

A public realm masterplan to reflect the vision of the SDZ planning scheme, which provides the framework for future implementation projects has now been produced.

4.7.2 City Centre Public Realm Masterplan 2016

The centre of any city is a key area and reflects the values and identity of its people. In Dublin the centre falls over the River Liffey, the key element in the establishment of the city. It's a focus for life in the city and an area that all city visitors will experience.

This project builds on the public realm strategy with the intention of delivering a high quality public realm there. The project will produce an overarching masterplan from which a series of further projects will be developed.

Key objectives under the project are to improve and enhance linkages as well to develop recommendations for outdoor seating and dining areas, outdoor markets and performance areas, street furniture, greening and biodiversity.

4.7.3 Liberties Greening Strategy 2015

The Liberties area of the city occupies the southwest quadrant of the inner-city and was historically located outside of the city walls where lands were granted to the control of monks

who were given powers and control of trade within their liberty.

The area developed as a centre of traditional Dublin industry including brewing, weaving, tanning and crafts and as an area where associated workers lived within poor housing conditions. Its current provision of open space and overall greening is poor and presents a marked contrast to the master-planned Georgian squares and streets of the southeast inner-city quadrant.

The Parks Services greening strategy for the area proposes to address this issue through the provision of new parks, creating new civic spaces and greening linkages between these.

4.7.4 The North East Inner City Greening Strategy 2018

This strategy aims to positively improve the quality of life through streetscape and open space enhancement initiatives for this part of Dublin's inner city that has seen significant challenges and difficulties. Proposals aim to bring both environmental and qualitative benefits to the area and include new tree planting and park redesign and enhancement work, including Liberty Park and the East Wall Recreational Centre.



Policy

- Parks Services will help to provide for the implementation of the The Heart of Dublin City Centre Public Realm Masterplan (2016) with particular emphasis on the role of parks, city greening and biodiversity.
- Given the current lower provision of public open space per person in the inner-city area, particular emphasis will be put on creating a quality public realm that displays the virtues of parks.
- Park Services will realise opportunities for greening in the Liberties and North East Inner City areas.



Chancery Street House
and Chancery Park



Dolphin Estate Landscape Masterplan
(Image: Paul Hogarth Company)

4.8 PUBLIC HOUSING

The provision of housing to those who can't afford their own is the responsibility of the Housing Authority of Dublin City Council and this is undertaken through various schemes, including the direct development of public housing for subsequent renting. Public housing in the capital has been and continues to be a significant issue.

In the 1880's only small scale provision by Dublin Corporation was undertaken to address the very poor housing conditions for the working classes of that time. Little was done until the 1930s to address the issue comprehensively and in that decade a Report of Inquiry indicated that there were just over 28,000 families living in just 6,307 tenement houses in Dublin. Since the 1930s thousands of public housing units have been provided and Parks Services have been involved in the design and provision of public housing landscapes and subsequent refurbishment projects.

4.8.1 Case Studies Chancery Street House

This apartment building was developed in 1935 by Dublin Corporation and is located adjacent to the Four Courts in the inner-city. The flat complex was of exemplary modern design for its time and currently holds 27 apartments. While the provision of recreational space was not common in the earlier years of public housing this scheme did provide a

small park on its northern side.

A full upgrade of this park was undertaken in 2010 by the Parks & Landscape Services, while the building was being refurbished. An original central cast iron fountain was restored to working order together with a new landscape of formal yew topiary plants. Refurbishment of an adjacent weighbridge building was also undertaken, which included the provision of a new clock by Stokes of Cork.

St Teresa's Gardens & Dolphin Estate.

These two estates are currently under a redevelopment programme. They were developed in the 1950s as large housing complexes following the modern architectural style. Their layout consists of blocks in grid layout pattern with little in terms of quality landscape provision. The redesign and refurbishment of these estates will involve demolition of existing blocks and development of new layouts. In order to provide a better living environment, the landscape provision will be designed to provide both a residential landscape and community landscape typically with the provision of a community park.

In developing new public housing landscapes or refurbishing existing public housing, there are a number of particular issues that require attention:

- Public housing estates can have poor

reputations in the wider city and may not be well integrated into the urban fabric. The quality of what is provided can help improve their identity and in particular the architectural quality and landscape design quality can improve the visual appearance of estates, as well as creating physical linkages to the surrounding urban areas.

- It is important that public housing landscapes are well designed, contain appropriate facilities for recreation, both passive and active and are constructed using quality materials and workmanship.
- Vandalism and neglect have been prevalent in public housing provision and there is a need for greater involvement of the residential community in the care of what is provided. Community consultation at the design stage together with their support of housing management on completion can assist in the success of schemes.
- Private open space should be provided in housing schemes to give peace of mind and better security to residents as well as an area they can recreate in. In refurbishment projects, opportunities to create courtyard arrangements can assist to provide better privacy.



Home zone in Frieburg Germany

4.8.2 Home Zones

Home zones are a concept whereby the physical layout of residential roads are designed to create safer spaces with reduced speeds as well as spaces that can be used for on-street recreation. It has evolved from the Dutch woonerf concept of the 1970s and there are a number of different forms within Europe. Its application to public housing schemes requires consideration and the possibility of implementing a pilot scheme within a full-scale housing scheme refurbishment should be considered.

Policy

- Public housing landscape provision should be of a good quality and provide both private residential space as well as community orientated space.
- Consultation with the residential community on landscape proposals shall be sought where existing housing estates are refurbished.
- Design of public housing landscape should aim to encourage provision of playgrounds into locally accessible parks rather than solely within the boundary of the housing, so as to encourage integration and connection with the wider community.
- Public housing landscape design shall be innovative and look to incorporating community gardens /allotments, sustainable urban drainage systems, green roofing, home zones and public art.

Action

- To implement a new community park in the redevelopment of St Teresa’s Gardens.

4.9 CEMETERIES

Cemeteries in their own right provide a valuable resource to communities in Dublin. They are primarily places of burial and their use by the public must respect this. To those who visit they may offer a peaceful setting for respite or a place where the city's history can be discovered. Parks Services have a significant role to play in the management of the following cemeteries:

- St. John the Baptist, Clontarf
- Bluebell, Drimnagh
- St. Canice's, Finglas,
- St. Assam's, Raheny Village
- Killester Cemetery
- Donnybrook Cemetery
- Bellevue, Merrion Road
- St James Cemetery
- Huguenot Cemetery

4.9.1 Historical Graveyards

Historic graveyards are a valuable asset to the city and are key in promoting genealogical tourism and heritage conservation. There are a number of historic graveyards around the city which are no longer in use and are less accessible to the public. Such cemeteries, steeped in history, have the potential to provide a unique heritage experience for those wishing to learn about their importance and link to the historical periods that shaped Dublin's heritage.

It is not an intention to make these spaces fully accessible to the public, rather to promote awareness of the importance of their heritage and culture.

Fairview Jewish Cemetery

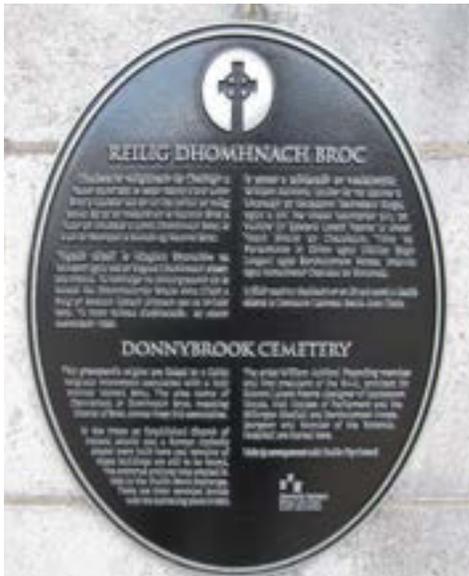
This is Dublin's oldest Jewish cemetery dating back to 1718. It is part of the story of the small but vibrant Jewish community in Dublin and Ireland. The earliest records indicate a visit in 1079 by Jewish men to the King of Munster and by the 1230s it is considered that there probably was a Jewish community in Ireland located mainly in Dublin. Records of 1745 indicated a Jewish community of about forty families consisting of some 200 persons. This community grew with many arriving in Ireland to escape persecution from other countries. The community reached its greatest numbers by the early 1900s with nearly 4800 estimated to reside in the city.

The Jewish community in Fairview is thought to have settled there in the early 1700s and were Marrano Jews who escaped persecution from the Inquisition in Spain & Portugal.

Originally this plot of land was rented for 4 years from a Captain Chicester Philips of Drumcondra Castle, however, the London Jewish Congregation bought the land and rented it back to the community for the annual price of 1 peppercorn. In 1857 a wall was erected around the grounds to prevent headstone and grave robbing, which was a regular occurrence at this time. A gate lodge was also built and inscribed with the numbers 5618 which in the Jewish Calendar is 1857. Burials took place until the early 1900s, with only 4 taking place between 1900 and 1956. Today there are some 148 headstones still in place inscribed in both Hebrew and English. As with other historic cemeteries, access to the public is by appointment only.



Fairview Jewish Cemetery



Donnybrook Cemetery plaque



The Huguenot Cemetery

Donnybrook Cemetery

This cemetery was once the location of a Celtic church founded by Saint Broc in the 7th century. In the 1700s, Church of Ireland and Roman Catholic churches were built on the grounds and the remains are still present.

The period of use of this cemetery dates from 800 to the late 1800s, after which the congregation outgrew the premises and moved to a new location at Simmonscourt Road. A number of restoration works have been carried out over the last decade, which resulted in a comprehensive list of burials and a number of historical accounts of the walled cemetery. Some 7000 burials have been recorded in the cemetery, with the last taking place in 1936.

There are notable burials at this location, such as Edward Lovett Pearce, a famous architect of the early 1700s responsible for introducing Palladian architecture to Dublin. His works include the House of Commons (now Bank of Ireland) on College Green, and Castletown House in County Kildare. Bartholomew Mosse, surgeon and founder of the Rotunda Hospital is also interred there. The cemetery fronts onto Donnybrook Road with an impressive cut-stone entrance arch, erected in 1893 by members of the Dublin Stock Exchange in memory of their registrar.

An interpretation plaque was recently erected by Parks Services with the assistance of the Ballsbridge, Donnybrook and Sandymount Historical Society.

Huguenot Cemetery

The Huguenot Cemetery, located on Merrion Row, references a particular point in European history and the establishment of a significant community in Dublin. The Huguenots were French protestants and mainly Calvinists who were escaping religious persecution in France after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685. They established a thriving community in Dublin and became an integral part of its commercial and civic life, particularly in textiles, watch making and finance.

The cemetery dates from 1693, a time when the majority of Huguenots arrived in Ireland under the encouragement of the 1st Duke of Ormonde, James Butler, who became Viceroy of Ireland in 1662 following exile in France.

An inscribed plaque on the gate walls lists the 239 surnames of people buried there. One of the most notable families listed is that of the Becquett family, who are ancestors of one of Dublin's most important literary figures, Samuel Beckett. Other notable Huguenot names prominent in Dublin life include D'Olier and Le Fanu. D'Olier Street was named after Jeremiah D'Olier, a Huguenot goldsmith, City Sheriff and member of the Wide Street Commission. Le Fanu park in Ballyfermot is named after Sheridan Le Fanu, the Victorian-era writer and Huguenot descendent.



St James's Graveyard Landscape Masterplan 2010
(Image: Bernard Seymour Landscape Architects)

St James's Graveyard

The former Church of St James and its cemetery are located in the Liberties on St James's Street where its origins date to 1190. The original church was rebuilt twice, with the foundation stone of the current church being laid by Daniel O'Connell in 1844. Design of the church is attributed to Cork-born architect Joseph Welland. By the early 1960s, both the cemetery and church were closed and the church building was sold to private ownership.

More than 30,000 burials are registered for the cemetery and include both Catholics and Protestants. Notable are the burials of the Channel Row Nuns who persevered in their religious lives in a convent near Brunswick Street during the 1700s in a time when the Penal Laws oppressed Catholics.

In 2010, the Parks Services, which maintain the cemetery, developed a landscape masterplan for the church & cemetery grounds with the objective of sensitively linking it to the surrounds.

This proposed the use of an elevated walkway over the cemetery, taking advantage of the original slope of the lands down to the Liffey while minimising ground level impacts where there are burial plots. The scheme or a modified version will, when complete, add to the cultural and tourism resource of the area.



Policy

- To manage and maintain historical graveyards to enhance their historical and cultural significance to Dublin, while maintaining the dignity of these burial places.



Action

- To develop appropriate forms of interpretation to promote knowledge of historical graveyards and assist research of cemeteries.
- To consider the provision of columbarium walls in burial grounds.

4.10 CITY TREES

Trees form an integral part of the urban fabric of Dublin City and are located in both public areas and private lands. Together they form the city's urban forest.

Our relationship with trees is very strong and they remain an emotive issue for many Dubliners.

Trees bring extensive benefits to the city, including greening, improvement of visual quality, defining spaces, habitat creation and environmental services including carbon sequestration and pollution mitigation. Internationally, cities are now setting targets for tree cover due to their recognition of the value of urban trees.

4.10.1 Public Trees

Parks and Landscape Services manage public trees in the city which are located in our streets and parks. The key aspects of tree management are:

- Selecting and planting new trees or replacement trees
- Managing risk associated with public trees
- General tree care (for example, watering, checking stakes & ties, disease control, etc.)
- Tree surgery to maintain good tree health and form
- Tree felling and removal

O'Connell Street's Box-headed Lime Trees



4.10.2 Private Trees

Trees on private lands come under some legislative control through the development management process and by use of tree preservation orders, however, their management and contribution to the city is primarily under the control of property owners.

Encouraging private landowners to take care of their trees properly and plant new ones is therefore important.

4.10.3 City Tree Strategy

A Dublin City Tree Strategy 2016-2020 has been published and can be viewed on the Dublin City Council website. The strategy will seek to provide a coordinated approach to the management of trees in Dublin City.

The strategy sets out a vision for the management of public trees according to a long term plan. It will also create a greater awareness, and appreciation of this valuable resource within the local authority, other relevant agencies and among the public.

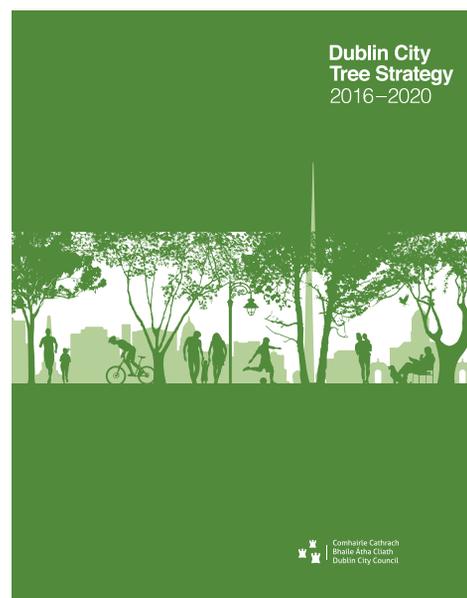
The tree strategy comprises three main sections:

- Trees in Dublin - outlining the status of trees in Dublin, their current management and available data.
- Tree Policy – A description of the general and specific policies Dublin City Council has regarding trees and tree work.
- Action Plan – A framework to implement the tree policy, setting out appropriate objectives and associated actions, responsibilities and target dates for completion.

4.10.4 City Tree Survey

To develop a fuller understanding of the population of public trees in Dublin will require a full tree survey that determines the location, species, dimensions, condition, risk and recommendations for remedial works for each public tree. This is a substantial task considering that the number of trees is expected to exceed 60,000 on streets alone.

To assist in this work it is intended to deploy a computer based tree management software system. This will allow in-the-field mapping and entering of data by staff and subsequent data analysis of information collected, such as assessment of the overall health condition of city trees. It will also allow development of management systems, such as coordinating pruning cycles or assessing the possible impacts to trees from development proposals.



Dublin City Tree Strategy



Tree Surgery Works



4.10.5 Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs)

The creation of TPOs is provided for under Section 205 of the Planning and Development Act, 2010. This protection can be applied to individual trees, groups of trees and woodlands in the interest of amenity or the environment.

This protection includes the prohibition of cutting down, topping, lopping or willful destruction of such trees and requires the owners to enter into an agreement on their proper management.

In the Dublin City Council administrative area, there are six tree preservation orders as follows:

- Dublin Corporation Tree Preservation (Watermill Road/All Saints Drive, Adjoining St Anne's National School) Order 1989.
- Dublin Corporation Tree Preservation (St Patrick's House) Order 1994.
- Dublin City Council (Dartmouth Square Park) Tree Preservation Order (No. 1) 2008.
- Dublin City Council (Dartmouth Square Park) Tree Preservation Order (No. 2) 2008.
- Dublin City Council (Dartmouth Square Park) Tree Preservation Order (No. 3) 2008.
- Dublin City Council (Dartmouth Square Park) Tree Preservation Order (No. 4) 2008.

4.10.6 Trees and Public Engagement

Dublin City Council has developed a number of measures to engage with the public on city trees over the years.

A series of nine tree trails has been established and developed, these are located at Tolka Valley Park, St Anne's Park, Poppintree Park, Lansdowne Park, Markievicz Park, Johnstown Park, Bushy Park, Albert College Park and Herbert Park. Each park has a display map on site and a downloadable guide which provides details on the trail and individual trees that are native to Ireland.

This initiative is very much an educational tool, aimed at schools to provide information for students on nature and the environment.

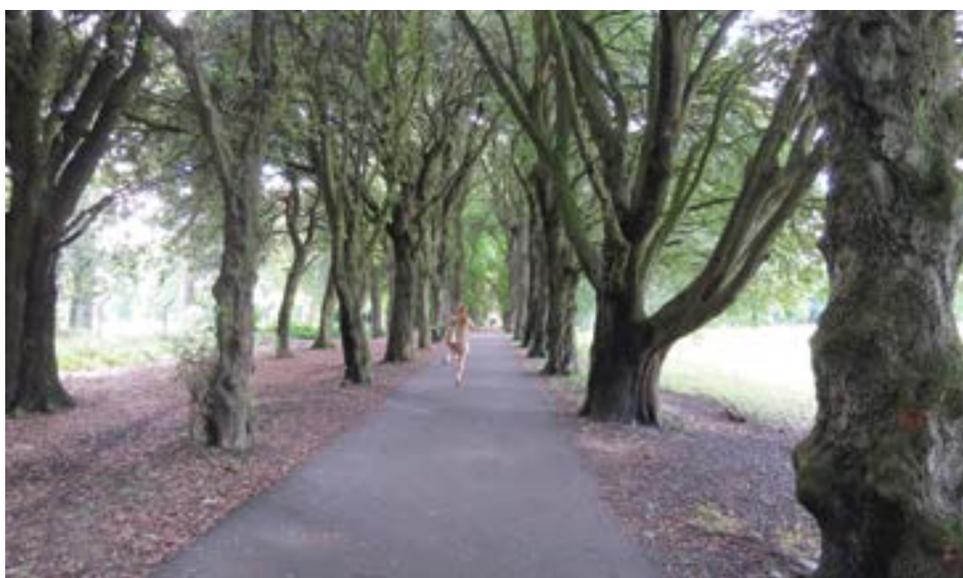
Arboreta

Dublin City is fortunate in having a number of arboreta where space is given to the growth of numerous different species of trees for educational and research value. The National Botanic Gardens holds a substantial tree collection distributed throughout the property within plant family groupings. Trinity College Botanic Garden in Dartry is the current location

of this university's facility that originated in the college's physic garden of the 1600s. The gardens include an arboretum and function to provide living plant material, controlled growth environments and experimental facilities for the college's botanical teaching and research.

The Dublin City Council arboretum is located in St Anne's Park. It was planted in collaboration with the Tree Council of Ireland in 1988 to celebrate Dublin's millennium. The collection, features over 1,000 trees, which were sponsored by 1,000 people.

The City's arboreta conserve tree species for research, education and cultural value. They indicate the many tree types that can grow within an urban environment given the right conditions, as well as growing and conserving tree species and varieties that may not be commercially available.





Tree Day at St Anne's Park
 (Image: The Tree Council
 of Ireland)

National Tree Week

Dublin City Council along with the other Dublin Local Authorities, are active partners in the annual National Tree Week events, which take place in March and are coordinated and promoted by The Tree Council of Ireland. Events such as tree planting ceremonies, forest and woodland walks, nature trails, workshops, woodturning displays and talks are included.

4.10.7 Champion and Heritage Trees

The Tree Register project was conducted by the joint efforts of the Tree Council of Ireland and The Irish Tree Society and has now recorded over 11,000 Champion Trees throughout the country.

A champion tree is defined as the tallest or oldest or most massive example of its species or kind in a given region. In County Dublin over 500 Champion Trees have been recorded with many on golf courses, school grounds and within the National Botanic Gardens.

Heritage trees are described as trees with biological, cultural, ecological or historical interest. These are recorded trees with a particular story attached and includes some in Dublin.



Policy

- To promote the policies of the Dublin City Tree Strategy to protect, maintain and enhance the city's urban forest.
- Parks Services will support the conservation of the city's arboreta and their role in education, research and culture.
- Parks Services will promote tree knowledge and appreciation among the public with particular emphasis on engaging with children.
- Parks Services recognise that Champion trees and Heritage trees are of significance and will therefore give due consideration in favour of their protection if the potential of impact from development arises.



Actions

- To carry out actions of the City Tree Strategy.
- To enhance the experience of visiting St. Anne's arboretum through use of interpretation.



Liffey Boardwalk Floral Display

4.11 CIVIC DECORATION

Civic decoration and planting are good measures to enhance and green the public realm, which in turn contributes to the overall visual quality of the city.

In Dublin city, civic decoration is not just a colourful representation of planters and hanging baskets but as a resource, it also includes flags, seasonal decoration, such as Christmas trees, and an entire workforce that works to ensure the city presents itself in a way that would equal any other international city.

The majority of civic decoration and enhancements are directed to the city centre, the banks of the River Liffey and the city's historic core, including key historic buildings as well as other city nodes. They help define areas, mark occasions and events and generally improve the outdoor experience for citizens, commuters and tourists alike.

4.11.1 Provision of Flags

The provision of flags, bunting and banners to celebrate or highlight events around the city is also a major feature of civic decoration, such as on St Patrick's Day. Flags are procured, flown and maintained by Park Services and these mark occasions such as major sports events held in the city or international occasions, such as biodiversity week.

4.11.2 Floral Displays

Floral displays throughout spring and summer are a very important seasonal feature of civic decoration. Displays help to bring colour and life to urban environments that can otherwise be dominated by hard, grey surfaces and buildings.

Dublin City Council provides all seasonal flower/shrub planters that are placed around the city centre in the form of bedding plants, hanging baskets, tubs/bowls and planter boxes. Many of the display plants are grown, prepared and maintained by Parks Services at St Anne's Park nursery.

4.11.3 Civic Functions / Celebrations/Events

Parks Services provide assistance to many civic functions and events over the course of a year, which require indoor flags and poles, public address systems and special floral arrangements.

Each year, approximately 40 Christmas trees are also provided at key locations throughout the city centre, most notably on O'Connell Street.



Floral display on Grattan Bridge



Christmas Tree on O'Connell Street

4.11.4 Other Services

Parks Services also provides support throughout the year to community groups that do their own planting by preparing areas and supplying plants.

Technical support and procurement are also provided to City Council Area Offices for such items as planters and hanging baskets.



Policy

- Parks Services recognise the importance of civic and seasonal decoration to the city and continue to provide and maintain this resource.



Action

- To produce a Civic Decoration Plan in consultation with local community & business groups on possible enhancement opportunities in the city centre. It would also look at ways that civic decoration can be incorporated into unique themes defining particular areas of the city or particular events.



4.12 ALLOTMENTS AND COMMUNITY GARDENS

Allotments and community gardens are small plots of land used to grow vegetables and flowers for personal use. They have a long history in Ireland and Europe as a means of providing additional garden space for horticulture and indeed respite from city living. The war years saw a surge in their popularity due to the genuine belief of imported supplies being cut off and it became government wartime policy in the UK to 'Dig for Victory'.

Recessionary times have seen a resurgence in their popularity and this may be due both to a back to basics public sentiment, as well as provision of low cost food.

There are a number of key benefits in the provision of allotments and community gardens:

- Providing a social, community orientated activity.
- Providing physical activity to all age groups and different abilities.
- Providing locally grown food.
- Bringing vacant lands into active use.

There are two pieces of legislation concerning allotments – the Acquisition of Land (Allotment) Act 1926 and the Planning and Development Act 2010. In the former, legislative power was given to Local Authorities to provide land for allotments subject to a defined demand for them. In this earlier legislation, an allotment is defined as:

'a piece of land containing not more than one-quarter of a statute acre let or intended to be let for cultivation by an individual for the production of vegetables mainly for consumption by himself and his family'

In the latter act the definition is given as follows: *'allotment' means an area of land comprising not more than 1,000 square metres let or available for letting to and cultivation by one or more than one person who is a member of the local community and lives adjacent or near to the allotment, for the purpose of the production of vegetables or fruit mainly for consumption by the person or a member of his or her family.*

The current legislation includes that local authorities may reserve land for use and cultivation as allotments and regulate, promote, facilitate or control the provision of land for that use.



Distribution of Allotment Gardens.

4.12.1 Distribution of Allotments

Parks Services and Housing and Residential Services provide and let allotments to the general public across Dublin. This provision typically includes the provision of paths, raised planting beds, fencing enclosure and a water supply.

Currently letting of allotments is made when a new allotment scheme is developed. Successful applicants are given an 11 month letting, which can be renewed subject to letting fees being paid and meeting the conditions of the letting agreement. Typically, applications exceed the availability of allotments.

It is proposed that the coordination and management of allotments in the city is strengthened to provide a better service and meet the ongoing demand and would involve:

- Managing the existing allotment lettings and coordinating activities for allotment holders, such as horticultural training events, allotment awards etc.
- Coordinating applications and waiting lists using online applications for all city allotments
- Identifying locations city-wide for new allotment sites and assessing demand for their implementation.

Policy

- To make provision of allotments for the benefit of local communities subject to existing or anticipated demand for such facilities and to enhance the coordination and management of allotments on a city-wide basis.



Grattan Crescent Allotments

4.13 PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

Parks Services assist the City Council's Planning Department in the area of forward planning and development control. The key policy relating to this area of work is within the Dublin City Development Plan, which is produced every five years.

Guidance on landscape and open space is provided for in the: *"Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas"* (2009). This provides detailed guidance on the provision of open space in new development areas, which is considered one of the key elements in defining quality of development. They advocate approaching the provision of open space on a hierarchical basis, from the strategic level down to more detailed plans, such as local area plans. The guidelines emphasise the need for quality in public open spaces in terms of design, accessibility, biodiversity and passive supervision. There should also be a clear definition between public, semiprivate and private spaces.

The Parks Service has also produced its own guidance in the document: *"Guidelines for Open Space Development and Taking in Charge"* which is available on the City Council's website.

Development control includes providing guidance and advice on development proposals with regard to open space, landscape, greening, biodiversity and arboriculture. During the development management process, input is provided at the following stages:

- Planning guidance through the Development Plan and stand alone guidance documents.
- Pre-application meetings with applicants and their agents.
- Provision of observations on submitted planning applications.
- Facilitating handover of public open space.
- Advice on compliance with planning approval conditions.
- Advice on enforcement issues.

The key trends and issues that are occurring in the ongoing development of the city are related to the overall intensification of development within the finite space available. This puts pressure on existing landscape resources, such as trees, which require certain spatial conditions to survive. There is concern about the loss of existing trees, in particular large canopy species within the city and greater cooperation between those involved in development and Parks Services is required to maximise their retention on sites.

The ongoing demand for more development space in the city involves the redevelopment of institutional lands. These lands, such as convents and colleges, typically contain a cluster of buildings within a parkland landscape. They usually contain significant trees and have in many cases served as publically accessible private open space within the locality. In their subsequent re-development, the open space provision and layout of new development should maximise the retention of trees and provide accessible recreation to serve the local area. Where original buildings are retained the open space provision should also allow for the

conservation of their visual setting, such as by retaining original driveway approaches and frontages.

The removal of playing fields for development purposes is also a concern in the city. This is due to the potential displacement of users and their need to find alternative facilities, which may not be available or not readily accessible.

The development of public open space over structures, such as underground carparks, is also becoming more frequent. In these cases the design and structural loading capabilities of the subsurface structures require an integrated approach with the open space proposals above. In all cases the provision of a fully designed public open space with required recreational facilities shall not be compromised. The future maintenance responsibility of such provisions, if taken in charge by the City Council, will require clear delineation vertically both in drawings and physically within the development.

There is greater potential impact on remaining natural spaces in the city, such as along river courses, as the demand for more and more development increases and the population also increases. Parks Services will practice conservation of such spaces, in particular where no conservation designations exist, so that natural habitats are retained and biodiversity is protected.

Planning Process	Issues Raised	Potential Solutions
PRE-PLANNING APPLICATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality of guidance on landscape & biodiversity issues, e.g.: translation of LAPs from zoning plans not always achieved. Need for DCC Parks to attend pre-planning meetings where development approach is determined 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to DCC Planning Dept. DCC Parks to discuss with Planning Dept. on regular meeting attendance
PLANNING APPLICATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality of landscape submissions- e.g. use of stock photography of developments may not describe the reality of the design. Variation across Councils in detail of information sought at this stage - e.g. Bills of quantity are excessive DCC Parks aspirations at this stage versus reality of actual maintenance levels for public open space. Public open space requirements-financial contributions versus provision of open space –relevance of small% of open space provision ? Conservation of trees & hedgerows, need for flexibility on retention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DCC Parks to update current guide document – (preferably with other Dublin Local Authorities) Content & quality of landscape submission to be fully described-use of a checklist for submission. Perception of a public park to be described. Public open space provision over private structures to be included. Standards in tree pits allowing local variation. Application of bonds. Green roofs Country-wide application of guidance- ILI & DECLG? DCC Park strategy to guide financial contributions based on open space deficit mapping Site specific approach to vegetation retention
DEVELOPMENT CONSTRUCTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscape Architects appointed for planning applications may not be retained by developer, therefore who checks the quality of the construction of the approved landscape proposals? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fingal & DLR active at construction stages. DCC Parks to inspect public open space construction. ILI promotion to the construction industry
COMPLETION & OPERATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compliance of constructed landscape with approved plans-who checks? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning approval condition requiring applicants' Landscape Architects to certify their opinion on compliance of constructed landscape with planning approval.

4.13.1 Industry Consultation

The majority of planning applications within the city have open space and landscape proposals prepared by Landscape Architects and consultation with the profession was arranged through the Irish Landscape Institute for this strategy. The key outcomes of those discussions are indicated in the table above, which notes the key issues raised and the potential solutions at each stage of the planning process. While potential solutions to issues can be identified, the ability to achieve them may depend on resources available. The consultation with professionals will continue with the objective of improvement of the planning application process for landscape submissions. In particular, the updating and enhancement of guidance for landscape professionals will be a priority for Parks Services.

4.13.2 Landscape Conservation Areas

The designation of Landscape Conservation Areas is provided for under Section 204 of

the Planning and Development Act for the purposes of the preservation of the landscape. In particular, the legislation allows for further control of exempted development under the Act. Currently there are no such designations in the Dublin City Council administrative area, however it is intended to investigate St Anne's Park with a view to determining its suitability for LCA designation.

Potential Landscape Conservation Areas

The Phoenix Park

North Bull Island

The National Botanic Gardens

St Anne's Park

Undertaking the initial investigation will require a review of the context of the identified sites and in particular, if existing zoning and other designations could provide adequate or additional measures for landscape conservation.



**The National Botanic Gardens,
a potential Landscape
Conservation Area?**

4.13.3 Development Contribution Scheme

The Planning and Development Act provides for the payment of contributions for public infrastructure and facilities as a condition when granting planning permissions. They are commonly known as levies and financially assist Parks Services in the provision and upgrading of parks resources throughout the city.

The distribution of open space in the city is not uniform and where new development is proposed in an area already well served by open space, or where proposed open space under a development is too small or inappropriate there is an additional option under the Development Plan of a financial contribution in lieu of all or part of the open space required. This will be applied on a case by case basis. The key areas in which such contributions will be used are:

- The upgrading of current open space, in particular Community Grade 2 parks, which may lack balance between facilities provided or need an uplift in their overall quality.
- The provision of particular facilities (e.g. playgrounds) where there is an identified lack of access to such facilities in an area in accordance with this strategy.
- The provision of new open space and greening within the city and in particular for areas identified with a lower provision of parks.



Policy

- Parks Services will continue to assist the provision of a sustainable green city through the planning and development control system, with particular focus on achieving a balance between development and conservation. Emphasis will be placed on conservation of trees, historic designed landscapes, natural and built heritage, and recreation including playing fields. While the continued development of the city poses challenges, it also contributes to the provision of new public space, the enhancement of existing parks and the supply of better recreational facilities.



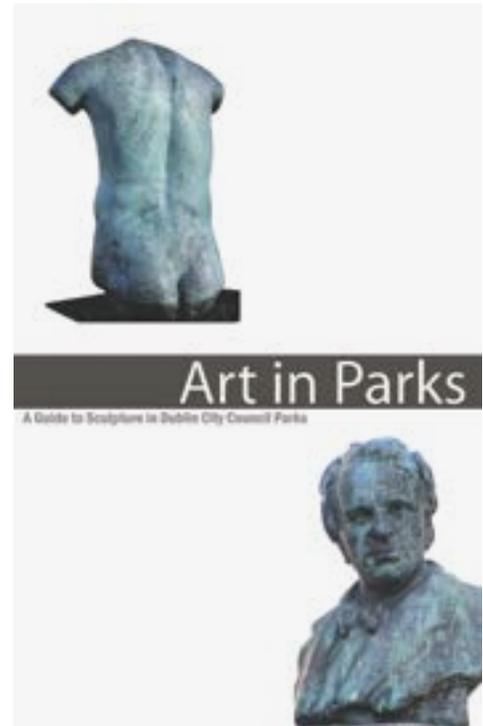
Actions

- Parks Services will update current guidelines (Guidelines for Open Space Development and Taking in Charge) to planning applicants for submission of landscape proposals (including open space, biodiversity and arboriculture aspects). Coordination with the adjacent councils (Fingal County Council, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Council & South Dublin County Council) will be sought.
- Parks Services will prepare guidelines on green buildings/structures to encourage greening within city development.
- Parks Services will investigate St Anne's Park for suitability as a designated landscape conservation area.

4.14 Art in Parks

Parks create an outdoor gallery for public art and currently over twenty parks contain artworks. The subject matter is wide and variable, from pieces dedicated to notable individuals, to those of a more abstract nature. Art appreciation is subjective, sometimes controversial, but overall a welcome addition to our city parks that can greatly enhance their cultural value, reflect the identity of Dublin and display the creative talent of sculptors and artists.

Artwork is obtained through donations of pieces to the City Council as well as through commissioning. A city-wide policy on public art has been prepared and is administered by the Public Art Advisory Group. Artwork for donation will be assessed on artistic merit, site suitability, appropriateness to the city context and on cost and maintenance implications. These criteria are also suitable when art is commissioned and in particular, the relevance to the receiving park's character is considered important. This is illustrated in the selection of artwork for Father Collins Park, a place which promotes and demonstrates the use of sustainable energy. The chosen artwork 'Inverted Oil Rig' by artist Alan Phelan suitably reflects the park's theme through the notion of returning oil to the ground in favour of sustainable energy sources.



Art in Parks Guide

Inverted Oil Rig
by Alan Phelan
Father Collins Park



4.14.1 Distribution of Art

The location of artwork in Dublin's parks is not currently uniform and there is a concentration of artwork in the city centre parks, in particular in Merrion Square Park. It is desirable to distribute art more evenly throughout the city and make it easily accessible to all.

No further works of art or memorials will be located within Merrion Square due to the high concentration there and due to the need to maintain the historic landscape character of this Georgian-era park. Current sculpture located in this park will be reviewed to determine if any may be appropriately relocated to other park locations.

4.14.2 Art Interpretation

A guide to art located in city parks, called Art in Parks has been prepared by Dublin City Council (see <http://dublincity.ie/main-menu-services-recreation-culture-dublin-city-parks/art-parks>).

This presents an introduction to the park, the artwork and the artist who created it, which will enliven the experience of viewing art for visitors. With the high usage of mobile technology and social media, as reflected in our Parks Survey, it is desirable to make interpretive material easily available in new formats. More detailed background stories or video clips of artists in digital format will add value to how art is experienced in city parks. To further advance this a pilot smartphone interpretation project was undertaken for the Oscar Wilde sculpture in Merrion Square, which may be accessed at: www.dublincity.ie/DublinArtinParks. This provides a multi-lingual text and audio description of the artwork as well as a video of the sculptor for smartphones using a quick response (QR) code located at the sculpture.

Adult and Child Seat
by Jim Flavin
St Catherine's Park





Nuria and Irma
by Juame Plensa
Yorkshire Sculptor Park

4.14.3 Sculpture Park

A park dedicated to sculpture does not currently exist in the City Council administrative area. Well known international examples of sculpture parks include the Musée Rodin in Paris, the Louisiana Skulpturparken in Denmark and the Yorkshire Sculpture Park in England.

The Yorkshire park was established in 1977 with the goal of 'Great art for everyone'. This park is set within 500 acres on an 18th century estate and attracts 300,000 visitors each year, which is estimated to contribute £5 million annually into the local economy.

There is potential to develop a well regarded sculpture park in one of our city parks to display both local and international artworks. This would contribute to the range of outdoor city visitor attractions currently available and help enhance

60 Degrees
by Kevin O'Dwyer
Lough Boora
Sculpture Park



the international identity of Dublin. Potential locations include St. Anne’s Park and Liffey Valley Park.

The establishment of a sculpture park may be linked to a future sculpture symposium or a major cultural event for the city.

4.14.4 Temporary Art

Non-permanent artwork is installed within parks for limited durations only, due to the nature of the artwork or to celebrate a particular event. As the works are non-permanent and of limited availability to view, it is essential that publicity is maximised to allow the public to see it and that a record of the artwork is made before it is removed.

The ‘Touring Tama’ by artist Miriam McCannon is an example of a recent temporary art installation. The piece was formed by handkerchiefs and reflects the tradition of remembrance of loved ones by hanging a handkerchief on an ancient tree in Cyprus. It was installed on a tree canopy in Merrion Square Park to commemorate The Cyprus Presidency of the EU in 2012.

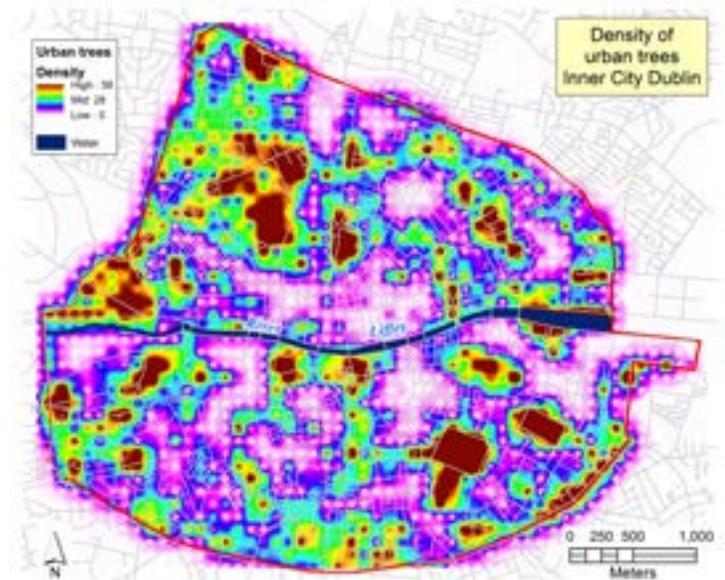
A further international example of temporary art is Christo and Jeanne-Claude’s temporary installation entitled The Gates, which was installed in New York’s Central Park in February 2005. The installation consisted of 7,503 metal and fabric gates erected along 37 kilometers of path in the park. The work was financed by the artists and attracted over four million visitors, generating an estimated \$254 million for the city’s economy.



**The Gates by Christo and
Jeanne-Claude
Central Park, New York City**



**Touring Tama
by Miriam McCannon
Merrion Square Park**



Inner City Tree Density
(Source: UCD Geography)

4.14.5 Artist in Residence

There are currently two parks, St Patrick’s Park and Albert College Park, supporting the City Council’s artist in residence programme. It is administered by the Council’s Arts Office and consists of living and studio space within the parks.

The programme provides work space for both local and international artists, as well as giving a specialised and appropriate use for the historic park buildings where studios are located. Engagement with the public forms part of the requirements of selected artists and resulting events add to the visitor experience at these parks. The programme is considered successful and over 40 artists have availed of it since its commencement.



Policy

- Art within the City Council’s parks is important, welcome and encouraged. Donations and commissioning of artwork and their positioning within parks requires careful consideration and is therefore controlled.
- It is intended to distribute artwork more evenly throughout the Council’s parks and to review the concentration of art located in Merrion Square Park.
- In order to maintain the quality of landscape character in Dublin’s historic parks, strict control is practiced on temporary art, memorials and events. In all cases, written approval is required with a stated commencement and conclusion date.
- Parks Services will continue to support the Artist in Residence scheme and seek further opportunities to provide new premises for artists within parks subject to demand and availability.



Action

- To update the Art in Parks guide on a regular basis, to explore the possibility of introducing versions in other languages for visitors and to look at methods to link the guide with mobile technology.
- To carry out a feasibility study into the creation of a Dublin City Sculpture Park.
- To host an art symposium focused on parks and the public realm.

4.15 RESEARCH

There is considerable general research material available on many aspects of work undertaken by the Parks Services and this has influenced how resources are planned, designed, implemented and managed.

Research originating in Ireland is more limited and, to overcome this, direct commissioning by Local Authorities of universities and consultants is undertaken. This has the advantage of focused study on a particular subject that results in the practical application of findings. Parks and open spaces are also used as a resource by university researchers as part of their academic studies or careers and such activity is welcome.

4.15.1 Conservation Research

A number of conservation studies have been commissioned for the historic parks of Mountjoy Square Park, Merrion Square Park and St Anne's Park. They have researched the original historic fabric of these places and their components, described the changes that have occurred to them over the years and highlighted their significance. Copies of the reports can be found on the Parks section of the Dublin City Council website.

Study recommendations, including repair, restoration and reconstruction will be implemented so that these parks maintain their historic and cultural value for future generations. Interpretation to visitors of the history of parks will be enhanced, so that an understanding of why conservation work is carried out can be widely appreciated.

4.15.2 Dublin Tree Canopy Research Study

The Dublin Local Authorities and the Office of Public Works commissioned the School of Geography at University College Dublin to map the distribution of the tree canopy within County Dublin, following earlier research carried out independently by the university on the city centre area.

In addition to mapping the canopy, the study also analyses its distribution with regard to land use, potential environmental services and presents a comparison with other European cities. This study will allow strategic targets to be set to increase the percentage tree canopy cover in Dublin and how Parks Services can contribute to this with public tree planting.

4.15.3 Further Research

Further research is being considered for the following areas :

- Park visitor numbers – to indicate the visitation rates and use of city parks and record the key reasons for visits, the characteristics of visitors and comparison with other key visitor attractions in Dublin. In particular, this research should seek to obtain views from younger, older and foreign nationals/non-Irish origin sections of the population, which were not captured in surveys for this strategy. This research will be used to influence the design and planning of new parks and park upgrading, for example in implementing or upgrading visitor facilities.
- Economic value of parks – to research the economic contribution of parks to the city as part of the tourism economy of Dublin and in addition to review existing and potential revenue streams generated from parks. This research will be used to influence park funding and investment.
- Street tree planting techniques – to research the various newer techniques in street tree planting including SuDS and compare to determine best practice for Dublin. This will be used to develop standards for Dublin's public street tree planting that are proven to be more successful for the longterm survival of trees in urban environments.
- Biodiversity – to carry out research outlined in the Dublin Bay Biosphere Conservation and Research Strategy 2016-2020.
- Public attitudes- to undertake research into public attitudes to parks that would seek to obtain views from both users and non-users. This would be used to further understand opinions on park resources and in particular to determine what would make them more attractive to non-users.

- City Green Plan- to undertake an assessment of the total vegetated areas within the Council administrative area by remote sensing techniques. Spatial distribution and possible comparisons with other cities would be assessed. This research should preferably be repeated into the future to determine the trend in the greening of Dublin.



Policy

- Parks Services will continue to commission and use research that directly contributes to their role in planning, designing, implementing and managing its resources. In addition, it supports access to its resources by research organisations and individuals undertaking their own research studies.



Action

- To undertake research studies on the following subjects:
 - Park visitation assessment.
 - Economic assessment of the contribution of Parks to the tourism economy of Dublin.
 - Street tree planting techniques including SuDs.
 - Biodiversity research associated with the Dublin Bay Biosphere.
 - Public Attitudes
 - City Green Plan

Section 5: City Landscape Vision

The city landscape is complex, it is formed by centuries of human development over an original natural landscape, which, until relatively recently, grew without overall planning. In this section, a broader approach to this landscape is taken with the intention of providing vision on its key components including the coast, routes in and out, the inner-city and outer city and the waterways.

5.1 THE COAST

The coast, where the city meets the sea, is a complex linear zone with varying levels of access, connectivity and activity. It is a product of the organic development of the city spreading north and south along the bay. The city coastal landscape is an area that deserves greater attention to its planning and design. How many of those who visit or work in Dublin every day actually experience the sea?

The existing spatial characteristics along the coast vary, from highly accessible linear parks at Clontarf and Sandycove to less defined connections at the Docklands where the Liffey severs connectivity. Nodes of activity along the coast include beaches, promenades, quays, sea walls and parks and the coastal nodes of Howth and Dun Laoghaire harbours.

The city landscape plan conceptually envisages a continuous green coastal corridor, a Dublin Bay Greenway, accessible from Howth to Dún Laoghaire, providing green transport, recreational use and biodiversity areas.

This corridor provides for bicycle and pedestrian routes as well as serving recreational needs for local areas along the route, connecting north and south and back into the city centre and suburbs along the way with a coordinated use of materials, way finding and interpretation. To develop this further, a Dublin Coast Landscape Plan is envisaged that would be a coordinated project between the Local Authorities and relevant management agencies, such as Dublin Port.



Policy

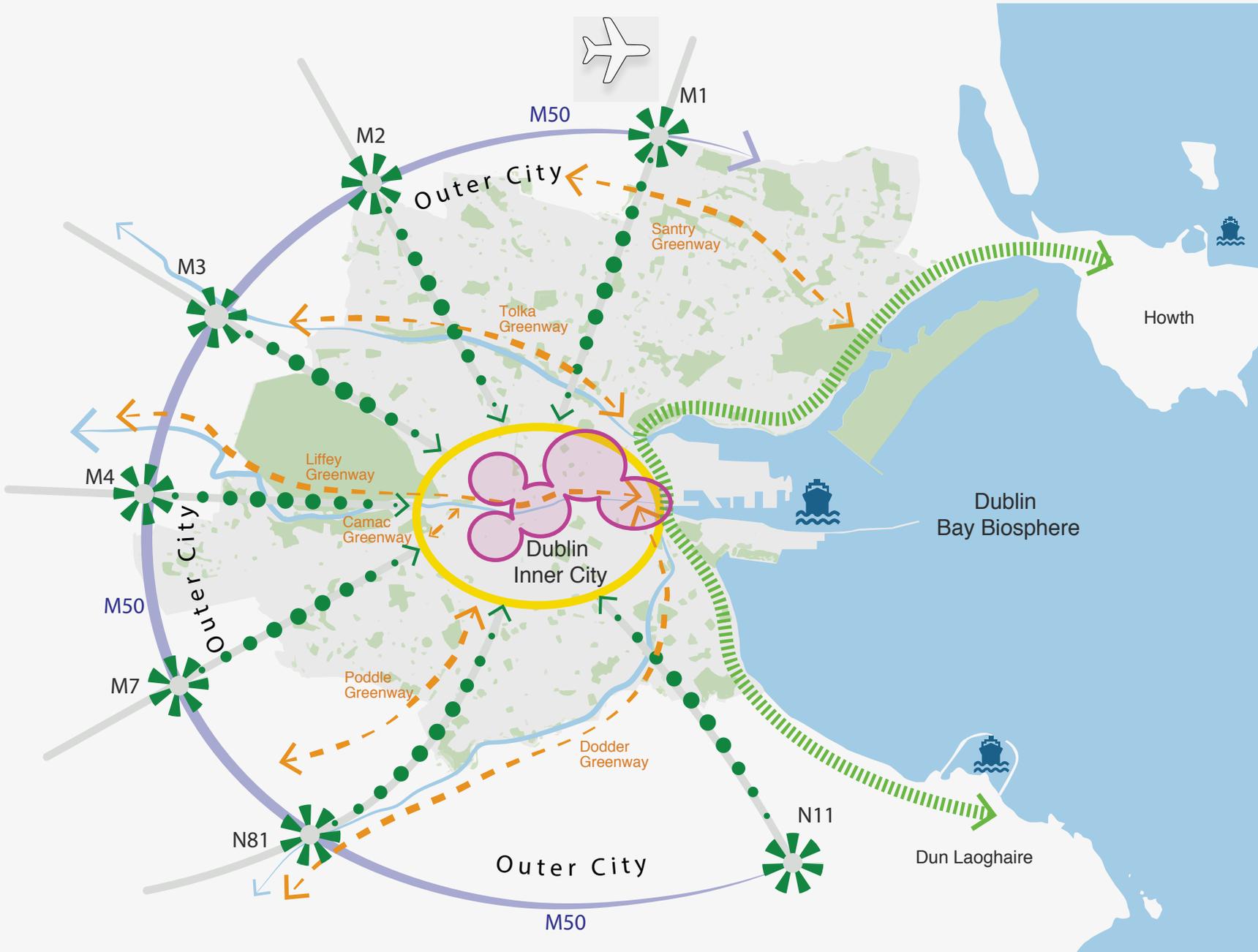
- Park Services will promote a Dublin Bay Greenway (former S2S), a continuous green coastal corridor along Dublin Bay



Action

- To assist in the preparation of a Dublin Coast Landscape Plan with other partners to enhance recreation, greening, biodiversity and green transportation.

City Landscape Plan



- | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
|  | Dublin Airport |  | Dublin Port |  | Dublin Inner City |  | M50 |
|  | Existing open space |  | Access routes |  | Threshold to the City |  | Access Routes, promoting greening |
|  | Waterways |  | Greenways |  | Dublin Bay Greenway |  | Public Realm & Greening Strategies |



Angel of the North

5.2 ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

People arrive into and depart from the city by road, rail, sea and air. First impressions and memories are made in the process and the image of a green Dublin City creates a lasting positive impression.

5.2.1 Access by Roads

The landscape plan proposes the protection and promotion of greening along the main road corridors leading to and from the city centre, which are the M1, N2, N3, N4, N7 and N11 from the M50.

The M4/N4/Chapelizod Bypass route into/from the city centre provides an excellent example of a successful green road corridor, in particular along the Bypass section, where mature median and road edge planting is now well established.

The success of this lies in the provision of adequate space to accomplish greening, which may not exist along all routes. While the above example consists of public lands, the concept of route corridor greening can be assisted with the contribution of private land where planting is established and maintained by the owner. Modern road corridors can appear quite similar due to standards of design and the use of landscape and art can help foster identity. In approaching the city both the M50 junctions and inner-city canals can provide identity thresholds to the inner-city and outer city area.

It is proposed to signify these thresholds by creating large scale landscape/art features at each of the main M50 junctions. An example of this effect can be seen in the Angel of the North sculpture in England which is located close to the A1 road corridor south of Gateshead and Newcastle upon Tyne. To achieve this, an ideas competition in cooperation with the National Roads Authority and Dublin local authorities is proposed.

A more subtle approach is proposed for the canal threshold to the inner-city. Many road corridors crossing the canals are distinguished by the older hump-back bridges with stone parapet walls. Improvement to their appearance is suggested through upgrading the public realm in the immediate vicinity, the introduction of seasonal planting and bridge name stones/signs.

5.2.2 Access by Sea

Passenger arrivals and departures by ship, ferry and cruise liners is increasing through Dublin Port and will continue with port masterplans proposals including a new cruise terminal. An estimated 1.7 million ferry and cruise passengers pass through the port every year. The entry into the port terminals passes working docks with facilities for goods import and export set within a working landscape.

In contrast to the regenerated docklands further up the Liffey, there is little greening within the vast areas dedicated to port operations.

The potential for greening to enhance the quality of arrival and departures is extensive and may include key areas, such as terminals, to break up extensive car parking areas, quaysides in working docks and derelict areas.

A port greening plan is suggested to bring these greening possibilities to fruition in a coordinated manner.

Creating a landscape/ sculptural gateway is also suggested, subject to feasibility, at the eastern most end of the port lands delivered through the process of a design competition. Signifying the gateway to a city by sea is experienced in New York by the Statue of Liberty, the Gateway of India in Mumbai and the Opera House in Sydney.

5.2.3 Access by Air

Dublin Airport provides both domestic and international arrivals and departures for the city and was used by 29 million passengers in 2017. The airport landscape is variable in quality with extensive areas for parking, roads and paved areas of poor appearance, while other areas provide good roadside screening by planting. The airport would benefit from a master landscape plan to provide a distinctive landscape treatment to enhance identity on arrival and departure from Dublin by air and include the main road corridors to which it connects. International examples of airport greening are experienced in Singapore's Changi Airport and the developing Schipol Airport landscape plan in Holland.



Schiphol Airport (Image: Jeroen Musch)



Policy

- Parks Services will promote the greening and sense of identity at city entry points and routes.



Action

- To initiate discussion on the potential of enhancing M50 junctions and canal bridges with partners to act as thresholds to the city.
- To initiate discussion on the potential of a port greening plan with Dublin Port to enhance greening and identity of arrival and departure by sea.
- To initiate discussion on the potential of an airport environs greening plan with relevant authorities to enhance greening and identity of arrival & departure by air.

Chapelizod Bypass



5.3 THE INNER AND OUTER CITY LANDSCAPE

5.3.1 The Inner-City Landscape

Dublin’s inner-city is the centre of activity, it’s the historical and cultural heart and an area that has seen renewed development over the last few decades, with an increase in the resident population. It is the location that every visitor (5.6 million in 2016) to Dublin will experience, with the contrasting experience of the quality of the O’Connell Street public realm intersecting with the traffic-laden Liffey quays as its centrepiece.

This strategy envisages a ‘green heart’ to the city founded on:

- The development of new city centre parks to address the current imbalance of open space, whereby inner-city residents have less area of parks per person. These are suggested to link with the UNESCO City of Literature designation by designing them as writers’ parks.
- Greening and public realm strategies that combine to enhance the core city landscape by providing quality to the exterior streets and spaces of the city.

The majority of Dublin’s historical parks also lie within the central area and contribute to telling the story of Dublin. The strategy provides for their conservation and restoration in the context of the modern city as well as interpreting their significance to both residents and visitors to the city.

The docklands urban regeneration area provides a new chapter in the development of the city centre landscape. Here, Irish and international designers are introducing contemporary placemaking, which contrasts to the older heart of the city.

5.3.2 The Outer City Landscape

The city’s suburban areas (from the canals to the M50 corridor) are well serviced by the provision of public open space, however the key issue is the quality of these parks. Many were provided during the surge in suburban expansion from the 1950s with the provision of space for parks but with minimal input of design and facilities. The strategy addresses this, with the intended upgrading of parks from Community Grade 2 to Grade 1, with the intention of providing existing parks with a balanced provision of active and passive recreational facilities. In addition, a select number of Community Grade 1 parks shall be brought to Flagship standard.

While the quantum of open space available to suburban dwellers is larger than that for those in the inner-city, it is not proposed to reduce it beyond the range of 2.5-3.6ha per 1000 persons given in this strategy, as future population growth will largely rely on the current provision.

The provision of open space differs in the southeast area in that there is significantly less public open space and more private provision in the form of privately owned parks/squares and recreational grounds. For the longterm protection of these spaces from development, the use of appropriate zoning and the transfer of privately owned lands to public ownership may be considered.

The outer city landscape also contains some remaining historic properties that may be worthy of conservation. Typically these historical holdings have been broken up for development with only fragments remaining. Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Council’s recent acquisition of Fernhill house and gardens with its celebrated Robisonian-style landscape is a commendable example of direct conservation intervention.

In the city administrative area, an example requiring further investigation is the intact 17th century house and garden landscape called Woodlands, located in Clonshaugh. The architectural design has been attributed to the architect Edward Lovett Pearce (1699-1733). The house together, with a glasshouse located on the grounds, are protected structures. The threat of impact lies in the expansion of an adjacent industrial estate and road corridor proposals through the property’s core historic landscape. The conservation of this property and others remaining in the administrative areas requires proactive study so that those of unique value to the city are identified and protected into the future.



Policy

- Parks Services will proactively review the city landscape to determine historic or culturally relevant landscapes for conservation.



Actions

- Parks Services will support a conservation study of Woodlands house and landscape to determine its significance and conservation value.
- Park Services will prepare a City Historic Landscape plan of natural and built heritage to record previously existing and remaining landscapes of historic value.



Woodlands - under threat



Fernhill Gardens - protected
(Image: DLR Parks)





The Grand Canal

5.4 City Waterways

The city waterways comprise of the rivers and streams that flow into Dublin Bay as well as the constructed canals. They function to provide drainage, recreation and natural habitats for city flora and fauna. Like many other cities, Dublin has gone through a phase of turning its back on its watercourses, but it has now moved to an appreciation of their value to urban life.

The Grand and Royal Canals are linear man-made water landscapes embracing the inner-city. They are under the management of Waterways Ireland. Within the city, they provide a strong sense of identity connected to the city's transport and industrial heritage. Today they are also valued green walking and cycling routes and meeting places for residents and city workers.

To promote and interpret the canal's industrial heritage, it is proposed to assess the potential for the restoration of the St James Basin area, which was originally used by barges transporting Guinness into the midlands of Ireland. This assessment will look at the possibility of establishing it as a heritage canal park and visitor centre and link it into the adjacent popular Guinness storehouse visitor experience.

The main river corridors include the Santry and Tolka on the northside and the Camac, Poddle and Dodder on the southside and the central river Liffey. The encroachment of development has, over the centuries, removed and compromised many of Dublin's original rivers and streams with some no longer visible as they have been culverted underground.

Integrated management plans and city greenway plans are recommended for the main river corridors, with the objectives of balancing the various demands of drainage, flood risk, recreation, green transportation and biodiversity.

The potential to expose culverted watercourses has also considerable potential where redevelopment is proposed. In such cases the provision of open space in connection with unearthing watercourses will enhance their value and will assist to overcome level differences when such watercourses are at a deep level.

Liffey Valley Park

The River Liffey is central to the origins and present day identity of Dublin. Its character changes from the urban central city quays to the more natural vegetated banks in the upstream sections. Within the city centre, a greater relationship with the river can be established through enhancing the river corridor, however this will require balancing space for traffic with space for people and landscape treatment. In the upstream sections from Island Bridge to the Strawberry Beds, greater access for walkers and bicycle by continuous routes requires assessment to determine the potential for a long distance Liffey recreational route.



Policy

- Parks Services will seek the appropriate development, conservation and management of the city waterways, which are an asset to Dublin’s landscape. Where required, cooperation with relevant management authorities, such as Waterways Ireland, will be sought.
- Parks Services will seek to unearth culverted watercourses, where feasible and appropriate, in an effort to improve the natural environment and create landscape linkage along such corridors.





Section 6: Implementation

The implementation of actions described in the strategy will be undertaken over short-term (1-5 years), medium-term (5-10 years) and long-term (over 10 years). While it is desirable to complete actions within the stated time periods, constraints such as financing, changes to strategy and necessary approvals for actions may affect actual delivery.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT



Policy

- To support and promote volunteering to realise public goodwill and enhance engagement with the community in their local environment.
- To enhance information availability on park services and resources through contemporary media and digital devices.
- To provide good interpretation and wayfinding for park visitors to enhance their experience and knowledge of park resources.



Actions

	SHORT-TERM	MEDIUM-TERM	LONG-TERM
To study the feasibility of establishing a Dublin Parks Volunteer Programme.	S		
To further develop smartphone multi-lingual guides for artworks located in Merrion Square Park.	S		
To develop multi-lingual digital guides to historic parks.	S	M	
To develop a parks information portal in cooperation with adjacent Dublin local authorities and the OPW.	S		
To coordinate orientation for visitors and develop a Park Wayfinding System.	S	M	
To update the city parks brochure.	S		

RESOURCES AND SERVICES

Parks



Policy

- Parks Services' objective is to plan, design, maintain and manage the city parks resource to best serve the recreational, cultural, economic, environmental and social needs of Dublin.

Flagship Parks



Actions

	SHORT-TERM	MEDIUM-TERM	LONG-TERM
To prepare management plans for all designated flagship parks under the management of the City Council.	S		
North Bull Island:			
To implement planned traffic management solutions for access to the island.	S	M	
To construct a new visitor centre subject to planning approval.		M	L
Father Collins Park:			
To prepare a park management plan to include adjoining recreational lands.	S		
St Anne's Park:			
To develop a destination playground.		M	
To obtain ideas for the area of the original mansion.	S		
To restore the range of follies that form part of the historic estate landscape.	S		
To assess the potential of the park as a sculpture park.	S	M	
To implement plans for the Red Stables to enhance it as a visitor centre.	S		
St Patrick's Park:			
To implement actions arising from the conservation and management study of the park.	S		
Merrion Square Park:			
To implement the park's conservation plan including upgrading perimeter paths and seating in sympathy with the original Georgian-era park character.	S		
To construct a park tea room in sympathy with the historic landscape character	S		
To interpret the historic park and artwork within, in particular to exploit the use of digital media for interpretation.	S	M	

Community Parks



Actions

SHORT-TERM

MEDIUM-TERM

LONG-TERM

To prepare management plans for all designated Community Grade 1 parks

M

L

Greenways



Policy

- Parks Services will support and promote the planning and implementation of Greenways as shared spaces for pedestrians and cyclists within the park.

Quantity of Parks



Policy

- Dublin City Council will maintain a provision of between 2.5 and 3.6ha of parks per 1000 population in its administrative area. This accommodates the existing provision while allowing for expected future population growth.



Actions

SHORT-TERM

MEDIUM-TERM

LONG-TERM

To undertake a study into facilitating public access and the provision of new parks between the canals to service this area of high population density and to contribute to the identity of Dublin as a City of Literature.

S

Quality of Parks



Policy

- Park Services will continue to work towards improving the quality of its parks to ensure that all citizens have access to a quality park in their neighbourhood and will deploy the Green Flag award scheme to assist in achieving a recognised quality standard.



Actions

SHORT-TERM

MEDIUM-TERM

LONG-TERM

To carry out selected Green Flag assessments annually for each of the council administrative areas.

S

To carry out a full assessment of all Flagship and Community Grade 1 Parks, subject to resource availability, within the next five years.

M

To upgrade specific Community Grade 2 parks to Grade 1 parks in management areas with a higher proportion of Grade 2 parks, as follows:

North West Area: Kildonan Park

M

South Central Area: Ballyfermot Civic Centre Park & Cherry Orchard Park

M

Access to Parks



Policy

- To maintain a hierarchy of parks within reasonable access of the residents of Dublin.



Actions

	SHORT-TERM	MEDIUM-TERM	LONG-TERM
To improve access to Flagship Parks by the upgrading of community parks to flagship status as follows:			
Central Area: Mountjoy Square Park	S		
North West Area: Albert College Park		M	
To seek public access to Fitzwilliam Square Park	S	M	

Parks and Recreation



Policy

- Dublin City Council will continue to provide and maintain a range of recreational opportunities within its parks and work with governing bodies of sport and activities to strategically plan development of facilities without impact on passive uses or character of particular parks or open spaces.
- To ensure that any future all-weather facilities are available to as wide a range of sports as possible in the local community, that local schools have access during the day and early evening and that all the users of the facility contribute to a fund that will cover the cost of renewal of the facility at the end of its efficient use period, e.g. 10 to 12 years for a synthetic surface.



Actions

	SHORT-TERM	MEDIUM-TERM	LONG-TERM
To provide, where possible, park perimeter paths and paths between interconnecting parks to develop accessible walking/jogging routes.	S	M	L
To assess the potential of provision of new all-weather pitch facilities within the canals area and the Terenure area, in particular where opportunities of new open space provision arise.	S	M	
To provide a new playing pitch as part of the St. Teresa's Gardens redevelopment.	S		
To identify opportunities to partner with schools within the canals area to develop community training facilities, particularly in the South Central Area.	S		
To prepare an audit of playing fields to ensure that the quality and maintenance is in accordance with best practice to maximise use.		M	
To enhance tennis facilities at Rockfield Park, Bushy Park and Herbert Park.	S	M	
To develop a policy for managing and signing cycling in parks so as to better manage the conflict between cyclists and other park users.	S		
To assess the potential of new beach volleyball sites in coastal parks/beaches.	S	M	
To provide for new skateparks city-wide, commencing with LeFanu Park in Ballyfermot in 2019.	S	M	

Parks and Play



Policy

- The City Council will continue to maintain and upgrade existing playgrounds and improve access to play for all children of Dublin City with a priority on current areas lacking provision but having a high population of children.
- To provide for new destination playgrounds in the North West, South Central, South East and City Centre.
- To assess the potential of provision of natural play through out the city to compliment the fixed playground resource.



Actions

SHORT-TERM

MEDIUM-TERM

LONG-TERM

To address deficit in provision of playgrounds and to prioritise their provision based on areas with higher population of children. The following locations will be assessed for the provision of new facilities:

North Central Area:

Belmayne (New playground to be provided under new residential development)

S

Kilbarrack

S

Coolock

S

Marino North

M

Clontarf

M

South East Area:

Sandymount

S

Park Visitor Facilities



Policy

- Visitor facilities will be developed and provided in parks and in particular flagship parks, where there is sufficient footfall to enhance their appeal and enjoyment.
- The provision of cafés/tea rooms and restaurants (with public toilets) will be promoted and expanded following consideration of their commercial viability and character of the receiving park.
- No internal public parking will be provided within inner-city parks. Parking within parks in other areas will be considered in exceptional circumstances and where needed priority will be given to disabled carparking and family carparking. Cycle parking will be facilitated internally in most parks.
- The provision of toilets will be considered within parks as part of other built facilities where active management & monitoring is present.



Actions

	SHORT-TERM	MEDIUM-TERM	LONG-TERM
New tea room facilities are to be provided in Merrion Square Park & Bushy Park and are under consideration for Blessington Street Basin Fairview Park and Palmerston park.	S	M	
Bicycle parking facilities will be provided for at all inner-city parks.	S	M	

Park Management



Policy

- Parks Services maintain standard opening times for their enclosed parks and allow access at alternative times, such as for events, on a case by case basis.
- The City Council encourages use of public spaces, including its parks, by responsible dog owners. It will continue to seek and provide initiatives to encourage responsibility and enjoyment of these spaces and seeks the cooperation of dog owners to ensure other park users do not feel hindered by dogs in parks.
- Parks Services will continue to work towards the vision of a pesticide-free park system by monitoring and minimising its use of chemical pesticides and seeking alternatives to them.



Action

	SHORT-TERM	MEDIUM-TERM	LONG-TERM
Parks Services will review current Bye Laws with regards to contemporary urban living.	S	M	

Natural Areas and Biodiversity



Policy

- To ensure parks management practices prioritise the protection of habitats for threatened species and for protection of rare species and habitats in our parks.
- To protect genetic biodiversity by planting only native species of Irish provenance (where available) in areas of high ecological importance, including river corridors and coastal habitats.
- To manage our parks, open spaces and cemeteries as a connected network of green infrastructure that provides habitats of international importance for protected species and sustains ecosystems.
- Biodiversity initiatives which are specific to the protected habitats and species will be developed for all public green spaces that are hubs supporting core areas. These will be prepared with reference to the management plans for the core areas.
- To ensure that corridors are maintained throughout DCC administrative area as continuous elements of green infrastructure to afford passage for wildlife and prevent severance of habitats by 'grey' infrastructure. To work to restore connectivity of corridors where insensitive development has taken place previously or where there are opportunities to work cooperatively with landowners to promote this.
- To continue to work to enable NGO's to implement national strategies for nature conservation through public parks and open spaces.
- To develop the educational resources of Dublin City parks to promote sustainability and biodiversity through providing facilities for the public to use, making information about parks freely accessible online and through organisation of formal and informal activities through Parks staff.
- Dublin City Council will, in association with its partners, assist with achieving the goals of conservation, learning and development of the Dublin Bay UNESCO Biosphere.



Actions

	SHORT-TERM	MEDIUM-TERM	LONG-TERM
To ensure that management plans are prepared and implemented for the Natura 2000 sites with reference to other relevant statutory bodies.	S	M	
To implement the Dublin City Biodiversity Action Plan (2015-2020). To renew and update the Biodiversity action plan in 2019.	S		
To implement Dublin City Invasive Alien Species Action Plan (2015–2020).	S	M	
Development of a Biosphere Conservation Programme, Research Strategy, Business Development Plan and Education and Awareness Programme for the Dublin Bay UNESCO Biosphere.	S		

Public Realm



Policy

- Parks Services will help to provide for the implementation of The Heart of Dublin, City Centre Public Realm Masterplan (2016) with particular emphasis on the role of parks, city greening and biodiversity.
- Given the current lower provision of public open space per person in the inner-city area, particular emphasis will be put on creating a quality public realm that displays the virtues of parks.
- Parks Services will realise opportunities for greening in the Liberties and North East Inner City Area.

Public Housing



Policy

- Public housing landscape provision should be of a good quality and provide both private residential space as well as community orientated space.
- Consultation with the residential community on landscape proposals shall be sought where existing housing estates are refurbished.
- Design of public housing landscape should aim to encourage provision of playgrounds into locally accessible parks rather than solely within the boundary of the housing, so as to encourage integration and connection with the wider community.
- Public housing landscape design shall be innovative and look to incorporating community gardens /allotments, sustainable urban drainage systems, green roofing, home zones and public art.



Actions

SHORT-TERM MEDIUM-TERM LONG-TERM

To implement a new community park in the redevelopment of St Teresa's Gardens.

S

Cemeteries



Policy

- To manage and maintain historical graveyards to enhance their historical and cultural significance to Dublin, while maintaining the dignity of these burial places



Actions

SHORT-TERM MEDIUM-TERM LONG-TERM

To develop appropriate forms of interpretation to encourage better understanding of historical graveyards and assist research of cemeteries.

S

M

To consider the provision of columbarium walls in burial grounds.

S

City Trees



Policy

- To promote the policies of the Dublin City Tree Strategy to protect, maintain and enhance the city's urban forest.
- Parks Services will support the conservation of the city's arboreta and their role in education, research and culture.
- Parks Services will promote tree knowledge and appreciation among the public with particular emphasis on engaging with children.
- Parks Services recognise that Champion trees and Heritage trees are of significance and will therefore give due consideration in favour of their protection if the potential of impact from development arises.



Actions

	SHORT-TERM	MEDIUM-TERM	LONG-TERM
To carry out actions of the City Tree Strategy.	S	M	
To enhance the St Anne's arboretum through use of interpretation.	S		

Civic Decoration



Policy

- Parks Services recognise the importance of civic and seasonal decoration to the city and continue to provide and maintain this resource.



Actions

	SHORT-TERM	MEDIUM-TERM	LONG-TERM
To produce a Civic Decoration Plan in consultation with local community and business groups on possible enhancement opportunities in the city centre. It would also look at ways that civic decoration can be incorporated into unique themes defining particular areas of the city or particular events.	S	M	

Allotments and Community Gardens



Policy

- To make provision of allotments for the benefit of local communities subject to existing or anticipated demand for such facilities and to enhance the coordination and management of allotments on a city-wide basis.

Planning and Development Control



Policy

- Parks Services will continue to assist the provision of a sustainable green city through the planning and development control system, with particular focus on achieving a balance between development and conservation. Emphasis will be placed on conservation of trees, historic designed landscapes, natural and built heritage and recreation including playing fields. While the continued development of the city poses challenges, it also contributes to the provision of new public space, the enhancement of existing parks and the supply of better recreational facilities.



Actions

	SHORT-TERM	MEDIUM-TERM	LONG-TERM
Parks Services will update current guidelines (Guidelines for Open Space Development and Taking in Charge) to planning applicants for submission of landscape proposals (including open space, biodiversity and arboriculture aspects). Coordination with the adjacent councils (Fingal County Council, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Council & South Dublin County Council) will be sought.	S		
Parks Services will prepare guidelines on green buildings/structures to encourage greening within city development.	S		
Parks Services will investigate St Anne’s Park for suitability as a designated Landscape Conservation Area.	S		

Art in Parks



Policy

- Art within the City Council's parks is important, welcome and encouraged. Donations and commissioning of artwork and their positioning within parks requires careful consideration and is therefore controlled.
- It is the intention to distribute artwork more evenly throughout the Council's parks and to review the concentration of art in Merrion Square Park.
- In order to maintain the quality of landscape character in Dublin's historic parks, strict control is practiced on temporary art, memorials and events. In all cases, written approval is required with a stated commencement and conclusion date.
- Parks Services will continue to support the Artist in Residence scheme and seek further opportunities to provide new premises for artists within parks subject to demand and availability.



Actions

	SHORT-TERM	MEDIUM-TERM	LONG-TERM
To update the Art in Parks guide on a regular basis, to explore the possibility of introducing versions in other languages for visitors and to look at methods to link the guide with mobile technology.	S	M	
To carry out a feasibility study into the creation of a Dublin City Sculpture Park.	S		
To host an art symposium focused on parks and the public realm.	S		

Research



Policy

- Parks Services will continue to commission and use research that directly contributes to their role in planning, designing, implementing and managing its resources. In addition, it supports access to its resources by research organisations and individuals undertaking their own research studies.



Actions

	SHORT-TERM	MEDIUM-TERM	LONG-TERM
To undertake research on the following subjects:			
Park visitor numbers.	S	M	
Economic value of parks.	S		
Street tree planting techniques including SuDS.	S	M	L
Biodiversity.	S	M	
Public attitudes.	S		
City Green Plan.	S		L

CITY LANDSCAPE VISION



Policy

- Parks Services will promote a Dublin Bay Greenway (former S2S) continuous green coastal corridor along Dublin Bay
- Parks Services will promote the greening and sense of identity at city entry points and routes.
- Parks Services will proactively review the city landscape to determine historic or culturally relevant landscapes for conservation.
- Parks Services will seek the appropriate development, conservation and management of the city waterways, which are an asset to Dublin's landscape. Where required, cooperation with relevant management authorities, such as Waterways Ireland, will be sought.
- Parks Services will seek to unearth culverted watercourses, where feasible and appropriate, in an effort to improve the natural environment and create landscape linkage along such corridors.



Actions

	SHORT-TERM	MEDIUM-TERM	LONG-TERM
To assist in the preparation of a Dublin Coast Landscape Plan with other partners to enhance recreation, greening, biodiversity and green transportation.	S	M	
To initiate discussion on the potential of enhancing M50 junctions and canal bridges with partners to act as thresholds to the city.	S	M	
To initiate discussion on the potential of a port greening plan with Dublin Port to enhance greening and identity of arrival and departure by sea.	S	M	
To initiate discussion on the potential of an airport environs greening plan with relevant authorities to enhance greening and identity of arrival & departure by air.	S	M	
Parks Services will support a conservation study of Woodlands house and landscape to determine its significance and conservation value.	S		
Park Services will prepare City Historic Landscape Audit of natural and built heritage to record previously existing and remaining landscapes.	S	M	

