

# Biodiversity Action Plan

**Report from the Joint SPC Sub-committee for Biodiversity**

End of year summary report

Heritage Officer, 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2022



## Governance of the Plan

### 1. Joint SPC Sub-committee for Biodiversity

- Sitting members: Cllr Yvonne Collins  
Cllr Eoin Ó Broin  
Cllr Gus O'Connell  
Deirdre Mooney, Sectoral/Business
- Thanks are extended to Cllr. Shane Moynihan, Cllr. Alan Edge, and PPN representative Una Ruddock for their contribution to the Joint Sub-committee from Feb 2021 up to Feb 2022.
- PPN representative – replacement PPN representative to be appointed.
- 2022 meetings: 10<sup>th</sup> February, 10<sup>th</sup> May, 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 27<sup>th</sup> October
- Reports issued to SPCs

### 2. Internal Working/Steering Group for Biodiversity

- 2022 meetings: 10<sup>th</sup> May, 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 22<sup>nd</sup> November (tbc)

*Action 3.1c: Annual reporting on plan implementation*

# Heritage Plan Budget 2022



- Swan and Gull tagging in SDCC parks

*Action 1.1: Collate ecological data and survey and map the County, to provide an evidence base for informed biodiversity decision-making and to form the basis for a Green Infrastructure network*

- Control of Invasive Mink species along the River Dodder Autumn

*Action 1.1.ii: Map and manage the spread of non-native invasive species.*

- National Tidy Towns Pollinator Award

*Action 2.1: Develop a Biodiversity Communications Strategy, to celebrate and promote the enjoyment and protection of nature in South Dublin County.*

- Alternatives to Herbicides research project in conjunction with Kildare Co. Co. and partners

*Action 4.2: To continue to research methods to further minimise the use of chemical biocides that are harmful to wider biodiversity.*

- Survey of Pollinator Sites in 3 Council Parks (Waterstown Park, Tymon Park, and Lucan Demesne)

*Action 1.1: Survey and monitor biodiversity at identified pollinator sites.*

- Nature on our Doorsteps, weekly Echo articles and Vol 2 publication

*Action 2.1: Develop a Biodiversity Communications Strategy, to celebrate and promote the enjoyment and protection of nature in South Dublin County.*

- Nesting boxes for Swifts

*Action 1.1: Collate ecological data and survey and map the County, to provide an evidence base for informed biodiversity decision-making and to form the basis for a Green Infrastructure network.*

# External Funding

NPWS – National Biodiversity Action Plan



## Ponds and Lakes Wetland Survey

- Phase 1 Wetland Survey underway (i.e. desktop collation and mapping of existing data and information).

*Action 1.1.iv – Survey and map wetlands in the County.*

## Corkagh Park Woodland and Hedgerow Survey

- Public Realm application for the Corkagh Park Woodland and Hedgerow Survey.

*Action 1.1.i map the distribution of the habitats and species in the County*



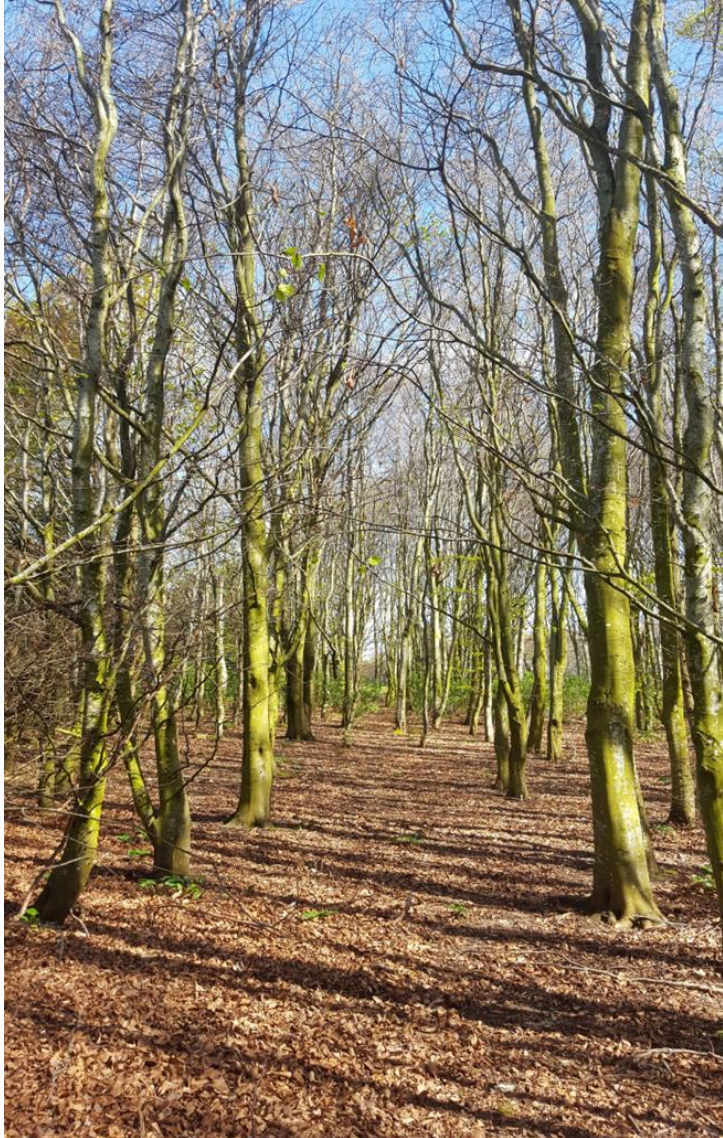
## Other internal SDCC budgets that also address Biodiversity Action Plan objectives :

- Management of **meadows for biodiversity** is resulting in higher species diversity and abundance. Regular social media communication of benefits of new mowing regimes, including three new information videos (link to SDCC's pollinator page at [Pollinators - SDCC](#))
- **Invasive Plant Species** Management Programme – Japanese Knotweed control programme, and in-house staff training video on identification and reporting of invasive plant species
- **3 new constructed wetlands** completed, one in Griffeen Valley Park and two in the Dodder Valley Park at Old Bawn (Dublin Urban Rivers LIFE project)
- Development of a **Woodland Management Plan** template for Council Parks to manage woodlands assets into the future
- Climate Change Action Plan – specifically the **Nature-based Solutions** team
- **Tree Management** programme.



- \* 5 Council Parks awarded Green Flags in 2022
- \* Tymon Park won the 'Best Town Park' Pollinator Award in the national Green Flag programme

# Planning for 2023



## For discussion - Possible 2023 projects

- **Annually recurring** projects: Swan & gull tagging; invasive Mink trapping;
- **Carry-over** of Corkagh Park Woodland and Hedgerow Survey; on-going 'Alternatives to Herbicides' project
- **Phase 2 Wetland Survey**, to follow on from this year's Phase 1
- Support for local '**Stepping Stones**' mini-woodlands project
- Survey of **woodland orchid** sites
- Develop a Biodiversity Communications Strategy
- Household biodiversity guidelines e.g. for managing lawns for biodiversity, creating habitats for mining bees etc.

Others for consideration?