



Appendices

Two Year Progress Report Appendix 2 Strategic Corridor Objectives



APPENDIX 2

CHAPTER 4 – GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE - STRATEGIC CORRIDOR OBJECTIVE REVIEW

Policy/Objective	Status	Comments
<p>Strategic Corridor 1: The Dodder River</p> <p>- Overarching Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide a multi-functional GI corridor crossing and connecting the mountains, urban and rural areas and linking with other regional corridors. • To recognise, protect, and enhance the role of the River Dodder Corridor as a key route through the urban environment for biodiversity and protected species. • To protect and enhance the River Dodder Corridor as an area of heritage, geology, special amenity and recreation. • To monitor and address any negative impacts on biodiversity and protected species arising from amenity and greenway activities, so as to maintain the high value of the River Dodder Corridor as a Green Infrastructure link through the County and region. • To explore opportunities to restore the quality and biodiversity of the Dodder’s river-bank margins. • To enhance and maintain ecological habitats along the river corridor to improve mobility for protected species and to support other ecosystem services such as pollinator sites, flood attenuation, and spaces for low impact recreation. • To continue the implementation of non-native invasive species control within the County including along the River Dodder, and to co-ordinate control measures with other stakeholders, wherever possible, to ensure a collaborative approach. 	<p>Significant Progress</p>	<p>The Council are continuing to implement this objective around the delivery of a Strategic corridor at the Dodder River.</p> <p>The Council are continuing to progress the delivery of the Dodder Greenway in accordance with the approved Part 8 which included environmental measures to mitigate potential impacts. Examples of these that are being implemented include the lighting regime (bat friendly) along the greenway. A small wetland has also been incorporated at Mount Carmel Park, in addition ICWs have been constructed at Old Bawn Park which contribute to biodiversity and clean heavily polluted water which previously drained directly to the Dodder. The Dodder Greenway has delivered a shared walking and cycle route through the valley with specially designed accessible entrances and high-quality landscape designs at areas of high amenity eg. Balrothery Weir.</p> <p>Note: See also GI 6 Objective 5 above which notes that walkways and cycleways result in provision of tarmacadam pathways and soil sealing resulting in potential loss of habitats and other ecological functions. The sensitive implementation of these projects and appropriate mitigation is essential.</p> <p>The Dodder Greenway was designed to encourage activity predominately on one side of the river where high activity occurs, the other side is less developed and nature friendly. Other than the special lightning regime included along the Dodder Greenway, a dark environment is retained within the parkland along the Dodder Valley.</p> <p>There are 5 new walking and cycling bridges that provide accessibility for all to walking and cycling routes.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To protect green and blue infrastructure of the Dodder River Corridor and restore the naturalness of the rivers riparian corridors through the planting of native plant species while minimising new development within the riparian corridors (Riparian Corridors are shown on the Development Plan GI Map, refer also to section 4.2.2 of this chapter). • To protect sensitive species within the Dodder Valley and ensure new recreational development within the Dodder Valley does not have an adverse impact on nocturnal species. • To protect and enhance the outstanding landscape character and amenity of the Dodder Valley (See Chapter 3: Natural, Cultural and Built Heritage). • To restore the natural features of the River Dodder riparian corridor and promote the planting of native plant species. • To implement the plans for the Dodder Greenway in accordance with the Part 8 for the scheme 		<p>The Council are continuing to implement the meadowland programme in public parks along and adjacent to the Dodder Valley by maintaining 59.8ha of diverse flora from dry meadow to wetland meadow habitats.</p> <p>Signage is being introduced to provide information on the heritage and biodiversity in the Dodder Valley.</p> <p>The Council has carefully introduced recreational amenity such as natural play spaces, a BMX pump track, a grass athletics track and a grass pitch. The existing tennis and basketball courts have recently been upgraded and a new sports changing room has been provided which supports the use of existing pitches and organised events.</p> <p>The Council have implemented 3 native mini woodlands in the Dodder Valley as part of the county wide mini woodlands programme. Local community groups are intensively involved in this delivery. The Dodder Valley Park/Mount Carmel and the Dodder Valley Park/Avonmore Road mini woodlands are planned for planting at the end of 2024/start of 2025.</p> <p>The Council continue to deliver the upgrade of Kiltipper Park as approved in the Part 8 with walking and cycle routes being delivered.</p> <p>The Council's Sustainable Drainage Explanatory Design and Evaluation Guide 2022 supports developers in the delivery of natural base drainage solutions.</p> <p>Overall, significant progress has been made on the delivery of a sensitive, multi-faceted Strategic Corridor at Dodder Valley, however progress is ongoing.</p>
<p>Objectives associated with the Core Areas / Stepping Stones</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support the implementation of the 'Dublin Mountains Forest Conversion Plan' by Coillte Nature, in cooperation with the Dublin Mountains Partnership, in order to promote biodiversity and active and visual amenity. 	<p>Significant Progress</p>	<p>The Council as part of the Dublin Mountains Partnership are working with Fáilte Ireland on a Destination and Experience Development Plan (DEDP) for the Dublin Mountains. This is a plan which will promote sustainable access and recreation in the Dublin Mountains while protecting areas of higher sensitivity. As part of the DEDP a sustainable transport and access study is being undertaken in 2024. (See Chapter 9).</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote sensitive recreational access to Glensmole Valley and Dublin Mountains in a manner that does not compromise its integrity as a core area of biodiversity. • To ensure that the implementation of the Dodder Greenway does not adversely impact the biodiversity, GI or amenity value of the Dodder Valley Park by implementation of the recommendations / requirements as set out in the environmental reports for the scheme. • To identify locations which have potential to provide for increased attenuation of floodwaters, or water attenuation, and manage them for this purpose. • To continue to implement the grassland, hedgerow and landscape management regimes supporting biodiversity, and the presence of ground nesting birds in particular, in Kiltipper Park. 		<p>The Dublin Mountains Makeover (DMM), one of the flagship projects of Coillte Nature, in which 910 hectares across nine Coillte forests in the Dublin Mountains are being transitioned away from the clearfell and replant model of forestry towards a Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF) model with an emphasis on Native Woodland.</p> <p>The aim is to provide long term gains for nature, recreation, climate resilience, landscape aesthetic value and public health. The DMM is focused on the nine high value recreation forests within the Dublin Mountains Partnership (DMP) area. It is a long-term project to gradually transform the forests by increasing the tree species diversity (particularly with native tree species), enhancing the biodiversity value of the forests and heathland and improving the landscape character over the next 20 years and beyond.</p> <p>The DMM is working in tandem with the DMP’s recreation plans to ensure sustainable and responsible management to meet the growing demands of an increasing population and a changing climate, and ensuring the plans are integrated within the recreation infrastructure.</p> <p>Over the last five years, since the DMM began, 60ha of conifer forests have been felled and to date 43ha have been replanted with native tree species, with a further 17.5ha to be replanted this coming planting season commencing in late November. 188ha of forest have been thinned using CCF principles, with some areas due their second CCF thinning intervention later this year. Enrichment planting with native tree species has taken place in Barnaslingan in the gaps that opened up during the CCF thinning.</p> <p>The new native woodland areas are comprised of primarily pioneer species such as birch, scots pine, rowan, oak, willow, holly, hazel, whitebeam and aspen. All the native woodland areas must be fenced to protect the young saplings from browsing by non-native Sika deer.</p> <p>Eight biodiversity area management plans have been completed for woodland and heathland areas. In 2021, 32 long term biodiversity</p>
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	<p>monitoring plots (focusing on the floral elements and woodland structure) were installed and will be reassessed in 2025. Bird and mammal surveys were completed in 2022 and 2023 to provide baseline knowledge of biodiversity interest across the project area where woodland management has or is taking place. These will allow future comparisons to be made as the habitats develop.</p> <p>Numerous public and community engagement events have taken place over the last few years to explain the objectives and progress of the project, and to share information on the biodiversity and nature value of the Dublin Mountains.</p> <p>The Council will also support sensitive interventions within the Dublin Mountains and assess any proposals in line with relevant zoning objectives to ensure no detrimental impact.</p> <p>The Dodder Greenway is being developed, incorporating the recommendations of the environmental reports.</p> <p>The Council has also outlined plans for Kiltipper Park which includes for the diversion of surface water over land flow into newly built attenuation which will hold up flood water and allow them to attenuate slowly into the Dodder River.</p> <p>Furthermore, the meadowland programme is implemented at Kiltipper Park in such a way to support the ground nesting birds in the park. In 2024, there is a plan to commence the renovation of over 1.8km hedgerow in Kiltipper park.</p> <p>A flood alleviation scheme is being built at Whitechurch which flows into the dodder river.</p> <p>The Councils Sustainable Drainage Explanatory Design and Evaluation Guide 2022 supports developers in the delivery of natural base drainage solutions.</p>
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		The Council will continue to the promotion and facilitation of Stepping Stones to improve green links across the County, where feasible.
<p>Strategic Corridor 2: M50 Corridor Overarching Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To enhance connectivity between existing parks and open spaces on either side of the M50 corridor. à To enhance corridor links and biodiversity value through appropriate planting along both sides of the M50 Corridor, to maximise opportunities to ameliorate noise and air pollution, increase visual amenity, enhance biodiversity and provide continuous ecological corridors and green links where possible in consultation with TII / NTA. To promote the connectivity of the M50 GI Corridor with Dublin’s wider regional GI network, in consultation with Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown County Council and Fingal County Council. To investigate the potential to implement improved pedestrian and cycling infrastructure between the Grand Canal corridor and green spaces at Knockmitten. To identify and support additional north-south pedestrian and cyclist green links (for example at Grand Canal) as well as east-west links where possible. 	Significant Progress	<p>The Council will continue to ensure increased connectivity between existing and future parks and open spaces are delivered either side of the M50 corridor.</p> <p>The meadowland programme in Tymon Park is particularly supportive of a diversity of pollinators and flora and other fauna. The maintenance of the meadows over a number of years have resulted in a number of positive outcomes in the park, aiding biodiversity value (flora and fauna protection, increase in pollination, and decreased carbon foot print due to a reduction in maintenance). Additionally, the programme also contributed economic and social benefits to the park, which is further enhanced by the Intergenerational Centre planned at the park.</p> <p>Biodiversity improvements continue within the portion of the Dodder close to the M50 (e.g. mini woodlands)</p> <p>The Tymon Park mini woodland with native species has been planted, covering a total area of 1,532m².</p> <p>The Poddle Flood Alleviation Scheme commenced in 2024 and has delivered an ICW within Tymon Park, which cleans the water in the Poddle Greenway and improves biodiversity.</p> <p>The Park will benefit from the proposed BusConnects route running along Greenhills Road, as well as planned cycle routes linking Tymon Park (Castletymon Road side) through the park and across the M50.</p> <p>The Councils s Sustainable Drainage Explanatory Design and Evaluation Guide 2022 supports developers in the delivery of natural base drainage solutions.</p>
<p>Objectives associated with the Core Areas/Stepping Stones</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To investigate EU funding mechanisms for nature-based solutions to climate change, exploring the feasibility of developing or retrofitting an eco-bridge or 	Not Started	The Council will continue to support this objective and the delivery of enhanced access and sensitive interventions into the development of Stepping Stones. The Council will continue to seek and explore funding avenues for future interventions to deliver enhanced connectivity.

<p>eco-tunnel across the M50 to provide ecological connectivity between both sides of Tymon Park for both biodiversity and for local communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To investigate EU funding mechanisms for nature-based solutions to climate change, exploring the feasibility of developing or retrofitting an eco-bridge or eco-tunnel across the M50 to provide ecological connectivity between Collinstown Park and Green space at Cloverhill Road. • To promote habitat improvement at Collinstown Park. 		
<p>Strategic Corridor 3: Grand Canal Corridor Overarching Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To protect and enhance the Grand Canal as an ecological green corridor, recognising its role as a national / regional corridor for wildlife and some ecosystem services. • To ensure that development along and adjacent to the Grand Canal, including the sensitive provision of amenity and recreational facilities, recognises the Canal's ecological status, avoiding areas and features of biodiversity and heritage sensitivity, and that appropriate set-back distances or buffer areas are identified and included. • To facilitate and enhance connectivity, both ecological and amenity, between the Grand Canal and Royal Canal Greenways. • To engage with stakeholders along the Grand Canal to achieve shared objectives for this GI feature, without negatively impacting on the Canal's natural ecosystem services. To improve permeability and access to the Grand Canal for residents and visitors in a manner that does not cause habitat fragmentation. • To ensure that the design of recreational and amenity facilities along the Grand Canal Corridor will enhance and protect the character of the landscape through which it passes (see Appendix 9: South Dublin County 	<p>Significant Progress</p>	<p>The Council will continue to protect and enhance the Grand Canal pNHA through Development Management and Council led development processes.</p> <p>The Council is continuing to progress the 12th Lock Masterplan and deliver sensitive interventions within the masterplan area through the Part 8 Process.</p> <p>The southern section of the Clonburris SDZ passes along the Grand Canal pNHA. A parks and open space strategy and a biodiversity management plan has been developed by the landowners to ensure the protection of biodiversity and sensitive landscapes during the delivery of the SDZ planning scheme.</p> <p>The Councils Sustainable Drainage Explanatory Design and Evaluation Guide 2022 supports developers in the delivery of natural base drainage solutions.</p> <p>Part 8: <u>The Grand Canal to Lucan Urban Greenway includes:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of 4.2 km shared pathways pedestrian and cycle facilities within parklands and quiet streets and traffic calming measures on the vehicle carriageway from Grand Canal to Lucan Village. • Construction of 4.29km school connections with improved footpaths, cycle facilities, and school zones.

<p>Landscape Character Assessment, for landscape character details).</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Junction amendments to provide safer movement of pedestrians and cyclists. • Associated services. • Landscaping and Public Realm works. <p>The Part 8 planning was approved in November 2022.</p> <p><u>Phase 1: Grand Canal to Lucan Urban Greenway</u></p> <p>The project was divided into 3 phases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase 1a: Grand Canal to N4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The tender has been published and is expected to be appointed/start by the end of 2024 - Construction is expected to be completed Summer 2025 • Phase 1b: N4 to Lucan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There have been ongoing delays due to land transfer issues - Once resolved, the detailed design will be progressed - Recent progress has been made to begin to resolve the taking-in-charge issue • Phase 1c: Bridges and Boardwalk <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The design team is appointed and developing the detailed design for the replacement of bridges and the new boardwalk - Ground and Structural investigations are being carried out to inform the detailed design of the bridges and boardwalk in within Griffeen Valley Park and Sarsfield Park - Construction of bridges is expected near the end of 2025 - Alternative designs for the boardwalk are being examined to reduce impact on the environment and reduce overall cost
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		<p><u>Phase 2: Lucan to Royal Canal Urban Greenway</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDCC and Fingal County Council have been working with the consultant to refine and finalise the report • Report is nearing a final draft stage • The final report will then be presented to Councillors <p>Note: See also GI 6 Objective 5 above which notes that walkways and cycleways result in provision of tarmacadam pathways and soil sealing resulting in potential loss of habitats and other ecological functions. The sensitive implementation of these projects and appropriate mitigation is essential.</p>
<p>Objectives associated with the Core Areas/Stepping Stones</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To preserve and enhance hedgerows to provide improved connectivity between the scrubland at Coolsuddan (north of Grangecastle West) and the Grand Canal GI Corridor. • To establish additional planted buffering along the course of the Grand Canal at Kylemore in order to mitigate the impact of industrial activities at Park West Industrial Estate and West Link Industrial Estate to the north and preserve the canals biodiversity and landscape / placemaking value. • To enhance the biodiversity within open space areas acting as stepping stones proximal to the Grand Canal Corridor. 	Significant Progress	<p>The Council will continue to preserve and protect hedgerows at Coolsuddan in accordance with the policies in the plan to ensure their protection. This will be undertaken through Development Management and Council led development processes.</p> <p>The Council will continue to work with Waterways Ireland to ensure the protection of the canal as a GI corridor and pNHA.</p> <p>The Council continue to promote pollinator enhancing practices and biodiversity improvements within small parks and open spaces, which act as stepping stones to the larger GI corridors, and foster links to the canal.</p> <p>The Council will continue to support the appropriate build out of Clonburris SDZ and Grange Castle, and other lands along the canal, and ensure, through collaboration between the Development Management team and other key stakeholders that proposed development and interventions contribute positively to the creation of stepping stones.</p>
<p>Strategic Corridor 4: Liffey Valley Corridor</p> <p>Overarching Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To protect and enhance the outstanding character and ecology of the Liffey Valley Corridor, recognising its value as a key regional landscape and GI feature that supports important habitats, species, and a range of ecosystem services. 	Early Stages	<p>The Council manages the public parks and landscapes along the Liffey Valley Corridor in accordance with their pollinator supporting management practices and enhancement of biodiversity. The Council have acquired Lucan house and Lucan Demesne and are currently developing plans to ensure sustainable management and provision of recreational amenity with Liffey Valley. This landscape is a key ecological link along the river.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To protect and enhance the recreation and amenity value of the Liffey Valley Corridor, recognising its environmental sensitivities. • To enhance connectivity with the surrounding regional GI network infrastructure. • To facilitate and support the development of the Liffey Valley as an interconnected network of parklands and support the development of a carefully considered greenway in collaboration with Dublin City Council, Fingal County Council, and Kildare County Council. • To protect green and blue infrastructure within the River Liffey corridor based on the riparian corridors outlined in the Development Plan Green Infrastructure Map. • To protect and enhance the outstanding landscape character and amenity of the Liffey Valley (see Appendix 9: South Dublin County Landscape Character Assessment, for landscape character details) 		<p>Recreational amenity is provided in the parks and open spaces with walking and cycle routes, natural play spaces and other amenities. Active recreation provision is avoided where it would have an adverse effect on the biodiversity of the area, this is done in consultation with key stakeholders such as the Heritage Officer and the Council’s Parks Department.</p> <p>Kildare County Council have commenced a feasibility study to examine potential GI links along the river and the Council are actively engaging with them on the progression of the interconnected networks within the corridor.</p> <p>The Council will continue to protect existing green and blue infrastructure within the corridor through the Development Management and other Council led processes, in consultation with key stakeholders.</p> <p>There are a number of active travel (including existing and proposed links/routes) and public transports linking the area , including BusConnects.</p> <p>Part 8: <u>The Grand Canal to Lucan Urban Greenway includes:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of 4.2 km shared pathways pedestrian and cycle facilities within parklands and quiet streets and traffic calming measures on the vehicle carriageway from Grand Canal to Lucan Village. • Construction of 4.29km school connections with improved footpaths, cycle facilities, and school zones. • Junction amendments to provide safer movement of pedestrians and cyclists. • Associated services. • Landscaping and Public Realm works. <p>The Part 8 planning was approved in November 2022</p> <p><u>Phase 1: Grand Canal to Lucan Urban Greenway</u></p> <p>The project was divided into 3 phases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase 1a: Grand Canal to N4
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The tender has been published and is expected to be appointed/start by the end of 2024 - Construction is expected to be completed Summer 2025 • Phase 1b: N4 to Lucan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There have been ongoing delays due to land transfer issues - Once resolved, the detailed design will be progressed - Recent progress has been made to begin to resolve the taking-in-charge issue • Phase 1c: Bridges and Boardwalk <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The design team is appointed and developing the detailed design for the replacement of bridges and the new boardwalk - Ground and structural investigations are being carried out to inform the detailed design of the bridges and boardwalk in within Griffeen Valley Park and Sarsfield Park - Construction of bridges is expected near the end of 2025 - Alternative designs for the boardwalk are being examined to reduce impact on the environment and reduce overall cost <p><u>Phase 2: Lucan to Royal Canal Urban Greenway</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council and Fingal County Council have been working with the consultant to refine and finalise the report • Report is nearing a final draft stage • The final report will be presented to Councillors <p>The Council have developed Mill Lane Mini Woodland is in the Liffey Valley Corridor totalling 160m2.</p>
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		The Councils Sustainable Drainage Explanatory Design and Evaluation Guide 2022.
<p>Objectives associated with the Core Areas/Stepping Stones</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To preserve the existing woodland, trees and hedgerows at Lucan Demesne. • To investigate the potential for enhanced connectivity between Lucan Demesne and St. Edmundsbury lands. • To investigate the potential for enhanced access to St. Edmundsbury lands from Lucan. • To preserve and enhance existing woodlands and hedgerows at St. Edmundsbury. • To maximise the recreational amenity supported by proximity to the river within Lucan Demesne. • To continue to implement the grassland, hedgerow and landscape management regimes supporting biodiversity and the presence of ground nesting birds in particular, in Waterstown Park. • To develop a plan to manage access to the Liffey Valley to the publicly owned lands to the north east of the Hermitage Clinic. • To implement sensitive planting in order to enhance the setting of recorded monuments, including the Woodville Castle site (Lucan), a Recorded Monument (no. DU017-006) to contribute to local placemaking and amenity. 	Significant Progress	<p>The Council have acquired Lucan house and Lucan Demesne and are currently developing plans to ensure sustainable management and provision of recreational amenity with Liffey Valley. This landscape is a key ecological link along the river.</p> <p>The lands around Lucan House are directly adjacent to SDCC Lucan Demesne Park. Linking both will have the potential to improve the ecological connectivity as well as improve recreational amenity.</p> <p>The policies in the plan regarding the protection of woodlands and hedgerows apply to the Edmundsbury lands.</p> <p>The meadow lands in Waterstown Park are managed to support ground nesting birds.</p> <p>The lands to the northeast of the Hermitage Clinic are currently managed for biodiversity. In 2025 it is planned to carry out eco surveys of these lands.</p> <p>The Councils Sustainable Drainage Explanatory Design and Evaluation Guide 2022 supports developers in the delivery of natural base drainage solutions.</p>
<p>Strategic Corridor 5: Camac River Corridor</p> <p>Overarching Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To avoid further fragmentation of the Green Infrastructure network at the urban fringe and strengthen existing ecological links between built-up areas along this corridor. • To enhance the GI network by addressing habitat quality issues along the Camac River and by identifying and including additional 'stepping stone' opportunities along the river. 	Early Stages	<p>The City Edge project will promote the following objectives as set out in the City Edge case study in appendix 4. Objectives include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To encourage and promote the re-naturalisation of the River Camac where it has been culverted. - To minimise hard surfaces within new developments and to promote permeable paving use, where possible - To protect and preserve hedgerows, where appropriate and where feasible.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve the ecological GI value and connectivity of landscape features created as part of permitted development. • To seek the daylighting of existing culverted sections of the Camac River Corridor. • To support the emerging principles of the City Edge Strategic Framework Plan and to support the naturalisation of the Camac River as part of that process. • To promote the completion of a Greenway linking Corkagh Park with Clondalkin Village and onwards to the Grand Canal Greenway. 		<p>The Camac River flows through Corkagh Park in Clondalkin and the riparian habitat is carefully managed to support the biodiversity of the river. The park has extensive wetlands and lakes that filter the water and act to attenuate floods.</p> <p>To promote the completion of a Greenway linking Corkagh Park with Clondalkin Village and onwards to the Grand Canal Greenway is being progressed through the Clondalkin LAP and the Active Travel Section and Roads Department.</p> <p>Corkagh Park Mini Woodland is in the Camac River Corridor totalling 800m²</p> <p>The Councils Sustainable Drainage Explanatory Design and Evaluation Guide 2022 supports developers in the delivery of natural base drainage solutions.</p>
<p>Objectives associated with the Core Areas/Stepping Stones</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To investigate potential opportunities to link existing and proposed recreational trails at Slade Valley to the emerging Dodder Greenway in order to improve recreational access and amenity. • To investigate the potential opportunities to link woodlands at Rathcoole to existing and proposed recreational trails at Lugg Woods and Slade Valley. • To improve GI value of newly developed landscape features (such as lakes) in Citywest. • To retain the open space adjacent to Rathcoole Park, developed as part of the Mill Lands Development as an open space area and provide a link between Rathcoole and Saggart. • To support the implementation of the Slade Valley Walking Route. 	<p>Early Stages</p>	<p>The Councils Sustainable Drainage Explanatory Design and Evaluation Guide 2022 is being implemented in new developments at City West and have resulted in the retention of surface water at grade and the creation of wetlands and ponds within the landscape.</p> <p>The open space adjacent to Rathcoole Park, developed as part of the Mill Lands development, has been retained as an open space area and provides a link between Rathcoole and Saggart.</p> <p>Corkagh Park remains as a regional park and is an important resource for biodiversity and ecosystems services. It has series of ponds and attenuation areas to help alleviate flooding.</p> <p>The Alluvial Woodlands at Rathcoole have been preserved and protected from development.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To preserve and enhance the status of Corkagh Park as a regional park for biodiversity and ecosystems services (including flooding) importance. • To preserve and protect the Alluvial Woodlands at Rathcoole within the zoning RU as an environmentally sensitive area for biodiversity and ecosystems services of importance having full regard to their Annex 1 status. • To include woodlands at Rathcoole as part of a wider nature / walking trail from Saggart to Lugg Woods subject to the protection of its biodiversity, wildlife and ecological value which is of primary importance. 		
<p>Strategic Corridor 6: Rural Fringe Corridor</p> <p>Overarching Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To identify measures to protect the distinctive rural landscape of the western hinterland of South Dublin County, reflecting its high value as an ecosystem services provider and a cultural heritage asset for the County and a green lung between growing settlements to the east and west. • To collaboratively investigate with Kildare County Council the benefits of providing a greenbelt or green space between the growing settlements within South Dublin County and Kildare County Councils within the lifetime of the Development Plan. • To support and facilitate the development of accessible links between the Liffey Valley and the Grand Canal corridors. • To protect and provide an enhanced ecological, recreation and amenity corridor linking the county's Green Infrastructure corridors on the western boundary of the county. • To investigate the feasibility of developing or retrofitting an eco-bridge or eco-tunnel across the N7 roadway and the M4. 	<p>Early Stages</p>	<p>The Council's policies around GI and the requirement for a Greenspace Factor (GSF) on certain developments support the protection of the character of the rural landscape within the development applications.</p> <p><i>Hazelhatch Greenway - To protect and provide an enhanced ecological, recreation and amenity corridor linking the county's Green Infrastructure corridors on the western boundary of the county.</i></p> <p>Allotments have been delivered in Newcastle as part of the development of the LAP. Provision has been made within the Councils budget to provide allotments for other areas in the county.</p> <p>The Council examines applications on a case-by-case basis and work with developers to retain the rural character of existing roads.</p> <p>Ongoing efforts are being made to retain rural roadside hedgerows and drainage networks by the Roads Department.</p> <p>The Councils Sustainable Drainage Explanatory Design and Evaluation Guide 2022 supports developers in the delivery of natural base drainage solutions.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To promote opportunities for local food production through allotments or other means as appropriate.• To retain the rural character of the existing roads retaining roadside hedgerows and drainage ditch networks.• To investigate and support the potential for a western-corridor way marked walking / cycling route utilising public roads, walkways and other accessible lands.• To consider the opportunities for rural hedgerow restoration including townland boundaries and other ancient field boundaries.• Recognise the contribution of agriculture to the production of high quality food and the protection of the natural heritage and promoting the use of environmentally friendly agricultural practices		
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