

Parks and Open Space Strategy 2025



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Executive Summary

This is the first Parks and Open Space Strategy prepared for South Dublin County Council. It examines the existing provision and assesses current and future requirements. It sets out how the Council plans to protect, manage, provide and enhance public parks and open spaces under its management over the coming years and illustrates the broad range of services and resources that are provided and available within South Dublin's public parks and open spaces.

The Parks and Open Space Strategy comprises 5 sections with a companion Appendices document which are outlined below:

Section 1. Introduction: The introductory chapter outlines the purpose of the strategy, the expected users and context, the vision and objectives, and community engagement.

The vision statement for the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy is that South Dublin County Council will:

“Create a multi-functional network of pleasant, sustainably-managed parks and open spaces that improve the lives of people in South Dublin and support nature”

Section 2. The Value of Parks and Open Spaces: This section summarises the multi-functional nature of parks and the ecosystem benefits they deliver to South Dublin and its local communities and visitors.

Section 3. Existing Parks and Open Spaces: The parks and open spaces hierarchy is set out with details of the main park typologies and functions across the county. This section gives a description of each park in the county. It outlines information on some new and recently upgraded parks and examines the quality criteria for the delivery of parks.

Section 4. Sports and Active Recreation. This section examines the delivery of sports and active recreational infrastructure within South Dublin's parks and open spaces.

Section 5. Parks and Open Space Provision: This section examines the quantity and distribution of

parks and open spaces in the county based on the key policy of providing 2.4ha of parks per 1000 people.

The Appendix document sets out information on the development of the Strategy including guiding policies and Community Engagement and also includes:

Appendix 1. Implementation of the Strategy: The implementation of the proposed actions described in the strategy are categorised into short, medium and long-term actions with a section on key delivery mechanisms. As this is the first parks strategy, it is expected that conditions and constraints affecting delivery of actions will change over time and this will be reflected in future strategy versions.

Appendix 2. Park Management: This section presents broad concepts for the management of parks and open spaces and will act as a precursor to more detailed management plans and open space audits at the implementation stage.

Appendix 3. Guiding Policies: This section outlines the relevant policies and guidelines that affect the provision, operation, management and use of parks.

Appendix 4. Community Engagement: Gives details on the Park User Survey that was carried out during the development of the Strategy.

The overall document develops a sound basis for developing robust and sustainable open space policies for South Dublin County, with a series of actions for the council, local communities, partner organisations and other stakeholders to work towards. It includes examination of how public parks and open spaces can improve the quality of life for residents of the county and visitors to it and continue to address key challenges such as biodiversity loss and climate change, and provides a road map to deliver the vision to provide pleasant, sustainably managed parks and open space to meet the needs of the existing and planned population of South Dublin now and into the future.



1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the Strategy

The purpose of this document is to develop and implement a Parks and Open Space Strategy, setting out how the Council plans to protect, manage and enhance public open spaces in its management over the next five years and beyond.

The Vision for this Parks and Open Space Strategy is to:

“Create a multi-functional network of pleasant, sustainably-managed parks and open spaces that improve the lives of people in South Dublin and support nature”

The main outcome is to provide:

- A sound basis for developing robust, sustainable open space policies within South Dublin County;
- A series of objectives and actions for council officers and partner organisations to work towards in partnership with local communities and;
- A clear understanding, for residents and visitors, of the County Council’s parks and open space aspirations for the existing and planned population of South Dublin.

The parks and open spaces of South Dublin are one of its greatest resources, providing accessible green space for its population, enhancing a sense of place and engendering civic pride in urbanised areas. Parks and open spaces are central to the delivery of sustainable communities. They are part of Green Infrastructure, helping councils to meet key challenges of stopping and reversing biodiversity loss, addressing climate change and its impacts, and helping to restore nature. Access to open space and fresh air is recognized as necessary to ensure the health and wellbeing of the county’s population. The recreational facilities provided within parks support active lifestyles and are important for the development and maintenance of healthy activity across all age groups.

The large metropolitan area of South Dublin is contained within an impressive backdrop of foothills and mountains to the south, providing essential ecological and recreational functions as well as offering extensive views across Dublin Bay and the Wicklow Mountains, and by productive agricultural lands to the west, providing a natural green buffer between the urbanised area and the more rural parts of County Kildare.

The Parks and Open Space Strategy includes an overall plan to guide the provision, development, maintenance and investment of the County’s public open spaces, which

are key assets within the Green Infrastructure network of the County.

The basic aim is to understand supply and demand for open spaces, to identify deficiencies, to secure new provision, and to improve quality through targeted management. The spatial elements of the open space strategy feed into the County Development Plan and form an integral part of the over-arching Green Infrastructure Strategy. The Parks and Open Space Strategy may also be a consideration in the determination of planning applications, and considered in planning for new development and considering proposals that may affect existing open space (including the Development Contribution Scheme).

The Parks and Open Space Strategy is concerned with public open spaces that are freely accessible and actively managed by the County Council. It therefore includes all public parks, public open spaces in housing estates, publicly owned outdoor sports facilities within parks and open spaces, civic spaces (such as market squares, plazas and other hard-surfaced areas designed for public gatherings and pedestrians), recreation areas and children’s play areas – for further details on Parks and Open Space typologies refer Section 3 Methodology.

The following types of open space are excluded from the Open Space strategy, but may form an important part of the Green Infrastructure Strategy either as linear ecological features or stepping-stones within the wider network:

- Roadside and motorway verges
- Private sports facilities
- School grounds
- Private gardens
- Agricultural lands
- Private cemeteries and burial grounds
- Private or Semi-Private Open Space

Similarly, state-owned lands in the foothills and mountains of the County are not included in the quality and quantity assessments of the strategy, although forming an essential part of the wider Green Infrastructure Strategy. (For SDCC’s Green Infrastructure Strategy; see SDCC’s County Development Plan).

For the purposes of this plan (as it is primarily concerned with the management and delivery of parks and open spaces under the remit of South Dublin County Council), Pearse Museum and St. Enda’s Park are excluded as they are subject to management plans under the remit of the Office of Public Works, however it is recognised and acknowledged that this park is a key recreational outlet, amenity resource and green infrastructure asset in the east of the county with significant importance in terms of cultural and landscape heritage at both the local, national and international level.

As the achievement of much of the strategy is dependent on policies and objectives in the County Development Plan, the Parks and Open Space Strategy will be reviewed in future years in tandem with the County Development Plan review.

1.2 Users of the Strategy

The strategy has been prepared for a wide audience, including:

- Local Communities and other stakeholders - the South Dublin Parks public consultation process helped inform the preparation of the strategy by providing comprehensive information on the current provision of parks and open spaces in the County, and the Council will continue to develop and strengthen such engagement through this Strategy. There are also many groups that visit, use and take interest in SDCC's parks including local clubs, residents' associations, environmental interest groups.
- County Council - the Strategy is under-pinned by the policies and objectives of the County Development Plan and is intended to inform ongoing decision-making in relation to parks and open spaces throughout South Dublin.
- County Council Staff - the Strategy makes proposals for the provision, development, maintenance and investment of parks and open spaces that will require ongoing collaboration between different departments and staff.
- Private Sector – the Strategy provides clear guidance on the hierarchy of public spaces applicable to new development and the mechanisms for its delivery.
- Visitors – The Strategy aims to enhance visitor expectations of parks and open spaces in South Dublin and to reinforce these spaces as a visitor destination.



Rathfarnham Castle Park

1.3 South Dublin County Context

The Parks and Open Space Strategy covers the administrative area of South Dublin County, which is 223sq.km. in extent. The County extends from the River Liffey to the Dublin Mountains and borders the administrative areas of Dublin City, Fingal, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown, Wicklow and Kildare. The strategy is concerned with the public open space resource predominately located within the built-up areas of the County.

South Dublin County has grown around the villages of Tallaght, Clondalkin, Lucan, Rathfarnham, Newcastle, Palmerstown, Rathcoole, Saggart and Templeogue. Each of the villages has a unique character and offers a diverse range of professional and retail services. Alongside this, new urban centres have developed over the years around residential areas. These local and district centres have become an important focus for their communities with their own identity and providing a sense of place to each neighbourhood.

In facilitating growth over the last two decades, Adamstown has been developed as a sustainable neighbourhood within a strategic growth area, City West has developed under the Fortunestown Local Area Plan, Clonburris Strategic Development Zone is also under construction and Tallaght Town Centre alongside regeneration lands within the wider Tallaght Neighbourhood are being re-developed in accordance with its Local Area Plan.

Significant development potential has been identified within the Naas Road 'City Edge' regeneration lands which is subject to a detailed framework for development in conjunction with Dublin City Council. Development is also occurring in areas where Local Area Plans are in place, providing a framework for development and planned delivery of open space in those areas.

Population

South Dublin County has experienced continued population growth over the last 10 – 20 years. While the rate of growth reduced between 2002 and 2006, the years thereafter have contributed to an overall increase of 24.94% (+62,240 persons) between 2002 and 2022. According to the 2022 census, the County has a population of 301,075 people living in 100,364 homes. This represents a just over 8% population increase from the previous census in 2016. This is roughly equal to the national population increase of just under 8%, and about equivalent with the level of growth in Dublin City.

The historic trend shows that South Dublin County has grown by 21.9% or 54,140 persons over a sixteen-year period, predominately in the urban centres. This trend

follows national and international movement of people from rural to urban areas.

Overall, there is a concentration of population located near and inside the larger towns within the county such as Tallaght, and higher concentrations of population further east towards Dublin City.

The Development Plan sets out the strategy to co-ordinate and prioritise areas of population growth capable of accommodating up to 46,500 people by 2028 as South Dublin moves towards an additional 80,000 people and 32,000 new homes by 2040 in line with the provisions of National and Regional population targets.

National and Regional Plans allocate a further 50,000 people to live in South Dublin between 2016–2031 with further compact growth, which equates to growth of just under 3,500 persons per year.

The county is a significant contributor to Dublin's economy, with more people working in the county (84,627) than leaving it for work (55,870 people) (2016 census).

Age profile

The average age of people living in the county is 37.2 years, younger than the average for Leinster (37.6), Dublin City (38.6) and the State (38.8).

Although the county has a young age profile, there is an increasing number of older people living in the County, with a 29% increase in people aged 65 and over since the 2016 census.

Homeownership

The homeownership rate is the second highest of the Dublin region at 66.5%.

Diverse Communities

There are a diverse range of nationalities in the county, the 2022 census shows non-nationals make up 19% of the population of the county.

Development Plan Population and Housing Requirements

Based on the population targets and housing need set out within National and Regional planning policy, the Development Plan must accommodate an additional 46,518 persons up to a target population of 325,285 in

2028, requiring 17,817 housing units between 2021 in 2028.

SDCC have developed a plan-led approach to the delivery of houses and related infrastructure within the Local Area Plan and other strategic development lands, including for the provision of appropriate parks and open spaces, which is critical to successful growth in a manner which contributes towards Quality Design and Healthy Placemaking in line with the provisions of Chapter 5 of the Development Plan.

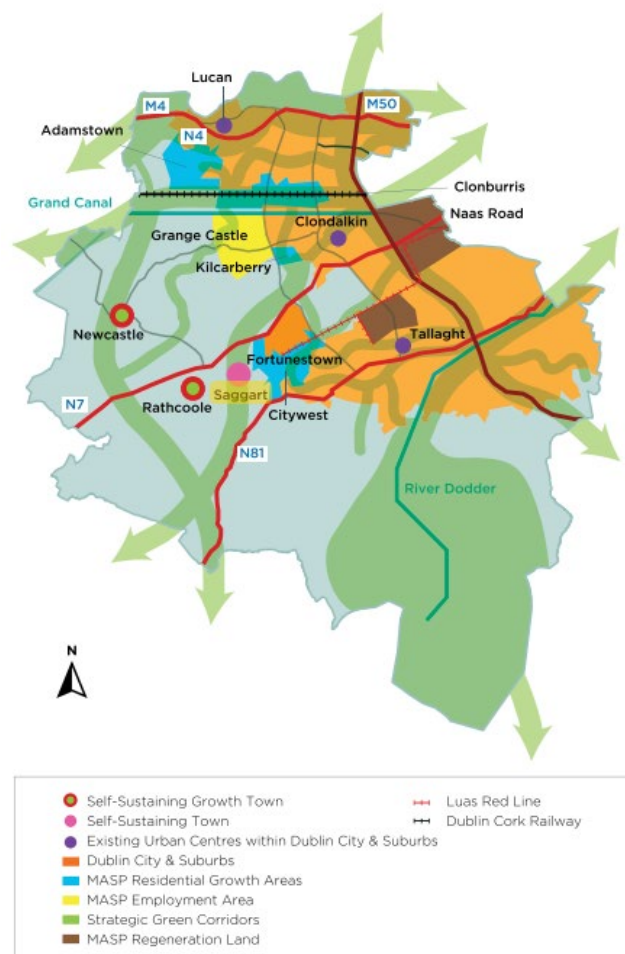


Figure 1.1: South Dublin County Core Strategy Map 2022-2028

1.4 Vision and Objectives

The vision statement for the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy is that South Dublin County Council will:

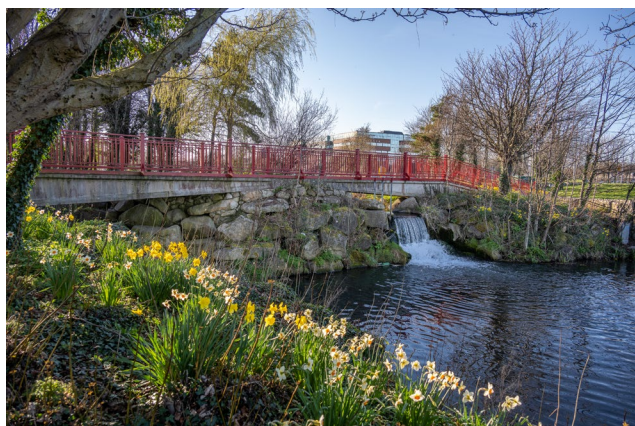
“Create a multi-functional network of pleasant, sustainably-managed parks and open spaces that improve the lives of people in South Dublin and support nature”

Public open space is one of South Dublin County's most precious resources. It has a particular role in relation to the setting and function of the urban neighbourhoods of the

county and is central to the delivery and support of sustainable communities and the promotion of biodiversity. It also allows for nature-based solutions such as effective surface water management (SuDS) and the improvement of water quality and mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change. Access to good quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation also make an essential contribution to the health and well-being of people and the development of local communities.

As set out in the Development Plan, the overarching aim for Parks and Public Open Space (Policy COS5) is to:

Provide a well-connected, inclusive and integrated public open space network through a multi-functional high-quality open space hierarchy that is accessible to all who live, work and visit the County.



Sean Walsh Park

The Green Infrastructure (GI) Vision for the County, as set out in the Development Plan, is to:

Promote the development of an integrated GI network for South Dublin County working with and enhancing existing biodiversity and natural heritage, improving our resilience to climate change and enabling the role of GI in delivering sustainable communities to provide environmental, economic and social benefits.

The parks and open space networks within the County are intended to contribute towards achieving a broad range of policy and GI objectives, including:

- Improving community, health and wellbeing – Parks and open spaces provide a valuable role as a sanctuary for the community; the benefits of engaging with the natural world are now widely understood to be particularly beneficial to mental and physical health.
- Enhancing visual amenity – Parks and open spaces form an attractive green and open setting which enhances the character of urban neighbourhoods.
- Promoting sustainable development – Parks and open spaces contribute to sustainable development

objectives where they are appropriately located and accessible by walking, cycling and public transport.

- Promoting climate change adaption and mitigation – Parks and open spaces provide opportunities for sustainable drainage while trees and plants perform a vital role by capturing and storing carbon.
- Reinforcing Green Infrastructure – Parks and open spaces are key elements in the County's green infrastructure network.
- Promotion of biodiversity – Parks and open spaces offer opportunities to conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystems. They are often focused on natural environments such as river valleys which support valuable wildlife habitats; parks also offer opportunities to increase pollinator-friendly planting.
- Supporting culture and heritage – Parks and open spaces often contain heritage elements and play host to many outdoor community, arts and cultural events.
- Supporting the local economy, including tourism – Many parks and open spaces contain facilities such as cafes, heritage features and other attractions that are valuable visitor amenities.

1.5 Community Engagement

The Parks and Open Space Strategy has been informed by the South Dublin Park Users Survey, comprising an online public questionnaire to gather local views and perspectives on the quality and quantity of parks in the County.

Key Findings

Over 4,200 responses were received from the Park Users Survey questionnaire, with the majority responding to all questions. Key highlights include:

- Corkagh Park and Tymon Park are the most visited (each by 25% of respondents), and Waterstown Park least visited (6%).
- The main reasons given for not visiting any of these parks were that there are 'other parks nearby' to the respondent (9%) or too far away (8%). A large number of respondents (68%) did not answer this question.
- Tymon Park was given as the closest park to most respondents (23%), followed by Corkagh Park (19%), and with Clondalkin Park being the furthest away for a few (3%).
- The parks most visited were those closest to home (80%).
- The majority of respondents (58%) travel on foot to their nearest parks, followed by 31% by car. Only a low number (9%) travel by bicycle.
- The main reasons given for visiting the park were to exercise (27%) and to spend time outdoors (24%). Only a low number (4%) used the park to play sports.

- Prior to Covid, 28% of respondents visited a park daily and 50% weekly; post-Covid the daily visits have increased for 48% of respondents while weekly visits have decreased for 38%.
- The majority of respondents (50%) stayed in the park for 30 minutes to 1 hour, with 38% staying between 1 to 2 hours.
- Most visitors rated the parks as Excellent (20%) or Good (49%), while a relative few (8%) considered the condition to be Poor.
- The most popular responses to further park enhancements were to provide/improve toilet facilities (12%), increased personal safety (9%) and improved cleanliness (8%). The least popular enhancements were signage (2%) and expanded opening hours (2.5%).
- Around 59% of respondents indicated that they would not be interested in becoming involved with volunteer activities in parks, while 26% indicated that they would.

(See accompanying Appendices for further detail of the Survey)

Involving Local Communities

The public response to the community parks questionnaire showed 26% of respondents indicating that they would like to become involved in volunteer activities. Throughout the County there are conflicting demands made upon parks and open spaces from different user groups, neighbours and park visitors, especially within areas where anti-social behaviour has become prevalent to the detriment of other park users. Effective community engagement can ensure that these pressures are identified and used in helping to shape service delivery that reduces conflict.

The active involvement of local communities in their parks can also help to re-build confidence and pride in open space areas that have become unpopular or underutilised, promoting and supporting active citizens and the ethos 'my space, my responsibility'.

In many parks, local groups are already engaged and contribute significantly to the quality and management of their local open spaces. They undertake a variety of roles and functions, such as:

- Helping to maintain parks and keep them clean;
- Active involvement in South Dublin's Mini Woodland Programme; with local community groups crucial to the success of this programme; preparing the ground, planting and maintaining the woodlands.
- Helping to improve parks by identifying priorities for improvement;
- Maintaining and improving biodiversity by being involved in planting schemes and initiatives to support wildlife;

- Helping to utilise parks as an education resource by providing talks and tours and providing spaces for outdoor learning;
- Helping to keep parks safe by undertaking and encouraging positive use of parks that acts as a deterrent to anti-social behaviour; and
- Helping to promote parks, community cohesion and wellbeing by organising community events, physical activities, workdays and managing and maintaining allotment / food growing areas.

Community appreciation, involvement and identity will be fostered through the development and use of parks and open space. Community and resident groups shall be encouraged to participate in appropriate open space initiatives in agreement with the Council, e.g. the mini-woodland planting programme and hedgerow planting initiatives being trialled in some Neighbourhood Parks.



KEY ACTIONS

- The County Council will continue to develop and strengthen partnerships with local communities, voluntary groups and other organisations to manage, maintain and improve parks and open spaces, and to work in partnership with park user groups, schools, sports clubs, youth groups and local residents associations.
- South Dublin will continue to engage with local communities to develop new initiatives in parks and open spaces; particularly in the enhancement of biodiversity, extension of tree canopy cover, and protection and enhancement of hedgerows, wetlands and riparian corridors within parks and open spaces.

Communication and Information

Current information on parks and open spaces in SDCC is available on the South Dublin County Council website. Park specific information is provided via signage at entrances to larger parks and at local points of interest in parks and open spaces. Information is also available via press releases. New development proposals are advertised via the Part 8 (public consultation) process and are available via the public consultation portal for viewing and for members of the public to make submissions and comments.

SDCC Parks Realm Section engage strongly with social media. It is of great benefit to communicate directly with broad sections of the community on current actions and initiatives underway in parks and open spaces and obtain feedback and suggestions on initiatives such as the mini woodland and meadowland programmes which have proven to be very popular with local communities.

**KEY ACTIONS**

- South Dublin will review and maintain up to date information relating to parks and open spaces and other related information and park programmes on South Dublin's websites and social media.
- South Dublin will develop a signage and branding strategy for its parks and implement same.





2.Value of Parks and Open Spaces

Parks and open spaces are essential components of the urban environment providing valuable breathing spaces, supporting the health and wellbeing of the County's population, encouraging biodiversity and helping to mitigate the anticipated effects of a changing climate.

The parks and open spaces of South Dublin are fundamental in contributing to a high quality of life for those living, working and visiting the County. They provide habitats for ecological processes, a focal point for active and passive recreation, promote community interaction and help mitigate the impacts of climate change. Local networks of high quality, well-managed, safe and welcoming parks and open spaces help to enhance the urban environment and influence where people choose to live, work and play.

As such they are fundamental to the delivery of sustainable and healthy communities and key components of Green Infrastructure, which provides ecosystem services of increasing significance to the urban population of the County.

However, a balance is needed between different types of open space to meet the full spectrum of local needs. Changing social and economic circumstances, changing work and leisure practices, the increased sophistication of consumer tastes and greater public expectations have placed new demands on open spaces. Not all areas will show a demand for open space in the form of playing pitches or allotments, whilst some areas may have specific local demand for 'green corridor' sites such as nature walks or other natural and semi natural sites.



Rathfarnham Castle Park

2.1 Green Infrastructure

The Development Plan is under-pinned by a Green Infrastructure (GI) Strategy for the County. The EU defines Green Infrastructure as:

“a strategically planned network of natural and semi-natural areas with other environmental features designed and managed to deliver a wide range of ecosystem services such as water purification, air quality, space for recreation and climate mitigation and adaptation.”

Within South Dublin the GI comprises an interconnected network of natural, semi-natural and artificial habitats, green spaces and ecological assets that traverse and connect urban and rural areas, both within the County and to adjoining counties. A healthy and well-connected GI network provides a range of social, economic and ecological benefits. Protecting natural features and combating habitat fragmentation improves biodiversity, filters pollutants and helps to improve air and water quality as well as preventing flooding by helping to control surface water runoff. In terms of placemaking, GI can raise the profile of the County, influence business decisions to invest and encourage people to live and work in the area.

As an integral component of building well designed and sustainable communities GI is key to the success of the overall concept of connected, compact growth avoiding the damage created to the environment and climate through urban sprawl and facilitating improved physical and mental wellbeing.

The key components and features of the County's spatial GI framework include:

Major Core Areas such as the Dublin Mountains and the parks located along the Liffey Valley providing strong GI links with adjoining counties.

Other Core Areas include major parks and public green spaces, such as Waterstown Park and Lucan Demesne within the Liffey Valley, and Tymon Park and Corkagh Park.

Strategic GI Corridors providing a network of overlapping and multi-functional linear open spaces that connect the core areas with the Dublin Mountains, Liffey Valley, and the broader regional GI network passing through the administrative areas of Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown, Dublin City, Kildare and Fingal. These mostly comprise watercourses and their associated riparian zones, such as the River Liffey, Dodder, and Camac as well as the Grand Canal. Two additional potential corridors have been identified along the urban fringe, adjoining the boundary with County Kildare (greenbelt/green space potential) and the M50 Corridor.

Local GI Corridors extending between the Strategic Corridors and further linking with the Core Areas.

Stepping Stones comprising a network of smaller, discrete green spaces dispersed throughout the built-up area, including local-scale greens and parks and other incidental green spaces, allowing species to move through the broader network of corridors and core areas.

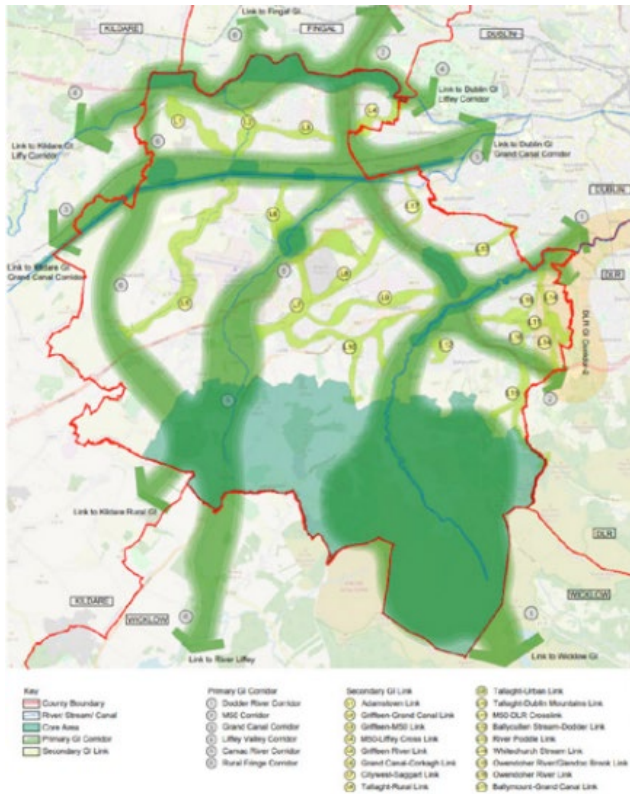


Figure 2.1: Green Infrastructure Strategy Map

- All planning applications shall demonstrate how they contribute to the protection or enhancement of Green Infrastructure in the County through the provision of green infrastructure elements as part of the application submission.



KEY ACTIONS

- This parks and open space strategy requires that all new development contributes to the overall GI network of the County in line with the objectives of the County Development Plan (GI1 Objective 1): **To establish a coherent, integrated and evolving GI Network across South Dublin County with parks, open spaces, hedgerows, trees including public street trees and native mini woodlands (Miyawaki-Style), grasslands, protected areas and rivers and streams and other green and blue assets forming strategic links and to integrate and incorporate the objectives**

of the GI Strategy throughout all relevant land use plans and development in the County.

- In developing land use plans, a key early delivery is a Green Infrastructure Plan for the area. This will allow the identification of the existing green infrastructure assets in the area to ensure the optimum placement of parks, open space, nature-based SuDS flows, riparian and ecological corridors at the strategic level and inform the placement of other infrastructure within the plan area.
- South Dublin will seek the provision and creation of parks and public open space and natural /semi natural areas to align with the Green infrastructure Strategy where appropriate. The management of those spaces will align with the objectives of the Green Infrastructure Strategy to ensure the protection and enhancement of Green Infrastructure, ecological corridors and habitats across the county.

2.2 Biodiversity

The County's biodiversity is of local, national and international importance, providing the natural context within which the built environment, transport network, and sustainable communities evolve. Protecting and restoring biodiversity assets is therefore central to the health, wellbeing and quality of life within South Dublin.

The term 'biodiversity' is used to describe all the different types of life that makes up the environment, including plants (flora), animals (fauna), and micro-organisms which work together to create ecosystems which maintain balance and support life.

County Biodiversity Action Plan (2020-2026).

It is the policy of SDCC (NCBH2: Biodiversity) to:

'Protect, conserve, and enhance the County's biodiversity and ecological connectivity having regard to national and EU legislation and Strategies'.

NCBH2 Objective 1 seeks to:

'To support the implementation of the National Biodiversity Action Plan (2017-2021) and the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (2021-2025) and to support the adoption and implementation of the South Dublin County Biodiversity Action Plan (2020-2026) and Pollinator Action Plan (2021-2025) and any superseding plans'.



KEY ACTION

- A significant action within this strategy is for South Dublin, in tandem with local communities, to consider

how parks and open spaces can assist in arresting biodiversity loss and examining how to implement nature restoration at appropriate locations.

- South Dublin will identify the range of habitats and their ecological functions within South Dublin's parks and open spaces, with the intention to identify habitats of particular importance and include plans for their enhancement and protection within the relevant Park Management Plan as they are developed or reviewed.



Rathcoole Park

2.3 Recreation and Health

The provision of high quality multi-functional open space is considered an essential component in the creation of healthy communities. There is growing evidence which demonstrates the significant benefits that access to high quality open spaces play in improving both the physical and mental health and the general well-being of local communities.

Physical activity has been shown to improve outcomes in the reduction of mental illness and to improve wellbeing. Research has shown that it also has a significant role to play in the prevention of ill-health (World Health Organisation 'Urban green spaces and health: A review of evidence' 2016). High quality green spaces are also shown to provide potential economic benefits for an area through including reducing costs on the public health service, promoting urban regeneration and encouraging inward investment.

South Dublin's open space network makes a vital contribution to the mental and physical health of local communities. The County's hierarchy of publicly owned and managed parks and open spaces are important recreational destinations for residents and visitors at the local, neighbourhood and regional level. Allotment growing can also provide an opportunity for healthy physical recreation and social engagement, as well as playing an important role in improving local biodiversity.

Healthy Ireland A Framework for Improved Health and Well Being (2013-2025).

South Dublin County Council has closely aligned itself to the planned HSE National Network of Healthy Cities and Counties. In 2016, South Dublin County was formally recognised as a Healthy County. Since 2014, an annual Health & Wellbeing Week has been organised with a wide range of actions across the community spectrum which promote the theme of healthy living.



Friarstown Allotments

2.4 Neighbourhood Identity

Parks and open spaces form an attractive green and open setting which enhances the character of urban neighbourhoods in particular.

Well-designed and managed public open space can contribute significantly to enhancing the identity of urban neighbourhoods by:

- Supporting regeneration by providing a more attractive place for people to live, work and visit, which in turn can attract increased inward investment;
- Defining and separating urban areas, better linking of town and country, and providing for recreational needs over a wide area;
- Increasing connectivity between communities and helping to increase social cohesion e.g. through community events in parks; and
- Protecting and enhancing historic and cultural features.

2.5 Social Interaction and Community

Feedback from local residents demonstrates that parks and open spaces are highly valued and appreciated by local communities.

Parks and open spaces are more accessible to a wider range of people than some sport and leisure facilities and are better able to realise the aims of social inclusion and equality of opportunity.

Open spaces can also promote community cohesion, encourage community development and stimulate partnerships between the public and private sector. It is widely recognised that the provision of high quality ‘public realm’ facilities such as parks and open spaces can assist in the promotion of an area as an attractive place to live and can result in a number of wider benefits, including health benefits such as reduced obesity and diabetes.



Dodder Valley Park Mini Woodland Planting

2.6 Sustainability

Parks and open spaces contribute to sustainable development objectives where they are appropriately located and accessible by walking, cycling and public transport,

The provision of open spaces and recreation facilities are key to a sustainable and thriving community, and can also perform an important multi-purpose function, such as where outdoor sports facilities have an amenity value in addition to facilitating sport and recreation. The range of benefits that such multi-functional green space can deliver simultaneously from the same area of land, include:

- Providing opportunities for outdoor relaxation, informal recreation, sports, play, environmental learning and access to nature;
- Improving health and well-being – lowering stress levels, providing opportunities for exercise and improving air quality;
- Enabling local food production - in allotments and orchards;
- Providing space for the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity and providing wildlife corridors and linkages; and



Tymon Park

2.7 Climate Change

Parks and open spaces offer numerous opportunities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the changing climate. They provide opportunities for sustainable drainage while trees and plants perform a vital role by capturing and storing carbon.

The Development Plan contains policies and objectives which promote measures that have the potential to reduce the climate impact of providing for public open space, which include:

- The provision of parks, open space and community infrastructure within walkable distances of communities and on public transport routes;
- The promotion of walking and cycling and use of public transport via permeability and mobility management measures; and
- Additional planting of trees and pollinator species and adapting management regimes in parks and public open spaces to allow more wild areas resulting in increased carbon sequestration.

Ensuring that recreation facilities and open spaces are located in existing settlements, close to residential areas and other community facilities, reduces the need to travel and encourages the use of sustainable transport modes, such as public transport, walking and cycling.

Other measures that will be implemented in parks and open spaces to address climate impacts include:

- Providing sustainable transport routes to and within public open spaces – for cycling and walking;
- Prioritising walking and cycling accessibility to both existing and proposed public open space developments;
- Developing a connected network of greenways for safe recreational cycling and walking;
- Incorporating sustainable flood alleviation measures in existing and proposed schemes;
- Introducing a wide range of planting effects for improving air quality, reducing the urban heat island

effect, filtering diffuse pollution, managing flood risk, storing water during droughts, and for pollination;

- Ensuring planting schemes are resilient to climate change
- Protecting and enhancing the spaces around river channels, the riparian zone and providing a buffer from development which would otherwise reduce its ability to attenuate and filter flood water.
- Ensuring that recreational buildings are climate resilient and energy efficient.
- Examining areas in parks and open spaces for nature restoration and / or re-wilding and implement a programme for same
- Identify and progress opportunities for Integrated Constructed Wetlands to clean and restore rivers and streams that flow through parks and open spaces, this can be in tandem with de-culverting watercourses.
- Continue to implement South Dublin's Mini Woodland programme



Hedgerow Planting in Jobstown Park

- Continue to implement South Dublin's Meadowland programme



Tymon Park Meadow



3. Existing Parks and Open Spaces

3.1 Open Space Hierarchy

A primary aim of the Strategy is to identify the need for the enhancement of existing and provision of new additional parks, within a hierarchy of spaces provided to meet the needs of a growing population.

The provision and maintenance of attractive, interesting, inviting and well used outdoor spaces will maximise the potential to provide for a connected network of natural green spaces identified within the Green Infrastructure Network of the Development Plan.

The public open space hierarchy reflects the main elements of the existing parks and open space network within the County and sets out a framework for future provision identifying the range of functions at each level in the hierarchy.

For the purposes of the Development Plan, and as also defined in this strategy, public open space is open space which has purposefully been designed and laid out for the use of the public. This may include smaller open spaces in residential areas or larger spaces at local, neighbourhood or regional level within the open space hierarchy. It may also provide for different open space functions linked to location and size.

Public open space is generally owned and maintained by the Council (and is the object of this Parks and Open Space Strategy) but in some instances, typically smaller spaces in residential areas, it may be managed or owned by a management company, and in some cases these areas may also be accessible to the public. The other main provider of public open space in the county is the office of Public Works who manage the significant and historic property of Pearse Museum and St. Enda’s Park in the east of the county.

Many of South Dublin’s open space areas are long established, as part of permissions for housing estates or through the acquisition of lands by the Council or others. New public open space is generally provided via the planning process through the identification of public open space in Local Area Plans or Strategic Development Zones and through the attachment of planning conditions for residential or other types of development.

3.2 Regional Parks

These large public parks vary between 100 to 200ha in size, generally serving areas within a 5km radius, but also catering for users across the County and as a destination for tourists. Only Griffeen Valley Park (69.19ha) is smaller, comprising five separate, yet connected pieces of land.

Generally, Regional Parks contain a mixture of natural heritage, built heritage or cultural features and visitor facilities. Activities may include formal and informal children’s play areas, walkways and cycleways, seating and passive recreation areas, playing pitches (including all-weather pitches), and changing rooms, running tracks and allotments. They should be easily accessed by public transport and cycling, with adequate provision of bicycle and car parking.

The regional parks in South Dublin County are Griffeen Valley Park, Corkagh Park, Dodder Valley Park and Tymon Park. Typically, there should be a regional park located within 5km of all homes in the County

Regional parks form a key element of the County level strategic green infrastructure (GI) network, contributing to important green corridors passing through urban areas and connecting to rural and upland areas.

They often contain significant biodiversity and water management features such as water courses, SuDS, ponds, marshlands and meadows, wooded areas and hedgerows. There are considerable opportunities for strengthening the GI potential of these parks through further biodiversity enhancements.

Ref.	Location	Area (ha)
	Regional Parks	
R1	Tymon Park	128.83
R2	Dodder Valley Park	118.31
R3	Corkagh/Clondalkin Park	132.83
R4	Griffeen Valley Park	69.19
	Total Regional Parks	449.16

Table 3.1: Existing Regional Parks in South Dublin

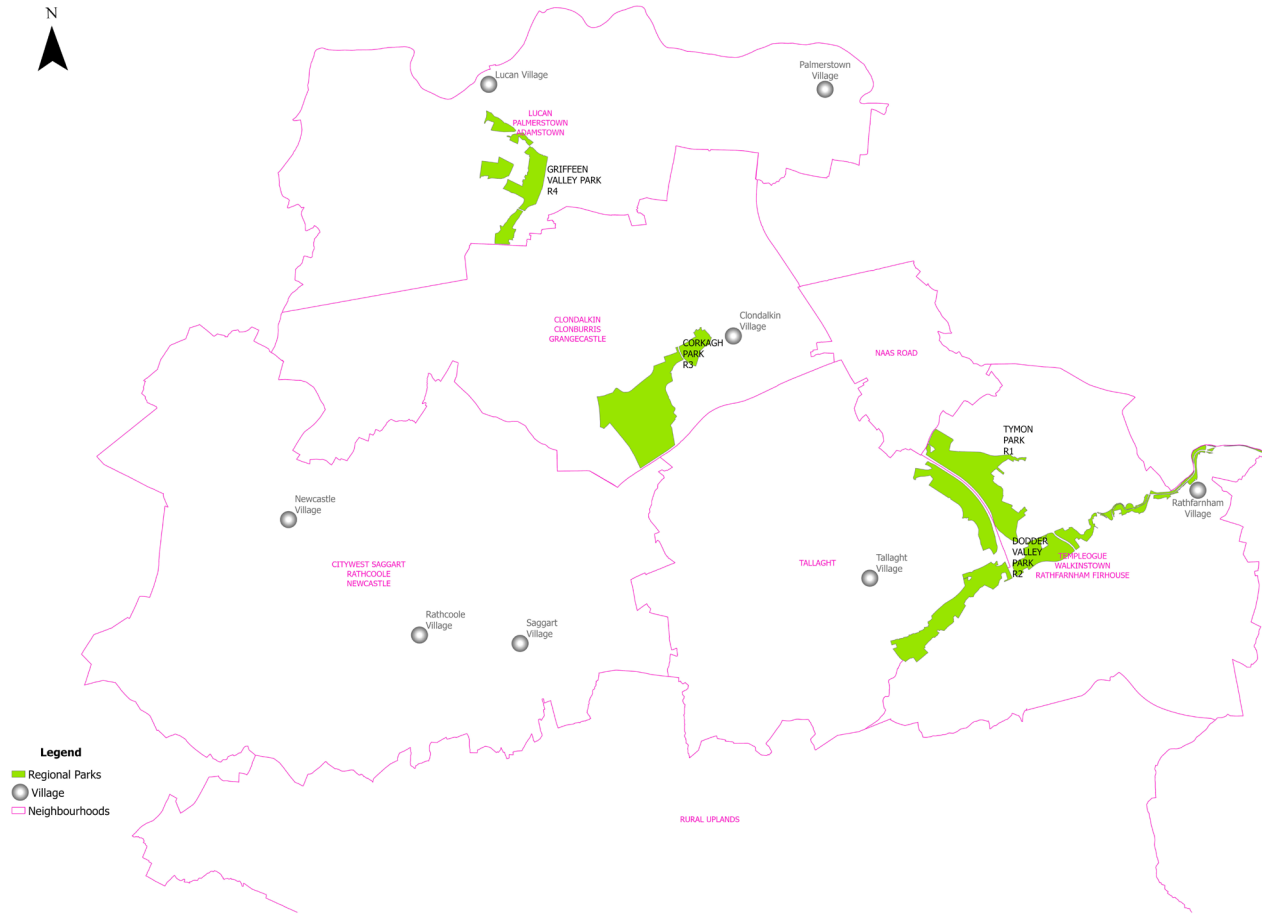


Figure 3.1: Locations of Regional Parks

Tymon Park

This extensive 120 hectares (300 acres) Regional Park is situated on both sides of the M50 motorway and between the N81 and Greenhills Roads. It is linked to Dodder Valley Park via the M50 underpass at Balrothery.

Tymon Park was formally opened in 1986 and contains an extensive range of facilities and assets including 4 playgrounds and numerous opportunities for active and passive recreation. The historic River Poddle traverses the park and there are stunning views of the Dublin Mountains and the greater Dublin area. It is a popular venue for events.

The park contains the former Tymon Demesne lands, and the historic landscape can be traced in the still existing field patterns, hedgerows and the presence of Tymon Lane, now a pleasant hedge-lined route through the park.

The park is an important part of the Green Infrastructure of the county and is a Core Area within the GI Strategy. It contains a diverse range of habitats with woodlands, hedgerows, rivers, ditches, ponds and wetlands and, due to the Esker type land running through it, its grassland,

managed by SDCC as long meadowland, is an important source of biodiversity and provides support for pollinators.

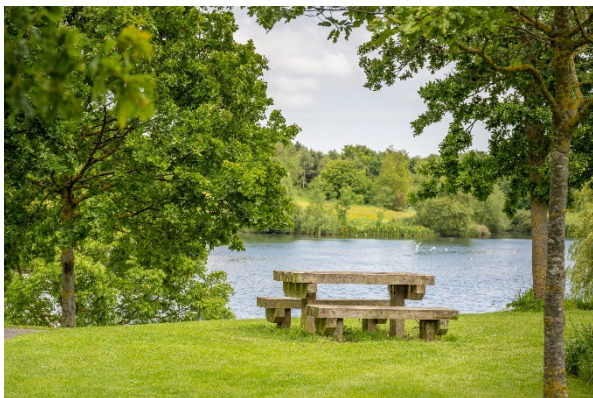
Tymon Park is listed as one of the Grassland Trails of Ireland due to its important meadowland habitat which has developed under South Dublin's careful stewardship and the support of the local community.

In response to requests through the Teenspace Programme, a space for teenagers to meet up and hang out was installed at the Limekiln entrance to Tymon Park. This is a busy vibrant place to see and be seen and includes facilities such as basketball and calisthenics as well as extensive seating areas.

FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES

Sports fields, playgrounds, walking/jogging tracks, dog run, allotments, archery, toilets, changing facilities, car parking, intergenerational centre.

Walking, jogging, cycling, field sports, sport tournaments, family festivals, woodland trails, wildfowl colonies, picnic areas.



Tymon Regional Park

Dodder Valley Park

Dodder Valley Park comprises the following parklands: Old Bawn Park, Mt Carmel, Balrothery, Cherryfield, Cherrywood, Woodstown, Dodder Road Lower, Elys Gate. The River Dodder Corridor provides the focus for this long linear park, extending for 6km from Old Bawn Bridge in Tallaght to Rathfarnham, and linking the Dublin Mountains with city suburbia. The park consists of over 100ha of linked parkland and remnant countryside in close proximity to established residential areas. It forms a key route through the urban environment for biodiversity and protected species as well as acting as a safe off-road route for pedestrians and cyclists, underpassing as it does large roads such as the M50, the Spawell Link Road and Springfield Road. It links via the Dodder to Kiltipper Park in the south-west and onwards to Bohernabreena and the Dublin Mountains. Downstream it links directly to Bushy Park and other large parks threaded along the Dodder in Dublin City and Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown council areas.

The River Dodder has the unique characteristics of being both an urban river within a capital city and an important GI corridor for biodiversity. The Dodder is a Strategic GI corridor at the regional level. It contains a proposed Natural Heritage Area and passes through three urban / suburban counties and links to several Natura 2000 sites. It is a strong ecological corridor, containing a valuable biodiversity resource and acts as a refuge and protection of biodiversity for a wide range of protected species.

In addition to its natural conservation value, the park offers a rich heritage (including a long history of milling with a legacy of weirs and water provision), as well as outstanding views and a wide range of active and passive recreational opportunities. There are several structures within the park that are of historical interest.

The recent development of the Dodder Greenway, a collaborative project with Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, Dublin City Council and the National Transport Authority, will provide a continuous pedestrian and cycle route through the park, over 17km in length from the quays in Dublin City Centre to Glenasmole in the

foothills of the Dublin Mountains. This significant infrastructure will be integrated within the existing park system to provide safe and attractive access to open space throughout the County and beyond.

An integrated constructed wetland has been constructed in the park that intercepts surface drainage water and cleans it before it enters the Dodder.

FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES

Dodder Greenway, Balrothery Weir & Waterfall, Old Bawn Bridge and Weir, City Watercourse and related heritage, riverside walks, playgrounds, BMX pump track, picnic areas, sports pitches, tennis courts, basketball court, and sports changing room (pavillion)

Walking/jogging, BMX, cycling, picnic, sports, nature watch.



Dodder River Valley

Corkagh / Clondalkin Park

Corkagh Park extends to over 120ha and was formerly part of a manor house and its estate (Corkagh Demesne). While the Demesne House was demolished prior to the Council acquiring the parkland, the farm buildings still exist in the centre of the park. The park was opened to the public in 1986.

Corkagh Demesne has a long and interesting history and has been the subject of local studies and research. The lands have both an agricultural and an industrial heritage within the fertile river plain. The Camac river has been harnessed for various types of milling over the years leaving Corkagh Park with a beautiful legacy of streams, ponds and millraces and the remnants of several mills. Archaeological investigations have found neolithic and bronze age structures and the centre of the park contains two archaeological monuments, (a Castle and a Moated Site). However, there is little evidence of them above ground now as Corkagh Park Demesne House and Farm Buildings were built in the same area during a later period.

The park is located near the Naas Road and is a gateway to the Camac Greenway which leads to Clondalkin Village and the Round Tower.

It includes Ireland's only purpose-built cycle track, providing a safe, traffic-free environment in which to learn skills, improve fitness, train and race. Other features include the extant Corkagh Demesne farm and outbuildings with extensive parkland, a fairy wood, and Camac Valley Caravan and Camping Park with easy links to Clondalkin Round Tower and Visitor Centre.

The County Council is currently delivering plans to broaden the destination appeal and better position Corkagh Park within the overall tourism proposition of South Dublin and Clondalkin Village in particular. Guided by the County Development Plan, national tourism policy, the South Dublin Tourism Strategy and the Corkagh Park Masterplan and Delivery Plan (2020), a range of integrated public realm and parkland upgrade projects, including a central visitor hub with coffee shop, picnic areas, playspaces and related facilities are being developed to elevate Corkagh Park's authentic visitor experience.

FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES

Built heritage, playspaces, rose garden, cycle track, allotments, sports & playing pitches, skate park, sports changing facilities, Camac Valley Caravan Park, baseball pitches, cricket pitch, river & woodland walks, toilets, and 4 car parks, Clondalkin Sports and Leisure Centre.

Playpark, fairy wood, sports facilities, walking/jogging, orienteering, cycle track and picnic areas.



Corkagh Regional Park

Griffeen Valley Park

Comprising over 80ha (200 acres), this Regional Park is formed from a series of public open spaces, distributed along the Griffeen River, a tributary of the River Liffey. The first and oldest section comprises a popular small town park in the middle of Lucan village. The second section, known as Vesey Park, can be entered at Adamstown / Newcastle Road and extends around the Vesey housing estate, ending at the Lucan bypass. The third section is an

open space on the southern side of the bypass ending at Lynch's Lane. The enclosed section of Griffeen Valley Park starts on the other side of Lynch's Lane and extends along the rear of the Arthur Griffith housing estate to Griffeen Avenue.

Griffeen Valley Park can be accessed off the Grand Canal Greenway at Grange Castle via the Red Bridge, which also provides an off-road link between Clondalkin and Lucan.

Parts of Griffeen Valley Park lie within GI Core Areas but its main GI function is as a Corridor between the Grand Canal Strategic GI Corridor and the Liffey Valley Core Area.

Clonburris SDZ allows for a southern extension to Griffeen Valley Park which will extend the park to the Grand Canal along the Griffeen River and will provide further active and passive recreational amenities within that park development. There is already a Greenway through these lands that links Lucan Village to the Grand Canal, and there are plans to upgrade the Greenway and complete links to create a Grand Canal to Royal Canal Greenway loop via Griffeen Valley Park and across the Liffey.

FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES

Lucan Sports & Leisure Centre, playspaces, sports and playing pitches, all weather athletics track, all weather hockey pitch, skatepark, changing areas, ball wall, teenspace, exercise area, boules court, car park.

Griffeen River Greenway, riverside walks, walking/jogging, cycling, children's playgrounds, skateboarding, teenspaces, pétanque, sports and picnic areas.



Griffeen Valley Park (Regional)

3.3 Neighbourhood Parks

These parks can range in size from approximately 20 to 50ha, (in exceptional circumstances the size can increase from 50 to 100ha.) in size and have a neighbourhood catchment.

They are accessible by pedestrians and cyclists and can contain a wide variety of facilities and uses which may include playing pitches, and changing rooms relating to outdoor facilities and activities, play facilities, outdoor gyms, walking and cycling routes.

Neighbourhood parks serve a neighbourhood catchment within 800m

Neighbourhood parks can incorporate a range of GI features, such as wetlands, marshlands, meadow parklands and informal biodiversity-rich planting areas. There are considerable opportunities for strengthening the biodiversity value through sensitive enhancement schemes and by creating linkages via local level strategic corridors to the County-wide GI network.

Ref.	Location	Area (ha)
Neighbourhood Parks		
N1	Kiltipper Park	45.87
N2	Waterstown Park	34.09
N3	Sean Walsh Park	21.86
N4	Ballymount Park	21.15
N5	Killinarden Park	20.81
N6	Butler McGee Park	20.67
N7	Collinstown Park	20.20
Total Neighbourhood Parks		184.65

Table 3.2: Neighbourhood Parks in South Dublin

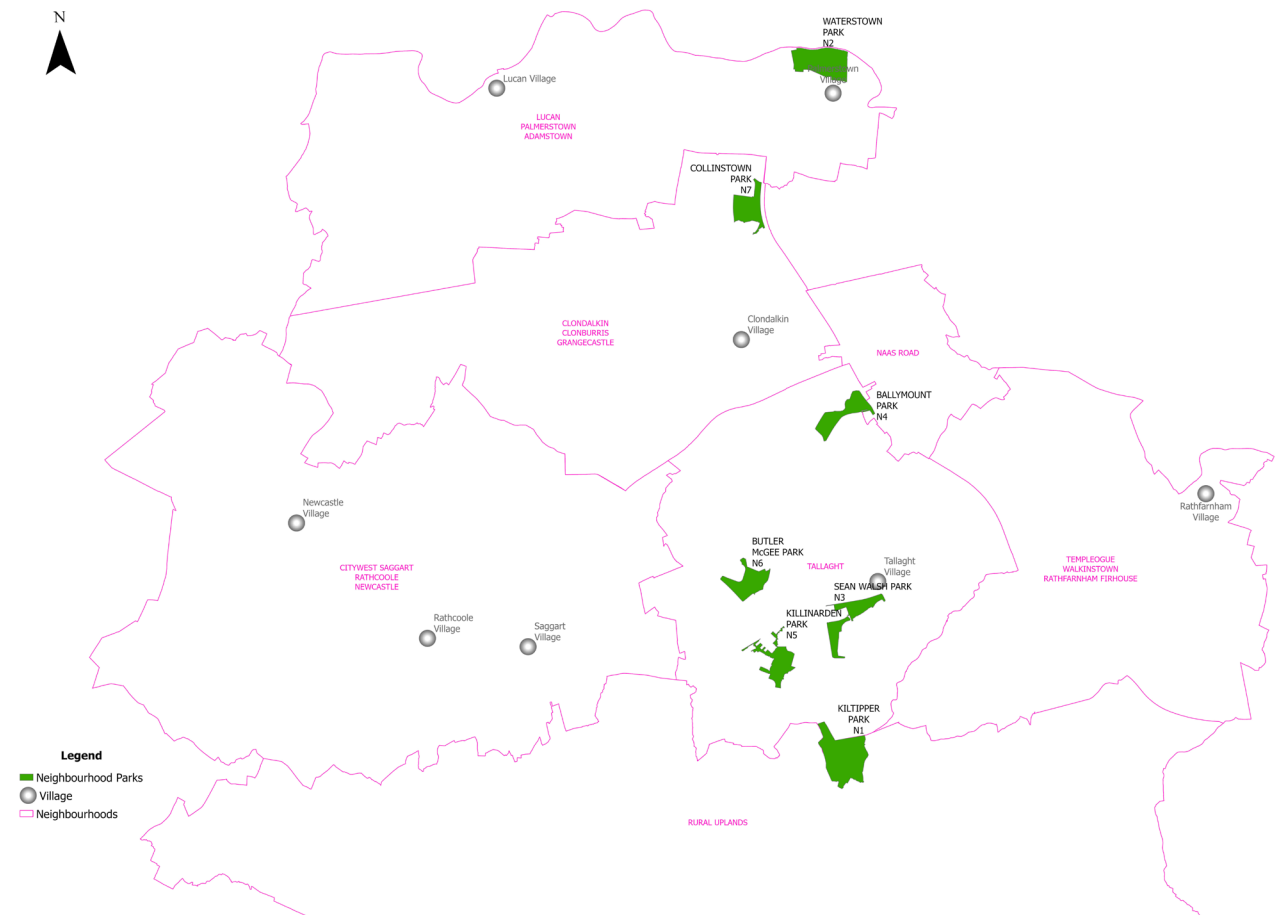


Figure 3.3: Locations of Neighbourhood Parks

Kiltipper Park

Located in the foothills of the Dublin Mountains, Kiltipper Park offers a wide range of natural walking or running routes with impressive views of the city and the mountains. Kiltipper Park is South Dublin’s ecological park,

managed for biodiversity and improving the ecological corridor to the Dublin Mountains. The Dublin Mountains Way extends alongside the River Dodder through the park and meanders around Bohernabreena Reservoir and onwards through the rugged scenery of the uplands into the Dublin Mountains. This long-distance walking route ends in Shankill but links to the Wicklow Way enroute. The Dodder Greenway which links the Dublin Mountains to

Dublin City Docklands via the Dodder River also passes through Kiltipper Park.

Kiltipper Parks forms an important stepping-stone in the multi-functional GI corridor crossing and connecting the mountains, urban and rural areas and linking with other regional corridors.

The phased delivery of enhancement proposals are currently underway; (Dodder Greenway, Kiltipper Park Masterplan Proposals), and include natural play areas, two soccer pitches and one GAA pitch, native woodland planting and wildflower grasslands, hedgerow restoration, and extends the Greenway along the River Dodder.

FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES

Walking/jogging paths, car parking, extensive meadowlands. Plans include sports pitches, play areas, viewing areas, tree planting, natural SuDS.

Walking/jogging, cycling, nature watch.



Kiltipper Neighbourhood Park

Waterstown Park

Located near Palmerstown village, the Farmleigh Estate and the Phoenix Park, Waterstown Park was a family farm until the 1980s. The park extends to around 34ha and is covered by the Liffey Valley Special Amenity Area Order, forming one of the most ecologically important open spaces in Dublin. Its wide range of distinctive habitats include a significant section of the river Liffey Corridor, mature woodland, wet grassland and mature hedgerows.

Within the park there is a 5km track used for walking, jogging and cycling, as well as walkways along the Liffey, a 19th-century millrace, exercise equipment and an inclusive natural playground with a small playtrail through a woodland area.

FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES

Exercise equipment, playspace, cycle track, picnic, car parking.

Walking/jogging, cycle track, river walks, wildlife viewing.



Waterstown Neighbourhood Park

Sean Walsh Park

Often referred to as “the green lung of Tallaght”, Sean Walsh Park extends to approx. 36 hectares (90 acres) and was officially opened in June 1989. It is located in the heart of Tallaght’s urban centre, close to residential areas to the south of the N81, and with a footbridge that crosses directly to The Square Shopping Centre.

A network of pathways provide access to the park’s many features, and connect to the Dublin Mountains via The Dublin Mountain Way, whose starting point is in the park. There is also a link downstream to the Dodder Greenway via the Whitestown Stream and a planned upstream Greenway will link the park to Killinarden Park and onwards to Jobstown; making this park a lynch pin in terms of walking and cycling connectivity in the heart of Tallaght.

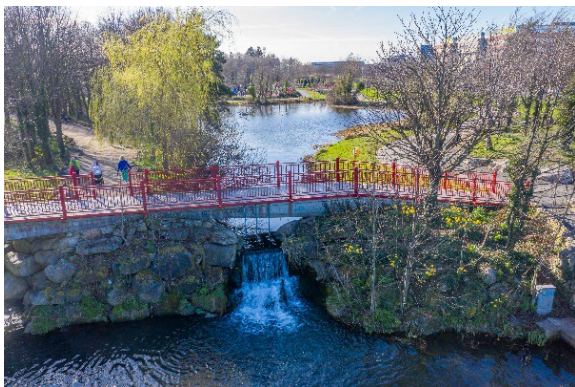
Tallaght Stadium (a purpose-built, 6,000-seat, state-of-the-art football venue) is located within the park. SDCC also manage a multi-sport 3G pitch in the park, which is available to book on-line. There is a car park situated on Whitestown Way, several nearby bus routes, as well as the Luas stop in convenient walking distance, making Sean Walsh Park easily accessible for all.

The park contains a wide range of habitats, such as stream, woodland, grassland and lake.

FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES

Tallaght Stadium, 3G Artificial Grass Pitch, Lakes, Playground, Teenspace, sensory garden, Dublin Mountains Way, Whitestown Stream Greenway, native tree trail, dog run, viewing areas, picnic areas, car parks.

Sports, walking/jogging, cycling, nature watch, play and leisure.



Sean Walsh Neighbourhood Park

Ballymount Park

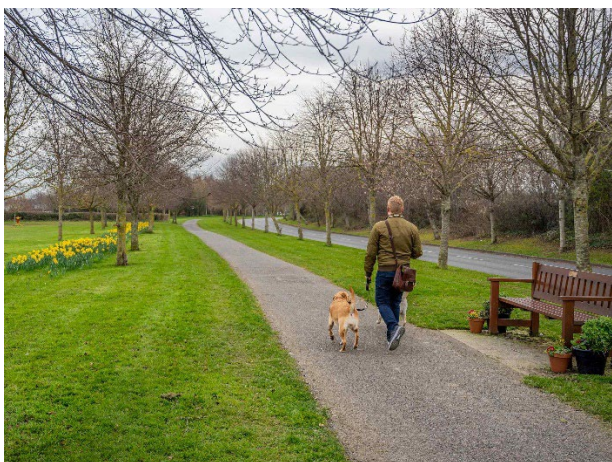
This small park (around 21ha), sometimes referred to as Newlands Cemetery, is located in south Dublin adjoining the ruins of Ballymount Castle (built in 1622). The original name of the area was Bellamount ('beautiful mount') in reference to the pre-existing mound (Bronze Age grave).

The park contains two football pitches and one GAA pitch used by several local clubs, as well as a playground with a range of equipment including swings, slide, monkey bars, gymnastic bars, a trampoline and balancing beam. There is also a sand play area with natural play features in the playground. The park contains a fishing lake and extensive walking routes.

FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES

Sports & playing pitches, sports changing facilities, wetlands, lake, exercise equipment and playground, car parking.

Sports, fishing, walking/jogging, cycling, play amenity and picnic.



Ballymount Neighbourhood Park

Killinarden Park

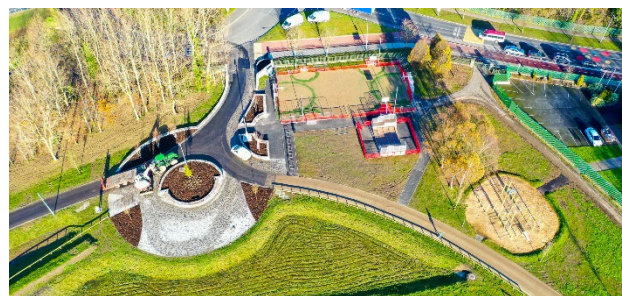
Killinarden Park, located to the south-west of Tallaght Town Centre, extends to around 20.15ha. It was laid out in the early 1980's as part of the development of the Donomore and Knockmore estates in the expanding Killinarden suburb to accommodate passive recreation and the needs of the surrounding communities.

The park was extensively upgraded in 2024 in line with the plan developed with the local community and includes play areas, Teenspace areas, MUGA, skate ramp, exercise equipment, upgrade of the sports pitches, realignment of the paths to create accessible shared routes, completion of the Whitestown Stream Greenway through the park and upgrade of entrances and boundaries.

FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES

Sports pitches, MUGA, playgrounds, teenspaces, calisthenics, exercise equipment, Playing pitches.

Sports, exercise, skateboarding, walking/jogging, cycling, play



Killinarden Neighbourhood Park

Butler McGee Park

Extending to around 21ha and comprising mostly of improved grassland and pitches used by local sports teams, including Marks Celtic FC and St. Mark's GAA Club. Substantial boundary improvement works have recently been undertaken in Butler McGee Park. The Council is currently making plans for an upgrade similar to recent upgrades in nearby Jobstown and Killinarden Parks.

FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES

Sports facilities, walking/jogging. Playing pitches.

Collinstown Park

Located in Clondalkin and extending to just over 20ha, Collinstown Park mostly comprises playing pitches. There is also a 0.9 mile (2,000 step) walking/running circuit).

A large teenspace has been provided in the park with teqball, calisthenics, feature seating, a bike track, MUGA, DJ Post and drinking water fountain, and a popular playspace is adjacent.

It is also a Green Infrastructure objective to promote habitat improvement at Collinstown Park so as to enhance its role as a stepping stone within the wider network.

FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES

Playground, teenspaces, playing pitches, walking and cycling circuit.

Sports, walking/jogging, cycling, and play amenity.



Collinstown Park playspace



Collinstown Park TeenSpace

3.4 Local Parks / Open Spaces

These parks range in size from between 2 to 20ha. They provide mostly for amenity and passive recreation, although some may have playing pitches and play equipment. They are in close proximity to homes and thereby easily accessible by pedestrians and cyclists.

Local Parks serve a local population within a 400m catchment.

These parks primarily consist of improved grassland and offer considerable opportunities for contributing to the local level Green Infrastructure network through enhancement schemes that include native trees, small woodlands, hedgerows, meadows and other planting.



Lucan Demesne Park



Rathcoole Park



Rathfarnham Castle Park

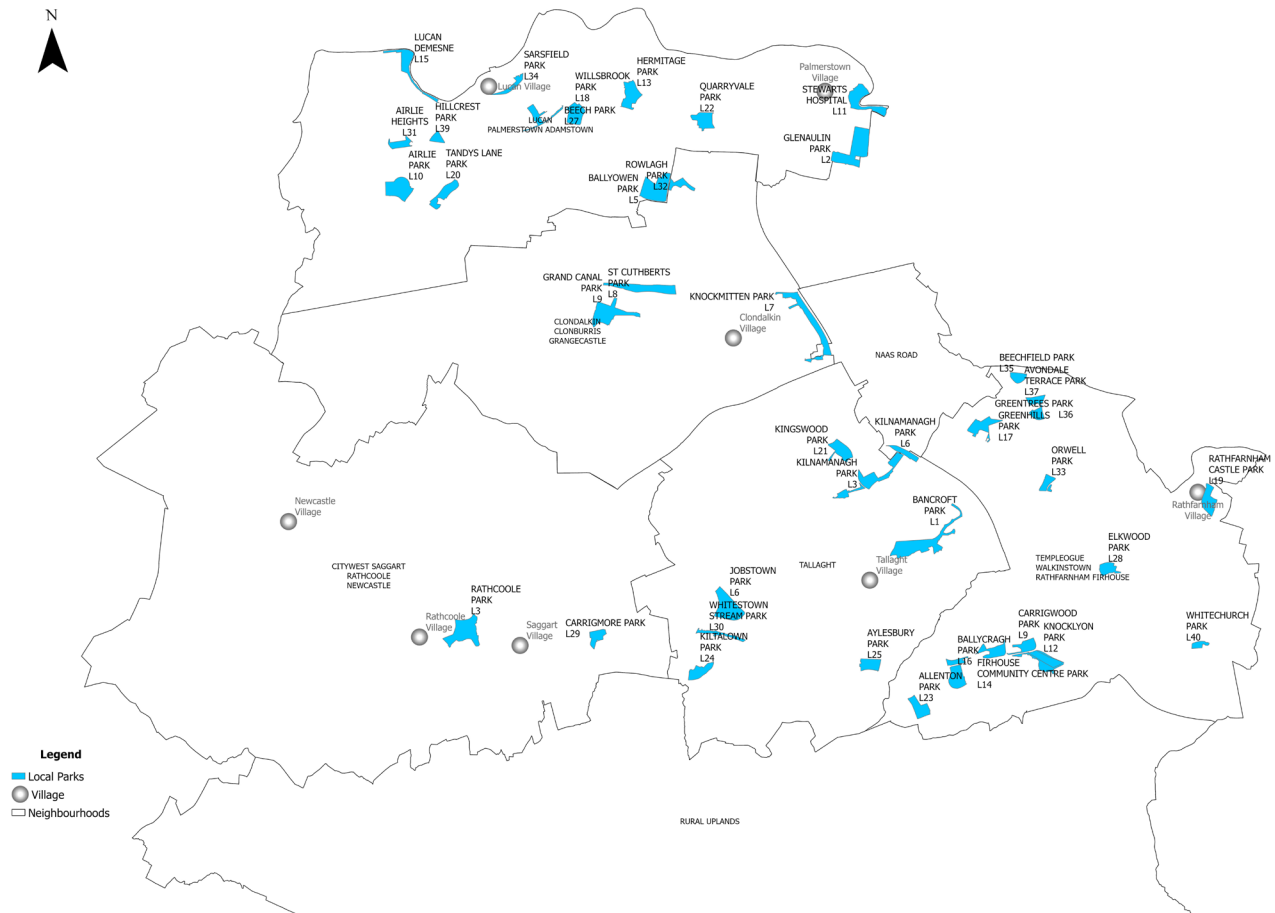


Figure 3.4: Locations of Local Parks

Ref.	Location	Area (ha)
	Local Parks	
L1	Bancroft Park	18.00
L2	Glenaulin Park	17.58
L3	Kilnamanagh Park	15.52
L4	Rathcoole Park	14.21
L5	Ballyowen Park	13.82
L6	Jobstown Park	13.34
L7	Knockmitten Park	13.07
L8	St. Cuthberts Park	12.72
L9	Grand Canal Park	10.94
L10	Airlie Park	10.64
L11	Stewarts Hospital	10.29
L12	Knocklyon Park	10.08
L13	Hermitage Park	8.28
L14	Firhouse Community Centre Park	8.11
L15	Lucan Demesne	8.08
L16	Ballycragh Park	7.16
L17	Greenhills Park	7.13
L18	Willsbrook Griffeen Valley Glebe Park	6.97
L19	Rathfarnham Castle Park	6.80
L20	Tandy's Lane Park	6.71
L21	Kingswood Park	6.71
L22	Quarryvale Park	6.55
L23	Allenton Park	5.95
L24	Kiltalown Park	5.49
L25	Aylesbury Park	5.15
L26	Castlefield Park	4.72
L27	Beech Park	4.67
L28	Elkwood Park	4.27
L29	Carrigmore Park	4.26
L30	Whitestown Stream Park	3.39
L31	Airlie Heights	3.68
L32	Rowlagh Park	3.48
L33	Orwell Park	3.47
L34	Sarsfield Park	3.29
L35	Beechfield Park	3.14

Ref.	Location	Area (ha)
L36	Greentrees Park	3.04
L37	Avondale Terrace Park	2.97
L38	Hillcrest Park	2.35
L39	Whitechurch Park	2.06
	Total Local Parks	298.09

Table 3.3: Local Parks in South Dublin

3.5 Small Parks / Open Spaces

Small parks (between 0.2 and 2ha) provide important amenity and recreation facilities. They provide mostly for amenity and passive recreation and may incorporate small scale play facilities.

Small parks serve an area within 300m catchment of the local neighbourhood population.

GI features in small parks currently tend to be limited, as most areas comprise improved grassland with occasional hedgerows or trees. There are opportunities to strengthen the biodiversity value of these parks through native tree planting and pollinator-friendly planting and management.

Ref.	Location	Area (ha)
S1	Delaford Park	1.92
S2	Bradys Field	1.91
S3	Brookview Park	1.80
S4	Tymonville Park	1.73
S5	Castle Park Clondalkin	1.69
S6	West Park	1.42
S7	Neilstown Park	1.16
S8	Glendoher Park	1.11
S9	Elys Arch Park	0.39
S10	Firhouse Village Park	0.25
S11	Lucan Town Park	0.12
	Total Small Parks	13.50

Table 4.4: Small Parks in South Dublin



Firhouse Village Local Park

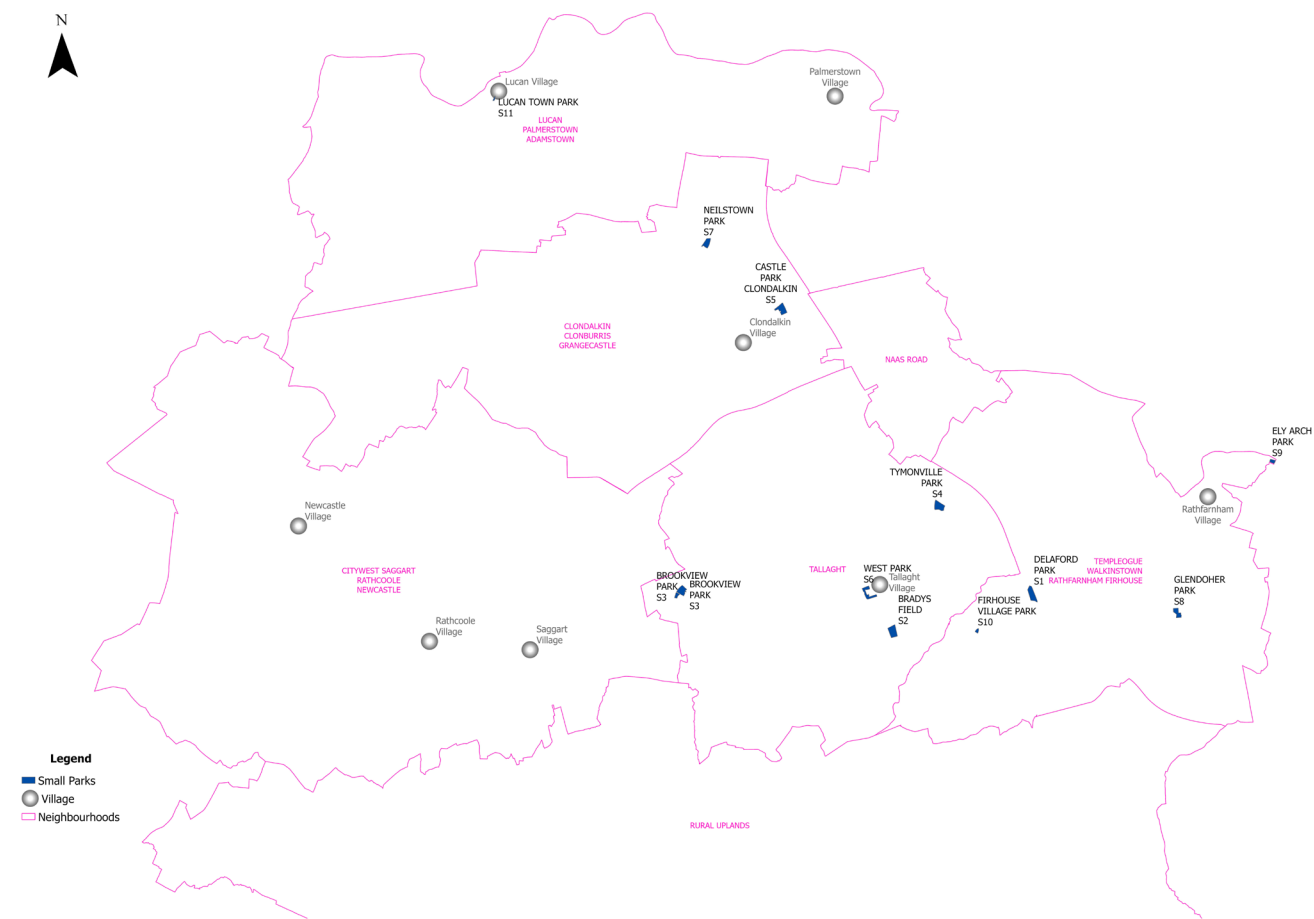


Figure 3.5: Locations of Small Parks

3.7 Civic Spaces / Squares

These important public spaces vary in size (mostly less than 0.2ha) and include civic areas and market squares and other hard surfaced areas designed for pedestrians. They usually serve a neighbourhood function for social interaction and are a key element of often high-density urban areas.

There are opportunities to strengthen the biodiversity value of these spaces through SUDS features and native tree and pollinator-friendly shrub planting.

These civic areas should be a minimum size of 650m², to allow for multi-functional use and multi-generational activities serving the needs of the community. Areas predominantly used for movement purposes are not considered public open space under this heading.



Tallaght Plaza (Civic Space)

3.8 Allotments and Other Green Spaces

Allotments

There are 447 Council-managed allotments ranging in size from 37m² to 320m² located at Tymon Park, (15), Corkagh Park (39), Friarstown (317) and Mill Lane (76). 29 new plots have been provided as part of an allotment development in Newcastle, transfer to the Council of these plots is intended.

Residents in South Dublin can apply to access these allotments to grow their own fruits and vegetables, providing access to locally grown, healthy, affordable food. Allotment growing also provides an opportunity for healthy physical recreation and social engagement.

There is currently a waiting list for places. The trend for smaller gardens in new development as per the recently published compact settlement guidelines, and more apartment living is likely to increase demand. Provision of

allotments contribute to delivering the Green Infrastructure Strategy and Climate Change Action for the county as they act as both a mitigation and adaptation measure to combat Climate Change.

Allotment land-provision has specific requirements, such as extensive amounts of land, access and storage requirements, water harvesting and usage, composting, delineation of sites for individual use, securing of same and vehicular access. They are sometimes not physically or visually compatible to certain areas of amenity parkland. Regeneration of currently under-utilised sites to allotments is a particularly positive use of land.

The provision and reservation of allotment sites in the past has been based on demand with provision on a case-by-case basis. There are no national standards for the provision of allotments in Ireland. In the UK where allotment provision is common across local authorities no legal minimum provision applies. However, most allotment strategies there apply a minimum provision equivalent of 15 per 1000 households (1969 Thorpe Report). The National Allotment Society (NSALG), a national organisation upholding the interests and rights of the allotment community in the UK, recommend an alternative of 20 standard (250sq.m) plots per 1000 households.

In the context of existing levels of provision of allotments in South Dublin, it is not considered appropriate to introduce a per 1000 population or per household standard in South Dublin for the purposes of retrofitting now. In addition, the Council has found that allotment holders are moving towards a preference for smaller allotment plot sizes.

It is considered more appropriate to plan for the level of provision by assessing the demand and the current provision in the county. At present (start of 2025) there are 314 individuals on a waiting list for allotments across the county. Meeting this demand will be a medium-to-long term project given land, funding and resource constraints and may include the rationalisation and management of existing plots. A new development standard may need to be created going forward with the introduction and requirement for land to be designated for such use during the next County Development Plan review (in accordance with the Planning and Development Act).

Community Gardens

Community gardens are open spaces managed by private groups and tend to be on land owned by the group. They are typically provided on community owned land, within schools, church or parish lands or community centres. As they are restrictive in terms of access, they are not considered public open space for the purposes of this

Strategy, albeit they are an important component contributing to the quality of non-public open space provision and are a required recreation provision and climate change action under this and other plans. Though Community Gardens are not strictly public open space, it is recognised that they are an important recreational resource, and their provision is important to combat Climate Change.

While recognizing that community gardens are primarily delivered within non-public space; within constrained urban areas it may be difficult for South Dublin community groups to acquire appropriate amounts of land for such purposes. It is intended that; in tandem with the planned provision of allotments; Community Garden provision will be considered within allotment areas, where un-met demand exists in the area that is unlikely to be easily met on other appropriate land, and where feasible and appropriate. For these to be manageable, the proposed community garden will be a larger plot within the allotment site, with small, raised beds which can be allocated to individuals. This proposal allows for flexibility and if the need for the Community Garden within the allotment site extinguishes at any stage, the area may be converted to allotment use and vice versa.

Other Green Spaces

Other green spaces, such as churchyards and cemeteries, provide valuable open space assets at the local neighbourhood level and can also collectively play an important role in improving local biodiversity by forming stepping-stones within the wider GI network. In addition, they are crucially important to local communities and are imbedded in cultural and family heritage. These are not, however, part of the quantitative assessment of public open space in the county and they are managed under a separate South Dublin Burial Grounds Strategy.



KEY ACTIONS

- The Council will continue to manage existing allotment sites in accordance South Dublin's Allotments Strategy, including the provision of required supporting facilities within allotment areas.
- The Council will continue to review allotment plot sizes as required and amend them where appropriate, to ensure plot sizes are appropriately sized to ensure efficient use, prevent allotments becoming redundant and meeting demand in the area. New allotment areas will be designed to ensure plot sizes can be amended to be as flexible as possible.
- The Council will make provision for the identification of land suitable for allotment provision with access to appropriate services and infrastructure to support such use. The land may be identified during

development processes, land acquisition or otherwise where required and appropriate for this purpose. The Council will aim for the provision of a minimum of three additional (or extension of existing) allotment sites across the county during the lifetime of this Strategy.

- The Council will examine council-owned allotment sites in the first place, where they exist within a Neighbourhood, for feasibility of extending them to provide for additional allotment plots. Improvement of existing allotment-supporting facilities will be examined within the plans for extension of same, to support existing and new allotment holders.
- When providing additional allotment sites, the Council will assess interest, capacity and need in the local community for Community Garden provision and, where appropriate; an area within the allotment site will be designed as a Community Garden. Consideration may also be given to retrofitting Community Gardens into existing allotment sites, where appropriate and possible. For these to be manageable within the allotment context, the community gardens will be a larger plot within the allotment site, with several small, raised beds which can be allocated to individuals. This action will be progressed on a trial basis within 1 allotment site initially.



Allotments can appeal to a wide age group – Tymon Park

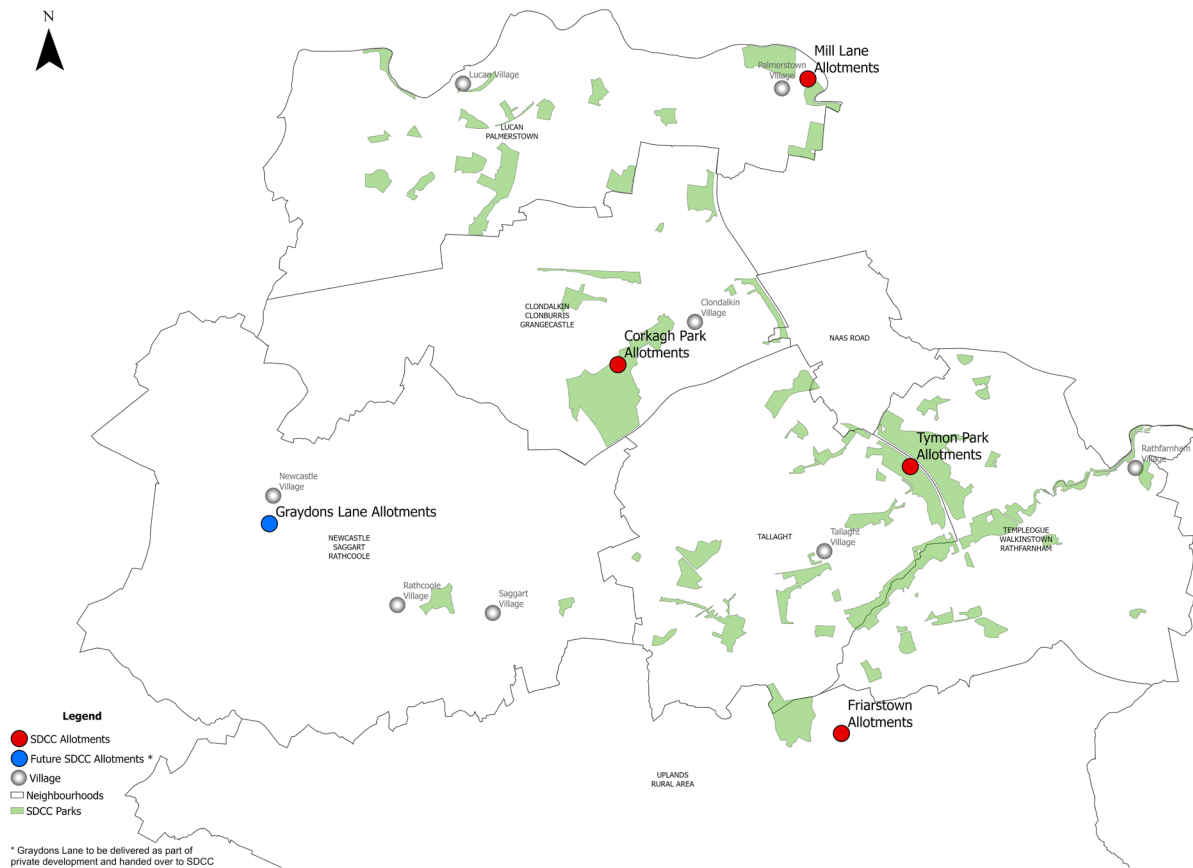


Figure 3.7: Allotment Locations in South Dublin (does not include private locations except for Newcastle)

3.9 Proposed, New and Recently Upgraded Parks

Across the County the Council is constantly striving to meet the needs of different sections of the community, some examples include: delivering natural playspaces in the Dodder Valley, introducing teenspaces throughout the county, providing parkour and calisthenics equipment in Tymon Park, Ballycragh Park, Collinstown Park and Knockmitten Parks and providing an Intergenerational Centre at Tymon Park.

South Dublin County Council is committed to the delivery of community infrastructure and will continue to pursue a range of innovative delivery mechanisms for new parks and enhanced facilities in existing parks.

Proposed Parks

Griffeen Valley Park Extension

Part of the Clonburris SDZ, the existing Griffeen Regional Park will be extended southwards to the Grand Canal as an integral part of the Landscape Strategy for the Clonburris SDZ lands. The preliminary plans include:

- A mix of active recreational facilities in the core area of the park;
- Formal and informal children's play areas;
- Walkways and cycleways;
- Seating and passive recreation areas;
- Park hub facility with car parking
- Sports pitches
- Planting to enhance biodiversity, definition and functional areas;
- Habitat improvements to existing ecological resources including the Griffeen River and the Grand Canal;
- The creation of new habitats within the park to address changes to natural heritage elsewhere in the plan lands;
- Retention and enhancement of selected hedgerows;
- Surface-water attenuation ponds to the north-west, fed by the proposed SUDS system; and
- Retrofitting or replacement of the existing pedestrian bridge over the railway line to provide a 'green bridge'.

Grand Canal Park

This comprises an existing large area of open space on the southern side of the Grand Canal and incorporates the green way cycle and pedestrian route on the southern tow path, to the north of the existing residential areas of Ashwood and Lindisfarne.

The Grand Canal Park shall be designed and implemented in accordance with the overall Parks and Landscape Strategy of the Clonburris SDZ lands and proposals include:

- New landscape interventions to enhance the existing character and ecological value of the canal;
- Measures to strengthen the amenity of the canal as a strategic east-west link, ensuring that the southern side of the canal provides a leisure function while the northern side has more of an ecological function;
- Enhanced connections to the surrounding neighbourhoods;
- Active and passive recreational facilities including sports pitches;
- Children's Play facilities;
- Walking and cycling routes;
- Retention and enhancement of selected hedgerows; and
- Provision for the refurbishment of Omer's Lock house as a cultural asset.

Na Cluainte

This park will also be delivered as part of the Clonburris SDZ scheme and will comprise a new multi-functional open space that connects the neighbourhoods away from the Canal, to the south of the railway. It is intended that the hedgerows that form the historic barony boundaries, which gives the park its name, will be retained to enhance the ecological character and identity of the lands.

The proposals include:

- Retention and enhancement of hedgerows;
- Contemporary parkland treatment across the northern part, with SUDS attenuation pond, open spaces and tree planting;
- A more natural treatment to the southern part of the park closest to the Grand Canal, and with appropriate access to the northern towpath.
- Active recreation facilities with ancillary lighting, and parking;
- A pedestrian/cycle bridge over the railway;
- Children's Play facilities;
- Walking and cycling routes; and
- Some active uses, cafes and small pavilion buildings for community and educational use.

New Parks

Airlie Park

Airlie Park is the largest park located in the centre of Adamstown SDZ (Strategic Development Zone). It was recently completed, with the park opened in February 2023. The parks are the focal points for the new community of Adamstown and have been provided in

tandem with the delivery of housing in the surrounding SDZ area as per the phasing of the SDZ.

Since opening the park, it has become incredibly well used by residents and visitors. The project was designed and delivered with a mix of formal and informal recreation facilities, such as a generous sized sports pitch, three interconnected playgrounds, and a fitness area alongside high quality biodiversity friendly soft and hard landscapes. The soft landscape includes the provision of seasonal wetland areas and wildflower meadows which provide a wealth of colour from Spring onwards and will provide a pollinator-friendly environment in this park for years to come.

- Walking and cycling routes
- Car parking
- Sports changing Pavillion
- Coffee Shop and toilets
- Full sized 3G artificial grass pitch
- Cricket Pitch
- Tennis Courts
- Teenspace area
- Playspaces
- Biodiverse meadows and tree planting
- Wetlands



Airie Park

Tandy's Lane Park

Tandy's Lane Park is located to the east of Adamstown SDZ and is an informal linear park. The park was open to the public in June 2021. The Park contains a large sports pitch, two playgrounds with a teen space, a small MUGA (Multi Use Games Area), fitness equipment and wildflower landscaping with park benches. It was designed as an ecological park and the design incorporated extensive amounts of naturally regenerating woodland that was on site. It has been noted on the national stage for the integration of nature based sustainable urban drainage systems into the design of the park, it has a number of facilities including:

- Walking and cycling routes

- Extensive retained and protected hedgerows, trees and regenerating woodland
- Meadowlands and natural Suds features providing a variety of ecosystems
- A range of playspaces and play areas
- Calisthenics equipment
- Teenspaces
- A GAA sized grass pitch
- Exercise equipment
- Car parking

The above SDZ parks fall within the classification of 'Local Parks' although they all contain an extensive range of facilities.

Existing Park Upgrades

Dodder Valley Park

This park consists of a ribbon of parks spread along the Dodder River Valley. It has been the subject of a wide range of projects to develop and strengthen the recreational facilities and the urban ecosystem. Recent improvements have included the notable delivery of Integrated Constructed Wetlands, intercepting, filtering and cleaning surface water before it enters the River Dodder, (an EU funded LIFE project). South Dublin have also provided a series of natural playspaces through the park, improving facilities for younger children in the area. Recent provision of active recreational facilities include a grass athletics track at Mt Carmel along the with the popular provision of the first BMX pump track in the county and a new grass sports pitch. The new Dodder Greenway passes through this park and has provided several new pedestrian and cycle bridges over rivers and streams, increasing sustainable access to parks and open spaces and providing safe routes to schools and other local facilities. The Dodder Greenway is a 17km premium shared walking and cycling route, is being advanced in sections by the National Transport Authority in conjunction with the relevant local authorities. Once completed it will link Grand Canal Docks with Bohernabreena Reservoir.



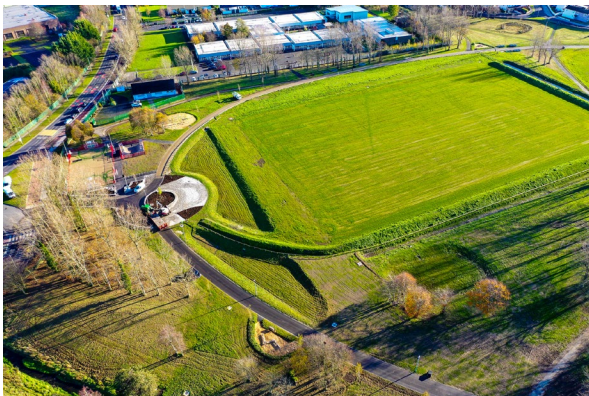
Dodder Valley Park

Killinarden Neighbourhood Park

The substantial improvements at Killinarden Park were completed in 2024 saw the introduction of natural play and exercise equipment, diverse habitat types, a community orchard, enhanced park entrances, and improved boundary treatments, aimed at bringing the park back to life, providing a renewed focus for the surrounding communities and integrating it with other high-quality open spaces and routes/greenways in the wider area.

The future cycle network set out in the National Transport Authority (NTA) Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network Plan (2013) includes the new Greenway completed through the northern part of Killinarden Park. The Cycle South Dublin scheme also identifies the route as a 'Soon Scheme', linking with other existing and future cycle routes on the N81 and Whitestown Way and forming part of a wider scheme between Citywest and Rathfarnham.

The strategic cycle/footway route has been delivered as an integral part of the Killinarden Park up-grade, providing a continuous GI corridor with landscaped pedestrian/cycle routes, that will eventually connect eastwards to Sean Walsh Park along the Whitestown Stream.



Killinarden Neighbourhood Park

Whitestown Stream Local Park

The Whitestown Stream corridor is a linear open space approximately 2.95ha (7.3 acres) in size, extending between Jobstown Road to the west and the N81 Blessington Road to the east. It is bounded by the established residential areas of Cloonmore to the south and Bawnlea and Dromcarra to the north.

The area and was laid out in the late 1970's/ early 1980's as part of extensive housing development in South Dublin and the park was originally planned to accommodate the passive recreation needs of the surrounding communities. However, in recent years with changing demographics its'

success as a public amenity and recreation space continued to diminish.

The population of the surrounding area has also continued to increase significantly, and it is generally recognised that there has been a lag between the provision of housing and the development of essential recreational amenities to better serve the needs of the growing community.

The Council recently upgraded this open space, including greening of the area, the protection of the watercourse running through it and the inclusion of intergenerational uses of the space such as outdoor exercise equipment, improvements to existing boundaries and access points; provision of new footpaths to complete a continuous loop; new and refurbished footbridges; re-positioning of boundaries (hidden corners) to help address anti-social activities; up-grading of existing public lighting; planting of trees and hedgerows; establishment of wildflower grassland through changed management regimes and with native bulb planting; an Activity Trail; and a natural play area. This open space has now been designated a new park and is part of the linear parkland along the soon-to-be-completed Whitestown Greenway.



Whitestown Stream Local Park

St. Cuthbert's Local Park

St Cuthbert's Park is located less than a half a kilometre south of the Grand Canal at Deansrath in the South County Dublin area. This local park measures 16.05ha and forms the public open space for several established residential neighbourhoods.

The ruined medieval stone church of St. Cuthbert forms a focal point of historic interest within the park, heavily concealed within an area of overgrown trees and hedgerow.

The park was failing to meet its potential in terms of amenity, biodiversity and heritage and was not serving the community well in terms of recreational amenity. It offers very limited facilities to the local community and is frequently in poor condition.



St. Cuthbert's Church within the centre of the park

A High-Level Taskforce worked to drive local community development and SDCC aims to bring the park back to life with a renewed focus on meeting the needs of the communities that live and surround it. The vision is to create a safe, clean environment free from anti-social behaviour for people of all ages to meet, exercise and enjoy nature. The Park will offer amenity, interconnected green infrastructure, biodiversity enhancement including habitat for pollinators, and should be a source of pride for the local community and a place they feel ownership of.

The upgrade of the park is underway in 2024 / 2025.

Jobstown Park

Jobstown Park is a 13.34ha local park in West Tallaght, delivered as mainly amenity grassland as part of the extensive residential estates in this area, it mainly provided sports pitches for local clubs. The park was upgraded in 2024 into a welcoming, secure, and thriving neighbourhood park designed to meet the growing needs of the community. This park is now part of a strategic network of park developments linked by shared routes and designed to enhance pedestrian and biodiversity connectivity across West Tallaght while improving access to public amenities for the local community.

The upgrade includes focal park entrances, a teen space, an outdoor workout area, a pump track, a natural playground, a dog park, a footpath exercise loop, and a Cycle South Dublin link connecting to the wider pedestrian and cycle infrastructure, along with landscaping and biodiversity enhancements, including the planting of 300 mature trees. Native wildflower seeds from Tymon Park were harvested and sown in Jobstown Park to create new meadows. This innovative approach supports biodiversity and pollinators, as the seeds are well-suited to the local climate and soils.



Jobstown Park-newly renovated

Quarryvale Park

Quarryvale Park is a local park measuring 6.55ha in the north of the county, surrounded by residential estates and bounded by Quarryvale Community Centre and adjacent to the Liffey Valley Shopping Centre. The park had been used predominantly as a transition space allowing people to move from their homes across the area to school, work, retail areas or public transport locations.

Investment by South Dublin in 2024/2025 has transformed the park into a secure, inviting, aesthetically pleasing area for the community and the growing needs of the public. Upgraded and illuminated pathways allow users to cross the space along the strong desire lines to shops, transport hubs etc. The Teenspace, with an integrated Calisthenics gym, and playspace for a younger audience act as focal points for people to gravitate towards. The football pitch has been relocated to the centre of the park as a large kick about area adjacent to the Teenspace encouraging further play and activities. Extensive tree planting and the creation of meadows have increased the biodiversity factor of the park and provide a welcome release from the surrounding hard urban environments.



Quarryvale Park Official Upgrade Opening

Ely Arch and Park

Ely Arch, a historical landmark built in 1771 as an entrance to Rathfarnham Castle, has undergone significant

improvements to enhance its surrounding landscape, making it more inviting for the local community. Located near Terenure and Rathfarnham, this Roman triumphal arch, made of calp limestone and ashlar granite, showcases classic 18th-century architectural elements like Doric columns and pilasters. Ely Arch is listed in the Record of Protected Structures and holds regional significance. Recent enhancements transformed the arch and removed railings and other visual clutter. The associated park has been turned into a multifunctional space, with a picnic area, boundary improvements, tree planting, and paved plaza and entry areas. Completed in May 2024, the project was led by SDCC's Public Realm Section and constructed by O'Brien Landscaping. It received funding from multiple Council Departments, including contributions from the Architectural Conservation Officer and the Economic Development Department. Marking the junction of the Dodder Greenway as it passes from SDCC into Dublin City and Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Councils, Ely Arch & Park now serves as a cherished arrival and destination point, blending historical preservation with modern amenities for the community to enjoy.



Ely Arch within Ely Park, Dodder Valley Park-newly renovated

Carrigmore Park

Carrigmore Park in Citywest is a 2.38ha local park that is undergoing a major upgrade from 2024 onwards. The overall masterplan provides improved facilities to people of all ages as well as carrying out nature restoration works to improve the quality of the local environment and improve access to nature.

The existing play provision has been upgraded to enhance the play experiences for children and to give teenagers a place of their own to hang out. A new natural playspace has been added, featuring a variety of exciting elements, including swings, a large sand play area, an accessible roundabout, a wheelchair accessible trampoline, mounding, a climbing unit, and natural play features, all designed for children ages 0-12. This play area has been carefully integrated alongside the existing formal playground, significantly expanding the play opportunities. A new Teenspace is also complete, offering a large outdoor

exercise area, basket swings, a hammock, and seating designed for socialising, along with a music post. It is situated alongside the existing basketball court to expand the range of activities available for teenagers. This comprehensive upgrade aims to provide a diverse and inclusive environment where both children and teens can enjoy active, engaging, and inclusive outdoor activities.

The remaining delivery of the masterplan for Carrigmore Park will be phased over the coming years and include developing new playing pitches, a BMX pump track, adult exercise equipment, a boules court as well as biodiversity improvements. The Biodiversity improvements will include developing new wetlands, tree planting, a mini woodland and additional pollinator friendly planting.

3.10 Quality of Public Open Space Provision

As set out in the Development Plan Chapter 13 Implementation and Monitoring, the provision and design of open space shall incorporate the following considerations:

Access

- All neighbourhood areas should have access to a range of formal and informal public open spaces for amenity, recreation, sports and play.
- Open spaces should be designed and located to be publicly accessible by sustainable means such as walking, cycling and public transport depending on the type of open space, and should be usable by all residents of the County.
- Adequate access points should be provided to open spaces to minimise distances to the areas they serve.
- Insofar as possible, open spaces should be linked to one another to increase their amenity value, encourage active travel between them and to facilitate the green infrastructure network.

Recreation Facilities

- Open space should be designed to offer a variety of both active and passive recreation which is accessible to all regardless of age or ability.
- Teenspaces should be integrated into the design of parks and open spaces where appropriate.
- Children's play areas should be provided as an integral part of the design of new residential and mixed-use developments and addressed as part of a landscape plan (see also below).
- Provision of recreational facilities is further addressed under a variety of sections in this Strategy.

Green Infrastructure, Biodiversity and Sustainable Water Management

- Parks and open spaces should be located to connect with each other to create green corridors and optimise their green infrastructure function.
- Existing trees, hedgerows and watercourses should be retained to maximise the natural setting of parks and open spaces.
- Planting should comprise native and pollinator-friendly species.
- Sustainable water management in the form of features such as integrated constructed wetlands, ponds, swales and basins, if appropriately designed, should be incorporated within public open spaces and add to the amenity and biodiversity value of the spaces (appropriate to level within the open space hierarchy).

Universal Access and Accessibility

- Universal design places human diversity at the heart of the design process so that environments can be designed to meet the needs of all users. It therefore covers all persons regardless of their age or size and those who have any particular physical, sensory, mental health or intellectual ability or disability. It is about achieving good design so that people can access, use and understand the environment to the greatest extent and in the most independent and natural manner possible, without the need for adaptations or specialised solutions.
- Once done well universal design can be invisible to users and concerns things like siting facilities in easy to reach places, having level entry points, having clear well-placed signage and easy to use equipment. The Council consider distance from car parking, access to the facility from surrounding areas and, when designing playspaces in particular, are aware that it may be either a carer and / or a child and / or both who may have reduced mobility or any other disability. Part of the brief for every playspace in South Dublin includes meeting the principles of universal design listed below, and these questions are also applicable to the provision of parks and other facilities in the built environment:

Principles of Universal Design (work example applied to playspaces in this instance)

- **Equitable Use:** How well does the building, place or project appear to be fully usable, and appealing to a wide range of diverse users with differing ages and personal capabilities?
- Is there the same means of use for all users whenever possible, avoiding segregation – for example play equipment that everyone regardless of age, size, ability or disability can use with ease?
- **Flexibility in Use:** How well does the design readily adapt or offer multiple methods of use to enable a wide range of individual preferences and abilities?
- Does the Playground provide choice in methods of use, for example play equipment and the surrounding spaces designed to accommodate children of different heights, those with mobility difficulties, those who lip-read & those with visual difficulties?
- **Simple and Intuitive Use:** How well does the design make it simple for diverse users to understand the important features of the building, place or project?
- For example, is it easy to use the facility for the first time?
- **Perceptible Information:** (Sensory abilities, e.g. vision, hearing, touch). How well does the design offer multiple use options for people, especially those with sensory limitations at any age and including the use of specialty equipment or strategies?
- For example, does the use of colour and materials provide visual contrast and/or tactile information to allow all children & adults regardless of age, size, ability or disability to navigate the Playground with ease?
- **Tolerance for Error:** (Features that promote safe use and reduce risk). How well does the design prompt or assist the user to minimize hazards and the adverse consequences of accidental or unintentional interactions?
- For example, is the play equipment designed with easy access, well-designed handrails and good use of materials, finishes and colours?
- **Low Physical Effort:** How well does the design enable all users, including those with limited strength and stamina, to have a comfortable and effective user experience?
- For example, is the various play equipment provided easy to use for all children & adults regardless of age, size, ability or disability?
- **Size and Space for Approach and Use:** (Efficient access and use for all user sizes) How well does the design enable users of diverse size, (including people who may use specialty equipment) to use the building, place or project?
- For example, are the spaces in the Playground designed with sufficient dimensions to allow all children & adults regardless of age, size, ability or disability to circulate and use the Playground with ease?
- **Age friendly and disability friendly measures** should be incorporated into the overall design and layout of public open spaces, such as the provision of appropriate information, suitable path surfaces and seating at appropriate intervals or other types of rest stops.
- Facilities, equipment and information materials should be accessible for all regardless of age or ability.

Safety

- Public open space should feel safe to the user and have adequate supervision by way of passive surveillance (e.g. windows overlooking the space; footpaths, cycleways and streets running through or beside the space, etc.).
- Smaller parks and open spaces should be visible from and accessible to the maximum number of residential units.
- Boundary treatment, public lighting and planting should be designed carefully to create a sense of security and to avoid opportunities for anti-social behaviour.
- Access points to parks should be maximised to increase use and thereby improve safety.
- Inhospitable and inaccessible open space comprising narrow tracts, backlands, incidental or 'left-over' strips of land should be designed out of all schemes.
- Incidental areas of open space will not be accepted as part of functional open space for the purposes of public open space provision calculations.

3.11 Children's Play Space and Teenspaces

Providing facilities for children and young people is especially important as it offers opportunities for play and physical activity, and this helps with the development of movement and social skills. Provision for children consists of equipped play areas and specialised provision for young people, including natural playspaces, skate parks, multi-use games areas (MUGAs) and Teenspaces.



Creative natural play

The national policies which underpin the need to develop high-quality play spaces include:

- National Play Policy 'Ready, Steady, Play', Department of Health and Children, 2004.
- Teenspace - The National Recreation Policy for Young People (2007).
- Better Outcomes Brighter Futures: The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2014-2020.

- National Strategy On Children And Young People's Participation In Decision-Making 2015-2020
- Healthy Ireland - A Framework for a Framework for Improved Health and Well Being 2013-2025.

South Dublin County Council has several existing programmes and strategies relevant to children's play, including the Teenspace Programme (2021), Sports Pitch Strategy (2020), and an innovative Play Space Programme (2014-2020) which has delivered natural play spaces in parks and open spaces at locations close to residential areas throughout the County.

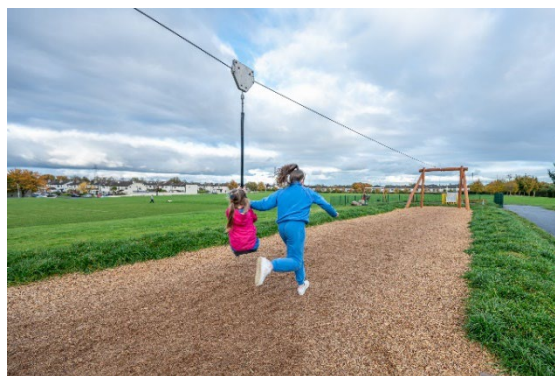
The Council requires children's play areas to be provided as an integral part of the design of new residential and mixed-use developments, to be addressed as part of a landscape plan. The Development Plan sets out minimum requirements for provision of play facilities



Bancroft Park Teenspace

Suitable provision for teenagers should be considered in the context of the Council's Teenspace Programme (2021), and as set out in the Development Plan.

SDCC will continue to design and provide inclusive playgrounds, teenspaces and playspaces in South Dublin County Council and require same to be delivered within private developments where appropriate, in accordance with the Principles of Universal Design (set out above).



Killinniny Playspace

3.12 Other Park Visitor Facilities

Visitor Facilities

The provision of adequate facilities within parks is required to ensure a pleasant visitor experience. The requirement for facilities can vary depending on the park location and the function and types of use within the park.

Markets and Events

Outdoor markets are becoming increasingly popular in Corkagh and Tymon Parks. During Summer, Urban Picnic host an outdoor food and craft market in Corkagh Park with live entertainment, while every Saturday Tymon Park Dublin Market Events host a food and craft market also with live entertainment. These events increase visitor numbers enliven the parks and increase dwell time and enjoyment. The Council will seek to actively provide these, and similar events going forward.



Tymon Park Market

Car Parking

Parking is provided as required at regional parks and some of the larger Neighbourhood parks. As most of the parks serve their local catchment area parking is not an issue and walking and cycling is encouraged to neighbourhood, local and small parks. Provision for additional car parking will be assessed on a case-by-case basis and accessible car parking will be provided where required.



Tymon Park Limekiln Carpark

Public Toilets

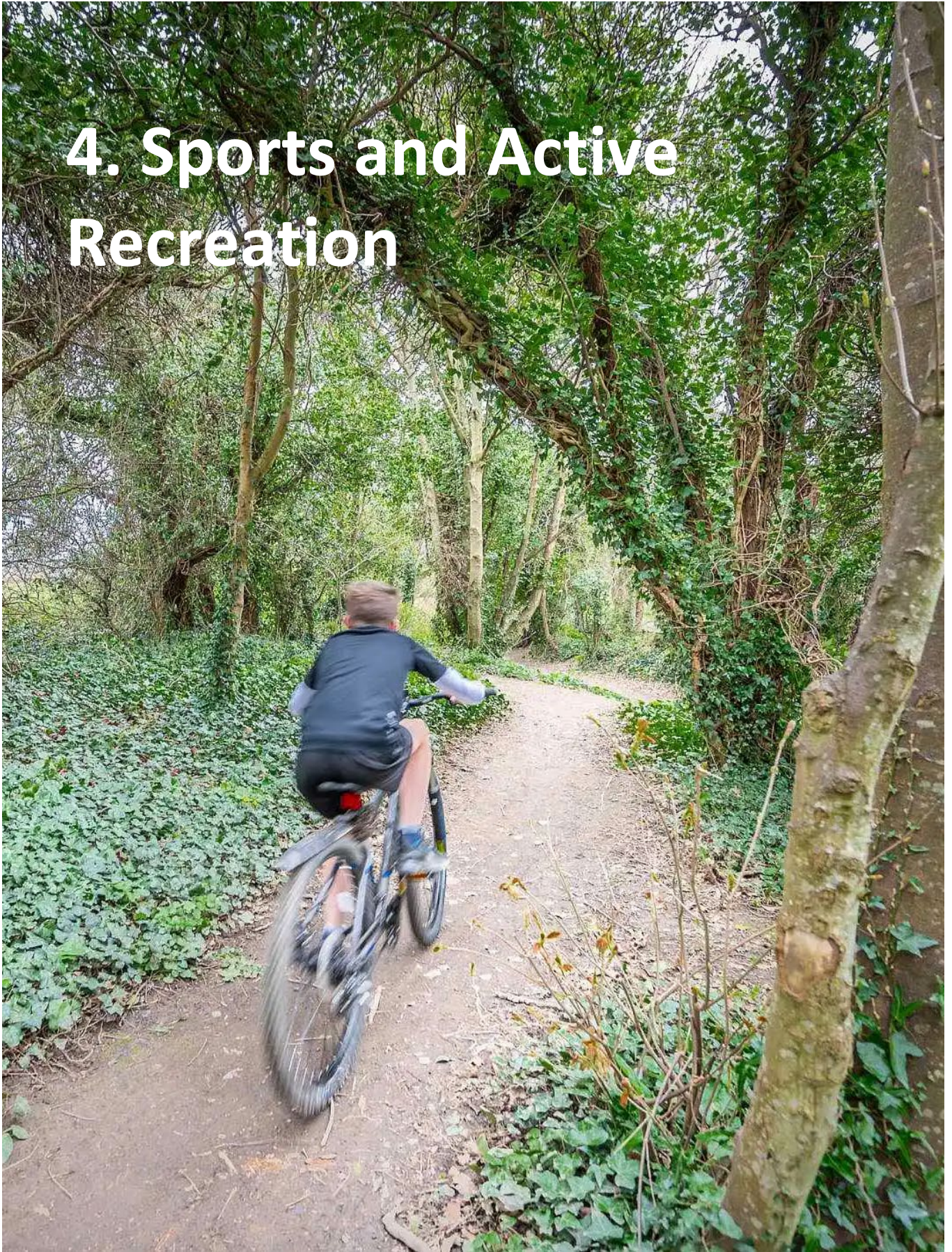
The provision of public toilets will ideally be in tandem with the provision of other visitor facilities as outlined above, such as coffee shops or tea rooms. Where this is not feasible, the provision of toilets in other supervised locations or in partnership with adjacent community centres, will be considered.

Cafés, Tea Rooms and Restaurants

SDCC are implementing small coffee shops and tea rooms in parks throughout the county. A coffee shop with sports changing facilities recently opened in Airlie Park in Adamstown. An Intergenerational Centre is under construction at Tymon Park, with a coffee shop, meeting space / activity area and an outdoor terrace to facilitate intergenerational outdoor use that can interact with the park location. A coffee shop with outdoor plaza, play and picnic area and small event space is also under construction at Corkagh Park. These facilities increase dwell time in the park and provide for toilet facilities in a pleasant, supervised and easy to maintain manner. The council will provide similar facilities in parks and open spaces as feasible.



4. Sports and Active Recreation



4. Sports and Active Recreation

4.1 General Provision

Sports and Active Recreation in Parks and Open Spaces

Parks and open spaces make an important contribution to public health and wellbeing by offering residents both active and passive recreation opportunities that support healthier lifestyles. Parks and open spaces are freely accessible, providing opportunities for people of all ages and income levels to be physically active, socialise and achieve healthy lifestyles. Participation in sport and physical activity can also facilitate the learning of new skills and development of individual and team ability, while the sporting venues can also be used by local clubs to host outdoor community events.

The parks and open spaces of South Dublin need to provide for a wide range of sporting and active recreational uses that suit all age groups and their individual needs and abilities. This includes facilities such as sports pitches, tennis, bowling, exercise equipment, cricket and skateparks. The provision of sports and recreational facilities within SDCC parks and open spaces needs to remain adaptable to the changing needs and requirements of the population and also needs to take cognisance of changing trends and adapt to this where appropriate.

South Dublin County is already well served by many different sports and leisure facilities, ranging from community centres with sports halls and gyms, to running tracks, all-weather pitches and playgrounds. Some examples of high quality recreational and amenity facilities across the county include:

- 3 public sports and leisure centres in Lucan, Clondalkin and Tallaght managed by 3rd parties on behalf of the County Council
- Tallaght Stadium, used for a variety of international, national and community events.
- The National Basketball Arena, used for national and international competitions.
- 4 sporting facilities run in Partnership with Co. Dublin VEC close at Firhouse, Killinarden, Collinstown & Palmerstown.
- Playspaces, playgrounds, all weather pitches & MUGAS (Multi-use games areas).
- Calisthenics and exercise areas
- Ireland's only purpose-built Baseball facility in Corkagh Park.

- Camac Valley Caravan and Camping park
- Public golf facilities at Grange Castle.
- 4 regional parks, over 50 neighbourhood, local and small parks and many open space areas
- 169 public playing pitches for various sporting clubs such as Gaelic Football, Camogie, Hurling, Soccer, Rugby, Cricket, Rounders, Softball and Athletics, serving over 1,000 teams and used by around 19,000 people on a weekly basis.
- Tennis facilities at 8 centres.
- 2 BMX pump tracks at Dodder Valley Park and Jobstown Park
- A purpose-built cycle track at Corkagh Park
- 2 all-weather athletic tracks.
- Skate parks in Lucan and Clondalkin.

The popularity of outdoor exercise has continued to increase significantly and several exercise circuits and calisthenic areas have been installed in parks throughout the County. Running and jogging are also seen as becoming increasingly popular, for example in Tymon Park and Dodder Valley Park, as well as Waterstown, Corkagh and Griffeen Valley Parks, and along the Grand Canal.



Dodder Valley Park Run

However, as noted from consultation during the development of the Parks and Open Space Strategy; the main reasons given by respondents for visiting a park were to exercise and to spend time outdoors, and only a relatively low number used the park to play sports. There is therefore a need to balance areas for active recreation in parks and open spaces such as sports pitches with passive recreation that includes places for relaxation and social interaction and with potential environmental impact.

This is in line with the County's public health objectives and in accordance with the Healthy Ireland Framework (HIF) and the National Physical Activity Plan (NPAP). The NPAP aims to increase physical activity levels across the whole population. It aims to create a society which facilitates people whether at home, at work or at play to lead an active way of life. Action 36 of the NPAP is to:

‘Prioritise the planning and development of walking and cycling and general recreational /physical activity infrastructure’.

The Council recognises the importance of sports facilities for health and wellbeing and is committed to ensuring that all communities have access to a range of such facilities to meet a diversity of needs.

Natural Recreation Resources

In addition to a variety of parks and open spaces providing a wide range of sports and active recreation facilities, South Dublin has access to the outstanding natural resource of the Dublin Mountains (the Rural/Uplands neighbourhood), the important recreational amenity areas of the Grand Canal and the valleys of the River Liffey, and Dodder, together with several smaller river corridors such as the Griffeen, Camac, Poddle and Owendoher Rivers. These areas are identified as significant green corridors and landscape features within the South Dublin County Green Infrastructure (GI) Strategy, as set out in the Development Plan.

The recreational amenities of the Dublin Mountains are supported by the Dodder Greenway corridor connecting Dublin City Centre to Glensamole. The Dublin Mountains Way commences in Sean Walsh Park in Tallaght and extends across the Dublin Mountains to Shankill in Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council. The County Council is committed to supporting local tourism and heritage trails across the Dublin Mountains, with potential identified to link Brittas, Saggart and Rathcoole, and including the significant development of the Dublin Mountains Visitor Centre at Hell Fire and Massy’s Wood (in accordance with permission granted by An Bord Pleanála in June 2020).



Site of the Dublin Mountains Visitor Centre

The Dodder River Valley extends north-eastwards from the Dublin Mountains, passing through the built-up areas of South Dublin County, Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown, and Dublin City, before entering the sea at the Grand Canal Basin in Ringsend. The natural character of the Dodder

Valley and its accessibility from adjoining urban areas is of considerable importance for active and passive recreation. The Dodder Valley Park comprises a series of mostly interconnected public parks along the river, stretching from Kiltipper Park in the west to Rathfarnham in the east. The more recent development of the Dodder Greenway facilitates a walking and cycling route along much of its length.



Dodder Valley Park

The Liffey Valley which runs along the northern boundary of the County is an exceptional asset for the Greater Dublin Area due to its outstanding natural beauty and special recreational value. A Special Amenity Area Order (SAAO) was made for the Liffey Valley by Dublin County Council in 1990 and now straddles the administrative boundaries of South Dublin County Council and Fingal County Council. A section of the river valley is designated as a proposed Natural Heritage Area (pNHA) and the whole river valley is a key element of South Dublin County’s Green Infrastructure Strategy.

It is the policy of the Council (NCBH7 Objective 4) to facilitate and support the development of the Liffey Valley as an interconnected green space and park in collaboration with Dublin City Council, Fingal County Council, Kildare County Council, the OPW and other State agencies, existing landowners, community groups and sectoral and commercial interests in accordance with the Ministerial Order for the Liffey Valley SAOA.

The Grand Canal is an artificial linear waterway acting as a direct national link between the River Shannon and Dublin Bay. The canal provides an uninterrupted recreational corridor for pedestrian and cyclist movement, and opportunities for water-based activities such as fishing, boating, rowing, paddle boarding and canoeing/kayaking. It hosts a rich variety of habitats and plant and animal species (pNHA), including protected species, and is a key element in South Dublin County’s ecological and green infrastructure network.

The Council has plans to develop proposals for the 12th Lock which will further enhance the recreational and amenity of this area.



The Grand Canal

National Outdoor Recreation Strategy

A National Outdoor Recreation Strategy has been developed by Comhairle na Tuaithe (The Countryside Council) in conjunction with the Department of Rural and Community Development.

The strategy provides a vision and an overarching framework for the growth and development of outdoor recreation in Ireland, creating a shared approach for the many strategies, programmes, agencies and elements in Ireland's outdoor recreation sector.

Sport Ireland

Formerly the Irish Sports Council, Sport Ireland is the statutory authority that oversees, and partly funds, the development of sport within Ireland.

Research carried out by Sport Ireland in 2015 into Sport and Physical Activity among those aged over 16 in South Dublin, highlighted that walking, either for recreation or as a form of transport, has very broad appeal to people of every age group, ability and socio-economic background. The report suggested that walking represented the best opportunity to encourage those who are mostly inactive to engage in some physical activity.

The Irish Sports Monitor Report for 2021, focussing on the effects of the Covid-19 Pandemic on sports participation, reinforced the findings of the 2015 research but identified significant fluctuations in physical activity levels:

- Participation rate among adults at 40% in 2021 – 6% decline since 2019.
- Club membership remained broadly stable over the course of the pandemic.
- Activities such as cycling, weights and running see higher levels of participation.
- 54% of adults use technology to measure physical activity, almost twice as many as in 2017 when last measured.

The 2021 Monitor reported that the proportion of Irish adults classified as 'Highly Active' (considered to be meeting the National Physical Activity Guidelines) has increased significantly since 2019, from 34% to 41%. Similarly, the proportion that is sedentary (did not participate in any activity during the past 7 days) was broadly unchanged over the same time-period: (2021: 11%; 2019: 12%).

The change in the nature of sports participation was evident, with indoor and team-based activities negatively impacted by the pandemic restrictions and activities such as cycling, weights and running seeing higher levels of participation.

The socio-economic gradients in sport also widened during the pandemic, with those in employment, of higher socio-economic status and with higher levels of education significantly more likely to be involved in sport and physical activity.

South Dublin County Sports Partnership (SDCSP)

The SDCSP is one of a national network of 29 Local Sports Partnerships set up by the Sport Ireland to actively promote increased participation in sport and physical activity across the entire community, with a particular emphasis on those who are less active.

Within South Dublin, the Sports Office deliver programmes that target groups within local communities and the general public across the county. The main aims are to promote sports development, recreational opportunities, increase physical activity levels, promote the importance of play and encourage healthy lifestyle changes.

Initiatives include the South Dublin County Primary Schools Cross Country Events; family mountain walks; a School Swim Programme; Marathon Kids and sports inclusion camps throughout the year. The Sports Office also support and assist with the Sports Capital Grant programme, as well as the OWLS programme (Outdoor, wildlife, learning and survival) and the installation of Fairy Walks in the natural environment.

Active South Dublin Plan 2023-2028 (SDCC's Local Sports Plan):

SDCC has developed a Local Sport & Physical Activity Plan for the county for the period 2023-2028. Titled “Active South Dublin” the plan stems from Action 8 of the National Sports Policy 2018-2017 which seeks all local authorities to develop local sports plans. South Dublin County Council was the first local authority nationwide to achieve this aim.

The plan includes many ambitious objectives and actions in areas such as participation opportunities, facility development, club support and leader training, to support and motivate every citizen in the county, regardless of age, background or ability, to lead active healthy lives.

Guidance on Provision

Open space	
Parks and gardens <ul style="list-style-type: none"> minimum of 0.80 hectares per 1000 people (8 metres squared per person) 	
Amenity green space <ul style="list-style-type: none"> minimum of 0.60 hectares per 1000 people (6 metres squared per person) 	
Natural and semi-natural <ul style="list-style-type: none"> minimum of 1.8 hectares per 1000 people (18 metres squared per person) 	
Outdoor sports	
Outdoor sport pitches, courts and greens, tracks and trails <ul style="list-style-type: none"> minimum of 1.6 hectares per 1000 people (16 metres squared per person) (consisting of 1.2 hectares sport pitches, 0.4 hectares courts, greens, tracks, trails or sports equipment) within 1200 metres walking distance from homes 	
Play space	
Equipped designated play areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> minimum of 0.25 hectares per 1000 people (2.5 metres squared per person), Local Areas of Play (LAPs) within 100 metres, Local Equipped Areas of Play LEAPs within 400 metres and Neighbourhood Equipped Areas of Play (NEAPS) within 1000 metres walking distances from homes 	
Informal play provision <ul style="list-style-type: none"> minimum of 0.30 hectares per 1000 people (3 metres squared per person) distributed throughout a development, larger facilities such as Multi Use Games Areas (MUGA) or pump tracks within 700 metres walking distance from homes 	
Total open space: minimum of 3.2 hectares per 1000 people (32 metres squared per person) Total outdoor sports: minimum of 1.6 hectares per 1000 people (16 metres squared per person)	Total play space: minimum of 0.55 hectares per 1000 people (5.5 metres squared per person) Overall total: minimum of 5.35 hectares per 1000 population (53.5 metres squared per person)

Figure 4.1: Fields in Trust (2024) recommended benchmark guidelines – Total Open Space

Although there are no accepted standards for Sports and Active Recreation provision in Ireland, the report ‘Planning & Design for Outdoor Sport & Play’ by the UK’s Fields in Trust (FiT) Organisation provides general guidance on quantitative provision and accessibility thresholds. The document recommends a standard of 1.20ha per 1,000 population of playing pitches in urban areas, located within a distance of 1,200m (15-minute walk).

The FiT standards provide a useful reference point for comparing provision between different areas, but local considerations also need to be considered when assessing the adequacy of existing and future provision for outdoor sports and active recreation (e.g. local league rules, the presence of synthetic turf pitches, pitch quality, pitch capacity, standard of changing provision etc).

The guiding principles in undertaking the Sports and Active Recreation assessment in South Dublin are:

- Local needs will vary between the local authority neighbourhoods according to socio-demographic and cultural characteristics.
- The provision of good quality recreational open space relies on effective planning, but also on creative design, community involvement, landscape management and maintenance.
- Delivering high quality and sustainable open spaces may depend more on improving and enhancing existing open space rather than new provision.
- The value of recreational open space is concerned with meeting identified local needs and the wider benefits they generate for people, wildlife and the environment.

The Council is also committed to continued improvement of quality and provision of sports and active recreation facilities through implementation of this Parks and Open Spaces Strategy, the Teenspace Programme (2021) and the Sports Pitch Strategy (2020), and any superseding strategies.

Active South Dublin's Strategic Plan 2023-28 includes many ambitious objectives and actions in areas such as participation opportunities, facility development, club support and leader training, to support and motivate every citizen in the county, regardless of age, background or ability, to lead active healthy lives. The plan identified a specific action to evaluate existing and projected sporting and recreational requirements for the County to inform future developments.



KEY ACTION

- The Council will carry out an audit of sports and active recreation infrastructure within the county to contribute ensuring adequate provision of sports and active recreation facility delivery in parks and open spaces for existing and projected populations in the county in line with the County's Sports Plan; Active South Dublin 2023-2028 or any superseding plans.

4.2 Sports and Leisure Centres

Some Sports and Leisure Centres currently operating in or close to South Dublin parks and public open spaces include:

- Clondalkin Leisure Centre - swimming pool, gym and café.
- Fettercairn Horse Project - a community based horse riding and training centre in Tallaght providing public and private horse riding lessons, and equine assisted learning and therapy.

- Clondalkin Equine Centre
- Jobstown All Weather pitch, Tallaght – full size all weather pitch for hire by local community teams and groups.
- Lucan Leisure Centre, Griffeen Valley Park - sports hall, gym and creche.
- Tallaght Leisure Centre - swimming pool, gym and café.
- The Arena at Tallaght, formerly known as the National Basketball Arena.

It is a policy of the Council (COS4: Sports Facilities and Centres) to ensure that all communities are supported by a range of sporting facilities that are fit for purpose, accessible and adaptable.



Clondalkin Leisure Centre

4.3 Field Sports/Playing Pitches

South Dublin County Council currently has 169 public playing pitches for various sporting clubs such as Gaelic Football, Camogie, Hurling, Soccer, Rugby, Cricket, Rounders, Softball and Athletics, serving over 1,000 teams. Some 19,000 people use these pitches on a weekly basis. In addition, there are around 57 pitches associated with schools, and 86 club and private/commercial pitches.

The Council-operated playing pitches are mostly located within the Regional, Neighbourhood and Local Parks, and generally well-distributed between the different neighbourhoods of the County. New facilities have been planned for areas of population growth, as included in Local Area Plans for Fortunestown, Ballycullen, Newcastle and in the SDZ areas.

The allocation of public playing pitches/sport facilities is granted by the Council on a year-to-year basis, subject to the allocation policy terms and conditions.



Cricket in Tymon Park

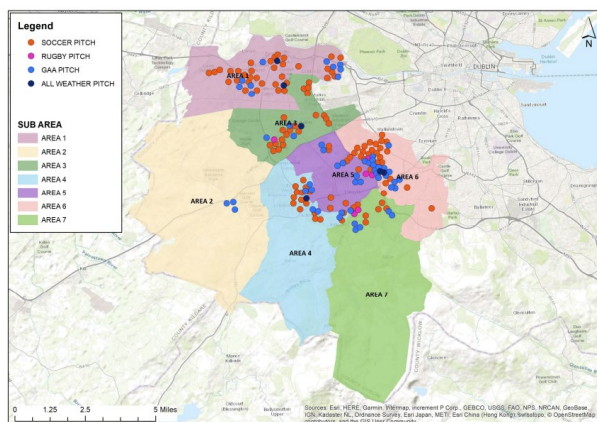


Figure 4.2: Council Owned and Operated Sites within South Dublin, from Sports Pitch Strategy (Map 1.2)

In terms of accessibility, 15-minutes is considered by FiT 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 group of playing pitches in South Dublin indicates that the county is well catered for as shown by Figure below.

South Dublin's Sports Pitch Strategy (SPS)

South Dublin's Sports Pitch Strategy 2020-2035 (SPS) examined the provision of GAA, soccer, rugby, cricket and hockey pitches in the county as well as the provision of athletics tracks.

The assessment methodology adopted for the SDCC Sports Pitch Strategy (2020) follows the published guidance from Sport England, 'Sports Pitch Strategy Guidance – An Approach to Developing and Delivering a Sports Pitch Strategy' (2013).

It mapped the future need for pitches in the county based on Team Generation Rates and identified a deficit of grass pitch provision in the county.

This is a particular need that is difficult to meet due to the large footprint of grass pitches. The SPS outlines a number of actions to ensure adequate access to pitches across the lifetime of the strategy, but provision of new and adequately sized pitches is also required.

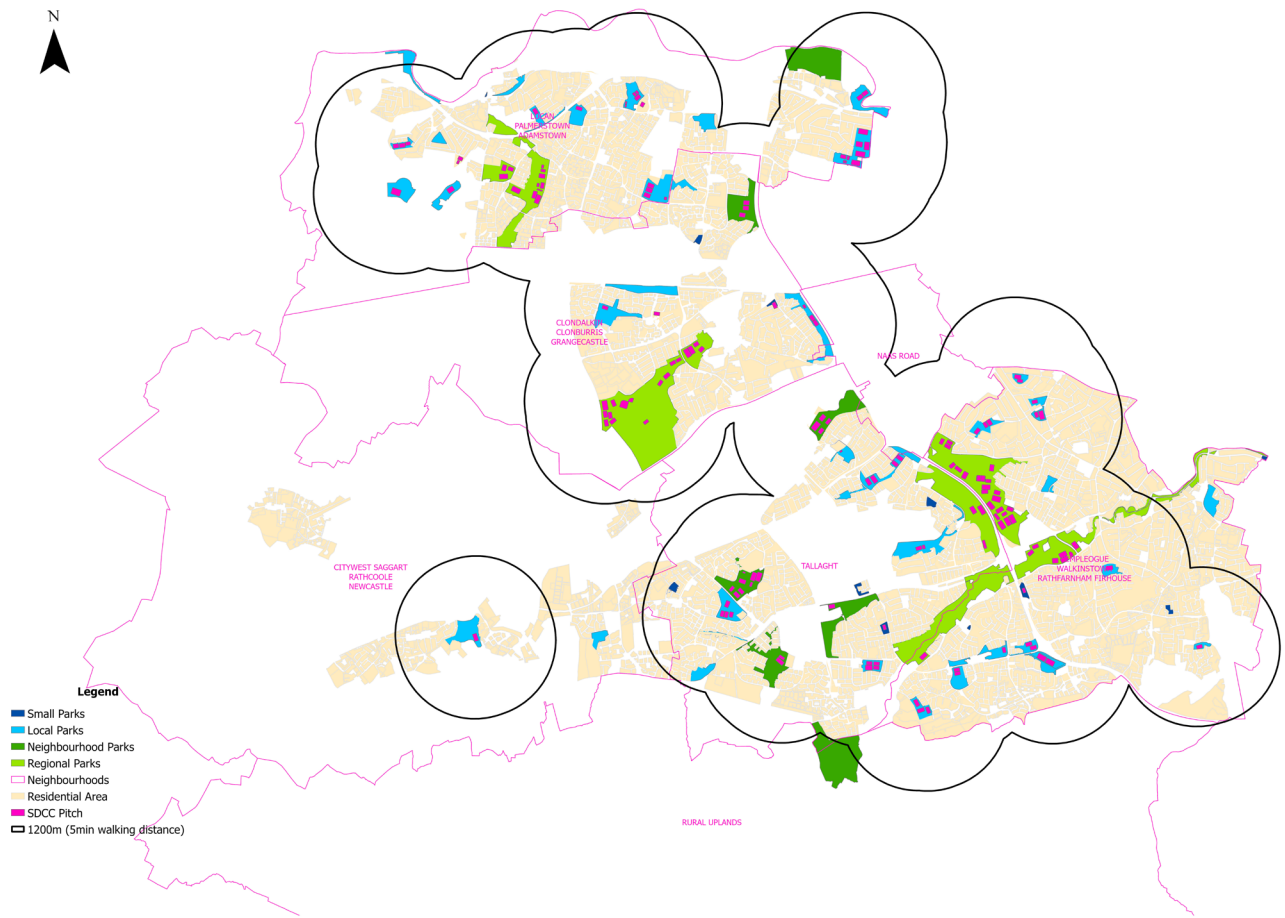


Figure 5.3: Accessibility of existing playing pitches in South Dublin



Tymon Park



Tymon Park



Lucan Athletics Track

All Weather Pitch and Training Facilities

Artificial Grass Pitches (AGP's) can be a particularly effective way of increasing the capacity of sites for matches and training, as well as providing ancillary facilities as required to maximise use of the site and to meet the needs of local clubs and teams. The benefits of AGP pitches include:

- Providing all weather, year-round facilities.
- Providing pitch capacity to meet increased population growth in higher density/ urban locations.
- Meeting demand for increased match play.
- Meeting demand for training provision.
- Removing training pressure from grass pitches with resultant higher standard of grass pitch



Sean Walsh Park 3G Artificial Grass Pitch

Each AGP needs to be located within a travel time of 20 minutes to ensure ease of accessibility from surrounding areas and to optimise use of the facility. The site also needs to be suitable for the purpose, over-looked by other uses and within a catchment area that encourages walking or cycling to the facility.

The Sports Pitch Strategy recommends the provision of AGPs to help cater for pitch demand and meet training need and plans to provide 5 AGPs across the county.

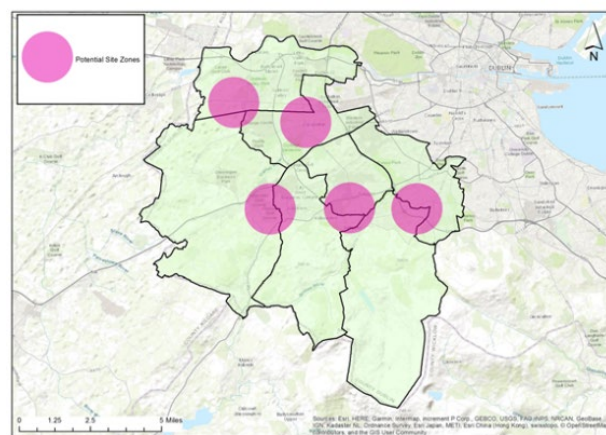


Figure 5.4: Potential AGP site zones

Supporting Facilities

Supporting facilities provided within public parks are linked to sports pitch use to allow for future proofing of provision and efficient allocation of facilities. Facilities are not limited to a particular club or sport and remain available to the County Council.

The provision of all ancillary facilities is subject to funding and may be sourced through sports capital grants and large-scale infrastructure grants. Sport Governing Body or club contributions can also be facilitated.

A County Council programme for new state of the art pavilion changing and storage facilities has been developed and agreed for several parks throughout the County. The provision of changing facilities is based on:

- The size of the open space and number of pitches accommodated, numbers of teams, players, clubs/community groups to be accommodated and evidence of need.

The pavilions will be available to hire through an online booking system

Following an audit of all the Council's pitches and sports facilities, and having regard to the level of mixed usage at each location, the following programme of pavilion provision has been agreed for delivery commencing in 2025:

- Griffeen Valley Park
- Corkagh Park
- Tymon Park (West of M50)
- Dodder Valley Park Mt Carmel
- Griffeen Valley Park (Arthur Griffith Park)
- Collinstown Park
- Kilnamanagh
- Sean Walsh Park
- Kiltipper Park
- Willbrook Park



Sports pavilion operated by South Dublin County Council

Generally, external storage facilities are provided in high usage areas with several clubs and pitches. In larger parks with new pavilions, some storage is provided in new changing rooms or within a fenced-off area adjacent to a pavilion. In open spaces without pavilions/changing rooms or with pitches distant from pavilions: railed off areas for storage of heavy-duty pitch infrastructure, e.g. goalposts etc. are considered. The use of unsightly containers in parks is being phased out and replaced with storage associated with new pavilion provision or storage compounds. As replacement provision occurs, containers will be removed from the parks and open spaces. It is necessary for all storage areas to be in well-overlooked locations with adequate passive surveillance.



KEY ACTIONS

- Continue to Implement the Sports Pitch Strategy under the 5 headings set out below:
- Continue the intensive annual maintenance regime for existing pitches and implement capital investment to upgrade existing pitches to improve match play equivalents
- Implement the pitch allocation policy to support increased use; including pitch sharing and multipurpose use of facilities and monitor use of pitches to prevent damage to existing facilities.
- Reserve the ability to change configuration of pitches.
- Provide new pitches to meet capacity issues and maintain flexibility in design
- Provide 5 Artificial Grass Pitches across the county to augment long term capacity and meet training need
- Continue to provide ancillary facilities as required to support active sports within South Dublin's Parks and Open Spaces, including the continuing implementation of the Sports Pavillion Programme

4.4 Other Recreational Provision

Facilities for other sports and active recreational pursuits are located throughout South Dublin and include: tennis, golf courses/pitch and putt, fitness trails and outdoor gyms, cycling, bowls, boules, skateparks, archery, dog runs and fairy/tree trails etc.

Such facilities generally occur where significant local interest arises and will continue to be developed on a case by case basis as needs arise and can be assessed.

Tennis

The County Council operates several public tennis courts in parks throughout South Dublin, with the main centres being Dodder Valley Park, Airlie Park and Beechfield.

The tennis and basketball courts in Dodder Valley Park have recently been upgraded to provide two full-size basketball courts to International Basketball Federation standards and three tennis courts to International Tennis Federation standards. The tennis courts offer one of the few free spaces to play tennis in Tallaght and have been located in the park since its early development.

Most tennis in the county is provided via private clubs such as in Templeogue, which is one of Ireland's largest private tennis facilities.

The local authority's objective, in association with Tennis Ireland, is to increase the accessibility to this sport throughout South Dublin where demand is demonstrated



Basketball Courts at Dodder Valley Park-Old Bawn

Golf

South Dublin has a good selection of high-quality golfing facilities, such as Newlands Golf Club (Belgard Road), Citywest Resort Golf Club, and Slade Valley and Beech Park

Golf Clubs (Rathcoole), as well as easy access to a range of clubs in adjoining local authority areas.

Grange Castle Golf Course in Clondalkin is owned by the County Council, and managed, operated, and maintained by a 3rd party. It is primarily a 'pay and play' facility set amid the backdrop of the picturesque Dublin Mountains and strategically designed around lakes and a number of streams. The Club was affiliated to Golf Ireland in 2002 and has a combined membership of approximately 790 (ladies, gents, juniors), and continues to mature into a top golfing destination.



Grange Castle Golf Course

Fitness trails and Outdoor Gyms

The popularity of outdoor exercise has continued to increase significantly throughout South Dublin and there are several exercise circuits and outdoor gyms in most of the Regional Parks. Outdoor exercise equipment was installed in 2012 on both sides of Tymon Park to cater for adult exercise needs, and there is similar provision in Dodder Valley Park, as well as Waterstown Park, Corkagh Park and Griffeen Valley Park (x 2), Beechfield Park, Glendown, Rathcoole Park and Greenhills Park

Fitness trails and outdoor gyms also exist or are being introduced to many of the Neighbourhood parks, such as Killinarden and Collinstown Parks. Waterstown Park has a 5km track used for walking, jogging and cycling.

Corkagh Park has an extensive list of annual events including free summer fitness classes (Park Fit and Park Yoga) twice weekly throughout August, in partnership with Dublin's Outdoors, Cifit & Sacred Spaced. The events consist of body weight exercises in a fun and friendly environment and yoga suited for all abilities.

Ireland's first purpose-built calisthenics and functional workout area was installed in Tymon Park, and similar facilities are now available in Knockmitten and calisthenics cross bar units are available in Ballycragh Park and

Collinstown Park. The aim of the installations is to empower people to create healthy habits, allowing them to improve their own physical and mental well-being through exercising in a public space.

This event is 18+ and pre booking is essential. Places are limited. For further info contact fit@sdscsp.ie

FREE SUMMER FITNESS

Corkagh Park (St. John's entrance)

Park Fit
Tuesdays, 6:30 – 7:30pm
July 21st to August 25th

Park Yoga
Thursdays, 6:30 – 7:30pm
July 23rd to August 27th

Get Outdoors · Get Active · Have Fun
A perfect excuse in a perfect setting!

Sign up through Eventbrite on our Facebook page @SDCSP

Online registration required to ensure adherence to COVID19 safety guidelines.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

Dublin's Outdoors, Sacred Space, Cifit, sdscsp South Dublin County Sports Partnership

Corkagh Park fitness programme

Parkour has been introduced into South Dublin's parks as part of the teenspace programme and is proving popular.

The County Council plan to extend this facility to other parks in the administrative area as funding allows.



Tymon Park calisthenics workout

Cycling

South Dublin parks are a pedestrian priority environment; and the use of bicycles is permitted subject to careful use and consideration for other park users. A maximum speed limit of 20kph applies to all such vehicles except for areas designated for cycle training and races by prior agreement with the Council. However, bicycle users must yield to other vulnerable users, including pedestrians.

In recognition of the increasing importance of making cycling a realistic and integral part of how people move around the County, Cycle South Dublin is an ambitious programme that aims to make South Dublin one of Ireland's most cycle friendly counties.

This entails providing a comprehensive and connected cycle network across South Dublin, making cycling a more achievable mode of transport for all adults and children and complementing the National Transport Authority (NTA) 'Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network Plan' (2013).

The network includes connecting many parks and open spaces to each other and to the built-up areas of the County. Completed projects include the Dodder Greenway which will link Bohernabreena to Grand Canal Docks in Dublin City via the many parks and open spaces along the Dodder. Other projects associated with parks and open spaces include a new Whitestown Stream Greenway through Killinarden Park linking with other existing and future cycle routes on the N81 and Greenways from Whitestown Way to Sean Walsh Park and forming part of a wider scheme extending between Citywest and Rathfarnham.

'Later' park-related projects to be delivered as part of the Cycle South Dublin programme include:

- Corkagh Park to Grand Canal
- Clondalkin Village to Grand Canal
- Canal Loop to Celbridge Road-
- Griffeen Valley Park to Celbridge Link Road via Esker Road
- Bancroft Park
- Tymon to Greenhills Park

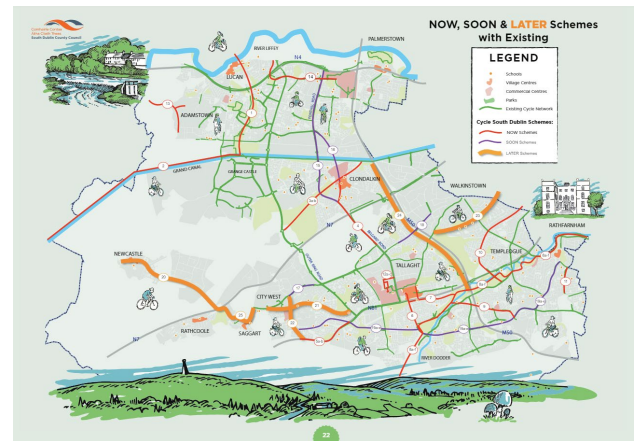


Figure 5.5: Cycle South Dublin 'Now, Soon & Later Schemes'

Ireland's only purpose-built cycle track is located in Corkagh Park, providing a safe, traffic free, environment in which to learn skills, improve fitness, train and race. The track is available for booking and free to use by Cycling Ireland members and members of the public during non-booked slots.



Corkagh Park Women's Race Series

South Dublin's first BMX pump track was completed in Dodder Valley Park Mt Carmel and is hugely popular. A similar facility was completed at Jobstown Park as part of the park upgrade in 2024 and a third facility is planned for Carrigmore Park, subject to funding.

Cycling in South Dublin parks is welcomed as a means for promoting sustainable travel, providing safe routes to school and for the general enjoyment of park users; enabling access for bicycles requires careful consideration to ensure that it does not inadvertently lead to illegal access of other vehicles that could be a nuisance to park users.

Bowls and Boules

The parks and open spaces of South Dublin also cater for less physically demanding types of recreation, such as lawn bowls and boules. Although South Dublin generally has a young age profile, particularly within the areas of population growth, there is an increasing number of older people living in the County, with a 34% increase in people aged 65 and over since the 2011 census.

The provision for lawn bowls in South Dublin City is currently limited to the Greenhills Outdoor Bowling Club, located adjacent to the northern edge of Greenhills Park, which was established in 2009.

The provision of new outdoor bowls areas in parks will be considered by the County Council subject to demand and the formation of a club that will use the facility.



Greenhills Outdoor Bowling Club

Boules/Petanque requires the provision of a gravel piste or playing surface which can be easily introduced to most parks and open spaces where demand exists. The game can be played informally or through clubs organised by the Irish Petanque Association. In 2023 an extended boules/petanque court was provided in Griffeen Valley Park and a 2nd court was proved at Tymon Park in 2024.

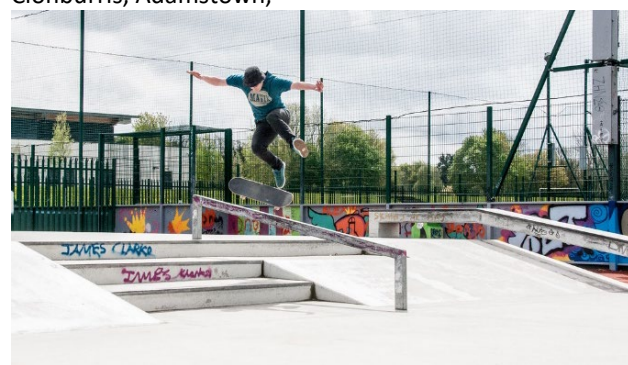
Skateparks

South Dublin's two main skateparks are located at Lucan, within Griffeen Valley Park (adjoining Lucan Leisure Centre), and Clondalkin (adjoining Clondalkin Leisure Centre).

The County Council will seek to provide additional skateparks in the county. The following areas will be considered in particular: Tallaght, Rathfarnham, Clonburris, Adamstown,



Griffeen Valley Park Boules Court



Clondalkin skatepark

Archery

Greenhills Archers is predominantly an indoor target archery club, as well as hosting occasional outdoor tournaments. Unlike most other sports, archery is all-inclusive and can be enjoyed by anyone of any age or ability. Based in Tallaght Sports Complex and founded in 1982, the club currently opens 1 day a week (Wednesday evenings).



Greenhills Archers outdoor tournament

Fairy and Tree Trails

Fairy Trails have recently been developed by Clondalkin-based company 'The Irish Fairy Door Company'. Lucan Demesne (home to seventeen woodland fairies) is the third such free activity trail in South Dublin, with the others being at Corkagh Park and Tymon Park.



Tymon Park Fairy Trail

The County Council has also created tree trails through a number of parks in South Dublin, including two Ogham stone trails in the Dodder Valley Park and Sean Walsh Park, to encourage exploration of the natural landscape and introduce people to Ireland's native trees.

The recently completed Ogham Stone native Irish Tree Trail at Dodder Valley Park Mount Carmel enhances both the visual and ecological value of the Dodder Valley Park, as well as offering an educational aspect. The planting of native trees along the new tree trail promotes and enhances the amenity and ecological value of the park while the distinctive Ogham Stone signage allows visitors to identify and name the trees.



Ogham stone on the Dodder Valley Park tree trail



5. Parks and Open Space Provision

5.1 Public Open Space Provision in South Dublin

South Dublin has a wide variety of parks and open spaces distributed predominately throughout the built-up parts of the County. The population of South Dublin County also has access to extensive areas of open space to the south (Dublin Mountains) as well as to parks within adjoining Local Authority areas. St. Enda's Park is an important park in the Rathfarnham area that is under the able management of the Office of Public Works and is a significantly sized park in this neighbourhood, providing a key green infrastructure link along the Whitechurch Stream and providing access to amenity and recreation for the local community there.

The Dublin Mountains, the Grand Canal, and the valleys of the River Liffey, Camac and Dodder are areas of important heritage and significant amenity value, not just for South Dublin County but for the Greater Dublin Area as a whole. These areas are also identified as significant green corridors and landscape features within the South Dublin County Green Infrastructure (GI) Strategy.

In addition, the County Council are responsible for the management of extensive areas of open space, such as roadside verges, housing estate green areas, children's play areas and incidental areas.

South Dublin County Council has several existing strategies and plans relevant to public open space, parks and recreation, including the Teenspace Programme, Sports Pitch Strategy, and an innovative Playspace Programme, which has delivered natural playspaces in parks and open spaces at locations close to residential areas throughout the County.

As set out in the Development Plan (Chapter 8), South Dublin County Council has five basic principles guiding open space provision:

Hierarchy

The Public Open Space Hierarchy sets out the rationale for the existing and planned parks and open space network for the County, identifying the range of functions at each level in the hierarchy. The open space typology is a key element of the green infrastructure network, which connects and forms green corridor linkages across the County.

Environmental Sustainability

Public open space provision should contribute to the wider planning and Green Infrastructure vision for the County, including creating sustainable communities, promotion of biodiversity, sustainable water management, carbon sequestration and climate action objectives.

Quantity

Sufficient quantities of public open space and recreational facilities shall be provided to meet the needs of existing communities and any future population within the lifetime of the Development Plan.

Accessibility

Open space and recreational facilities should be designed and located to be publicly accessible by sustainable transport means such as walking, cycling and public transport, depending on the type of open space within the hierarchy. Facilities should be designed to ensure access for all ages and abilities.

Quality

Public open space should provide for active and passive recreation and should enhance the identity and amenity of an area having regard to the need to conserve biodiversity. It should be designed to be fit for purpose, with appropriate facilities and be easy to access, safe, and appropriately managed and maintained. Different types of open space within the hierarchy perform different functions and provide different levels of facilities.



Rathcoole Park

Existing Parks in South Dublin

Ref.	Location	Area (ha)
	Regional Parks	
R1	Tymon Park	128.83
R2	Dodder Valley Park	118.31
R3	Corkagh/Clondalkin Park	132.83
R4	Griffeen Valley Park	69.19
	Total Regional Parks	449.16
	Neighbourhood Parks	
N1	Kiltipper Park	45.87
N2	Waterstown Park	34.09
N3	Sean Walsh Park	21.86
N4	Ballymount Park	21.15
N5	Killinarden Park	20.81
N6	Butler McGee Park	20.67
N7	Collinstown Park	20.20
	Total Neighbourhood Parks	184.65
	Local Parks	
L1	Bancroft Park	18.00
L2	Glenaulin Park	17.58
L3	Kilnamanagh Park	15.52
L4	Rathcoole Park	14.21
L5	Ballyowen Park	13.82
L6	Jobstown Park	13.34
L7	Knockmitten Park	13.07
L8	St. Cuthberts Park	12.72
L9	Grand Canal Park	10.94
L10	Airlie Park	10.64
L11	Stewarts Hospital	10.29
L12	Knocklyon Park	10.08
L13	Hermitage Park	8.28
L14	Firhouse Community Centre Park	8.11
L15	Lucan Demesne	8.08
L16	Ballycragh Park	7.16
L17	Greenhills Park	7.13
L18	Willsbrook Park	6.97
L19	Rathfarnham Castle Park	6.80
L20	Tandy's Lane Park	6.71
L21	Kingswood Park	6.71

Ref.	Location	Area (ha)
L22	Quarryvale Park	6.55
L23	Allenton Park	5.95
L24	Kiltalown Park	5.49
L25	Aylesbury Park	5.15
L26	Castlefield Park	4.72
L27	Beech Park	4.67
L28	Elkwood Park	4.27
L29	Carrigmore Park	4.26
L30	Whitestown Stream Park	3.39
L31	Airlie Heights	3.68
L32	Rowlagh Park	3.48
L33	Orwell Park	3.47
L34	Sarsfield Park	3.29
L35	Beechfield Park	3.14
L36	Greentrees Park	3.04
L37	Avondale Terrace Park	2.97
L38	Hillcrest Park	2.35
L39	Whitechurch Park	2.06
	Total Local Parks	298.09
	Small Parks	
S1	Delaford Park	1.92
S2	Bradys Field	1.91
S3	Brookview Park	1.80
S4	Tymonville Park	1.73
S5	Castle Park Clondalkin	1.69
S6	West Park	1.42
S7	Neilstown Park	1.16
S8	Glendoher Park	1.11
S9	Elys Arch Park	0.39
S10	Firhouse Village Park	0.25
S11	Lucan Town Park	0.12
	Total Small Parks	13.50
	Total Parks Area	945.40

Table 5.1: Existing Parks in South Dublin County managed by South Dublin County Council

5.2 Parks and Public Open Space Hierarchy

It is the policy of the Development Plan that a hierarchical network of high-quality open space is available to those who live, work and visit the County, providing for both passive and active recreation, and that the resource offered by public open spaces, parks and playing fields is maximised through effective management.

The County's hierarchy of publicly owned and managed parks and open spaces are important recreational destinations for residents and visitors at the local, neighbourhood and regional level.

County Development Plan Policy H8: Public Open Space aims to:

Ensure that all residential development is served by a clear hierarchy and network of high quality public open spaces that provide for active and passive recreation and enhances the visual character, identity and amenity of the area.

The public open space hierarchy outlined in Table 1.2 reflects the key characteristics of the existing parks and open space network within the County and sets out a framework for future provision identifying the range of functions at each level in the hierarchy.



Kingswood Teenspace

Type	Key Features	Size and Function
Regional Parks*	Containing natural heritage, built heritage or cultural features and visitor facilities. Activities may include formal and informal children's play areas, walkways and cycleways, seating and passive recreation areas, playing pitches (including all-weather pitches), and changing rooms, running tracks and allotments. They should be easily accessed by public transport and cycling, with adequate provision of bicycle and car parking. Regional Parks form a key element of the County level strategic green infrastructure (GI) network, contributing to important green corridors passing through urban areas and connecting to rural and upland areas.	Between 100 to 200ha in area. Generally serving areas within a 5km radius, while also catering for users across the County and as a destination for tourists. Typically, there should be a Regional Park located within 5km of all homes in the County.
Neighbourhood Parks	Accessible by pedestrians and cyclists and containing a wide variety of facilities and uses, including playing pitches, and changing rooms relating to outdoor facilities and activities, play facilities, outdoor gyms, walking and cycling routes. They can incorporate a range of GI features, such as marshlands, meadow parklands, and community gardens, and informal biodiversity rich planting areas.	Ranging in size from approximately 20 to 50ha (and occasionally up to 100ha), and serving a neighbourhood catchment within 800m.
Local Parks	Providing mostly for local amenity and passive recreation, although some may have playing pitches and play equipment. Primarily consisting of improved grassland but with considerable opportunities for contributing to the local level GI network through a wide range of biodiversity enhancement schemes.	Range in size from approx. 2 and 20ha and serving a local population within a 400m catchment. Located near homes and thereby easily accessible by pedestrians and cyclists.
Small Parks	Provide mostly for amenity and passive recreation and may incorporate small scale play facilities. GI features tend to be limited, as mostly comprising improved grassland with occasional hedgerows or trees, but with considerable opportunities for strengthening the biodiversity value through local enhancement schemes.	Generally between 0.2 and 2ha and serving an area within 300m catchment of the local neighbourhood population, and immediately accessible by pedestrians and cyclists.
Smaller Residential Open Spaces (Amenity)	Usually provided as smaller areas of amenity green Space within residential developments, but not including grass verges, narrow strips of planting or incidental or 'left over' open space. Comprising informal play/ recreation activities, usually for smaller children and with a visual and social function. Smaller open spaces can serve as stepping-stones within the wider GI network.	Generally, up to 0.2ha (2000sq.m.) in size. All homes should be within 100m of this or similar type of accessible open space. No contributions in lieu are acceptable for provision of this type.
Civic Spaces / Squares**	These important features include civic areas and market squares and other hard surfaced and soft areas. Designed for pedestrian movement and social interaction in urban settings.	Vary in size but mostly less than 0.2ha and serving a local neighbourhood function.

Table 5.2: South Dublin Hierarchy of Parks and Open Space

* An extension to Griffeen Valley Park will be delivered as part of the Clonburris SDZ Scheme.

** These Civic Areas should be a minimum size of 650m²; to allow for multi-functional use and multi-generational activities serving the needs of the community. Areas predominantly used for movement purposes are not considered public open space under this heading.

5.3 Methodology

Following an examination of best practice guidance and information gained from the audit of existing provision; the following standards have been used to develop South Dublin's Parks and Open Space Strategy:

- Quantitative elements (how much provision exists and what will be needed);
- Accessibility (through application of distance thresholds); and
- Qualitative component (against which to measure the need for enhancement of existing facilities).

There are no statutory open space standards for the quantity, accessibility or quality of parks and open space provision in Ireland, so, for the South Dublin Parks and Open Space Strategy the standards applied are based on analysis and implementation of best practice guidance.

The Parks and Open Space Strategy has included the collection and analysis of data utilising GIS techniques to further assess the distribution, accessibility and quantity of existing parks and open spaces, and allowing for the determination of areas in deficit and develop policy on levels of provision.

The Strategy has also been informed by a community consultation process comprising an online public questionnaire to gather local views and perspectives on the quality and quantity of South Dublin's parks. Over 4,000 responses were received and a wide range of views expressed.



Tandy's Lane Park PlaySpace

Quantity of Public Open Space

There are currently 61 public parks distributed throughout the South Dublin urban area, comprising:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| ▪ Regional Parks | 7% |
| ▪ Neighbourhood Parks | 11% |
| ▪ Local Parks | 64% |
| ▪ Small Parks | 18% |

The total area of parks in South Dublin amounts to 945.40ha (almost 5% of the County area), equivalent to around 0.003ha (30sq.m.) per person (3ha per 1000).

St. Enda's Park is an important historic park and landscape managed by the OPW in the Rathfarnham area as part of Pearse Museum, and is a significant amenity and ecological resource, adding it to the total gives a more accurate provision of the quantity of public parks available in the area. It measures 16.5ha which equates to a Local Park.

South Dublin's recently acquired Parco Italia (Lucan House) measures 10.2ha, (equivalent to a Local Park), once it is assessed and prepared it will be open to the public. Adding St. Enda's Park and Parco Italia to the total park area in South Dublin gives an overall total of 972.1ha (almost 5% of the County area), which is equivalent to 0.003ha per person (3ha per 1000).

The World Health Organisation (WHO), recommends that every city provide a minimum of 9m² of urban green space for each person provided that it should be accessible, safe, and functional. WHO suggest that an ideal amount of urban green space can be generously provided as much as 50m² per person (*World Health Organization (2010). Urban Planning, Environment and Health: From Evidence to Policy Action*). This recommendation from the World Health Organisation for ideal provision of urban green space equates to 5ha per 1000 of population.

Best Practice Guidelines from the UK can be found at www.fieldsintrust.org (Fields in Trust (2024), Fields in Trust Standards: Creating great spaces for all) and is generally used by Local Authorities in both the UK and Ireland to generate the required standards for provision of open space and give guidance towards the provision of recreational infrastructure. The standard includes many varieties of open space that can be publicly available, i.e. Forest Parks, open access trails and walks, open access land; not just local authority provided public open space.

Fields in Trust includes a standard provision for multiple types of recreational facilities the public have access to, not just those that are local authority provided; and is notable for requiring a provision of 3.2 hectares per 1000 people of parks, public gardens, amenity greenspace and natural and semi natural open space; with a separate provision for playing fields, courts, greens tracks and trails of 1.6 hectares per 1000 people. With an additional required provision of formal and informal play areas of 0.55hectares per 1000 people; the overall public open space provision is 5.35hectares per 1000 population, which is similar to that recommended by the World Health Organisation. The inclusion of active sports areas as a separate requirement is notable, as these areas are proving increasingly important for health and well being in urban areas while conversely becoming increasingly difficult to provide within compact urban settlements.

Other guidance includes the benchmark figure of 18ha per 10,000 (1.8ha per 1,000) population included in the 1987 'Parks Policy for Local Authorities', and the UK 'Providing Accessible Natural Greenspace in Towns and Cities' (ANGSt) recommendation for 2ha of accessible natural greenspace per 1,000 population.

Given the variation between guidance and the need to provide for local context and need; the generally adopted standard for local authorities in Ireland tends to vary to between 2.0 and 2.5ha per 1000 of population (20-25m² per person).

SDCC's County Development Plan 2022-2028 gives the overall standard for public open space as 2.4 hectares per 1,000 population. This is applied to all developments with a residential element. Within that standard, there are specified percentages (as set out in the table below) which must, as a minimum, be provided on site.

Only in exceptional defined circumstances, as set out in specific objectives within the County Development Plan, will flexibility be provided for.

Land Use	Public Open Space Standards (minimum)
Overall Standard	2.4 Ha per 1,000 Population
New Residential Development on Lands Zone RES-N	Minimum 15% of site area
New Residential Development on Lands in Other Zones including mixed use	Minimum 10% of site area
Institutional Lands / 'Windfall' Sites	Minimum 20% of site area

Figure 5.1: County Development Plan, Public Open Space Standards (Table 8.2)

In relation to existing provision of open space; the geographic distribution and size of parks in South Dublin is not consistent across the county, due mostly to the rapid growth of population experienced in many areas, particularly during more recent years.

The County Development Plan identifies 7 geographical Neighbourhood Areas where key services and facilities were found to be common to particular towns/villages and urban centres within the County. This process has informed and facilitated a more tailored approach to the provision of key services and facilities, including parks and open spaces, as each area grows over the plan period.

The audit of parks and open spaces, undertaken according to these defined neighbourhoods, has identified several differences in the quantity of current and projected future provision across the County.

As indicated in the following table, all neighbourhoods, with the exception of Citywest / Saggart / Newcastle / Rathcoole, and Naas Road, have a quantity of public open space for both current and projected population figures, in line with the target standard of 2.4 ha/1000 population, although the type and quality of provision varies considerably between neighbourhoods.

The quantity standards are intended as minimum guidance levels of provision. Whereas certain neighbourhoods in the county may enjoy levels of provision exceeding minimum standards, this does not mean there is a surplus; as all such provision may be over-used, poorly located / dispersed (e.g., copious small-sized open spaces dispersed across a wide area, which do not allow or easily accommodate provision of (for instance) a large-scale recreational facility), insufficiently accessible or of low quality.

Within the Citywest / Saggart / Newcastle / Rathcoole neighbourhood, the Fortunestown and Newcastle Local Area Plans are expected to deliver some open additional space, however consideration needs to be given to the provision of additional public open space, in particular space to deliver public access to active recreation including public playing fields, sports pitches, courts etc. to meet the needs of the communities there.

Naas Road comprises a strategic location and the planned transformation of this neighbourhood will be facilitated by a strategic masterplan and ultimately a statutory plan, in accordance with key national and regional objectives. A key requirement within the development of those plans will be the provision of adequate amounts of parks and public open space to meet the need of the planned population, including sufficient public open space to deliver public access to active recreation including public playing field, sports pitches, courts etc.

South Dublin will review the requirements for provision of public open space within the City Edge area (Naas Road Neighbourhood) as the planned population numbers are finalised, as part of the development of plans for this area.

Population projections for the Rural Uplands Neighbourhood, are not available, as growth is anticipated to take place through the efficient re-use of existing rural housing stock while also providing for local need through policy set out in the rural settlement strategy section of Chapter 6 of the Development Plan (Housing).

Neighbourhood	POS Type	Area (ha)	Population Current	Population Projected
Citywest Saggart Rathcoole Newcastle	Local	18.47	28,690 people	30,879 people
	Amenity Space	3.33		
	Total POS	21.80	21.80ha (existing)	44.30ha (estimated from plans)
	Target POS		68.86ha	74.11ha
	POS Provision		47.06ha	29.81ha
Clondalkin Clonburris Grange Castle	Regional	132.83	45,364	55,200
	Neighbourhood	20.20		
	Local	40.21		
	Small	2.85		
	Amenity Space	52.79		
	Total POS	248.88	248.88ha	276.48ha (estimated from plans)
	Target POS		108.87ha	132.48ha
	POS Provision		140.01ha	144ha
Lucan Palmerstown Adamstown	Regional	60.98	66,646	68,483
	Neighbourhood	34.09		
	Local	102.90		
	Small	0.12		
	Amenity Space	69.45		
	Total POS	267.54	267.54ha	281.94ha (estimated from plans)
	Target POS		159.95ha	164.36ha
	POS Provision		107.59ha	117.58ha
Naas Road*	None	-	1,303	3,349*
	Target POS		3.13ha	8.03ha*
	POS Provision		3.13ha	8.03ha*
Rural Uplands	Neighbourhood	45.87	3,201	NA
	Total POS	45.87	45.87ha	45.87ha
	Target POS		7.68ha	-
	POS Provision		38.19ha	NA
Tallaght	Regional	109.01	73,959	76,525
	Neighbourhood	84.49		
	Local	70.98		
	Small	6.86		
	Amenity	107.50		
	Total POS	378.84	378.84ha	380.44ha (estimated from plans)
	Target POS		177.50ha	183.66ha
	POS Provision		201.34ha	196.78ha
Templeogue Walkinstown Rathfarnham Firhouse	Regional	199.45	81,912	85,264
	Local	63.99		
	Small	3.67		
	Amenity Space	118.40		
	St. Enda's Park (OPW)	16.5		
	Total POS	402.01	402.01ha	407.71ha (estimated from plans)
	Target POS		196.59ha	204.63ha
	POS Provision		205.42ha	203.08ha

Table 5.3: Quantity of Open Space Provision in South Dublin Neighbourhoods by type

*City Edge (currently being planned) post-dated the county development plan projected population figures (85,000 population by 2070)

Accessibility of Public Open Space

Ease of access to opportunities for recreation and amenity is recognised as an important consideration in improving quality of life. Recent research indicates that access to public open space within a 5-minute walk of home is a strong indicator for health and quality of life benefits. Local networks of high quality well designed and maintained public open spaces also help to enhance the urban environment and the principles of ‘placemaking’.

Achieving child friendly neighbourhoods rely on creating accessible public open spaces and ensuring safe connections between open spaces.

Throughout South Dublin all neighbourhood areas should have access to a range of formal and informal public open spaces for amenity, recreation, sports and play. Public open spaces should be designed and located to be publicly accessible by sustainable means such as walking, cycling and public transport depending on the type of open space and should be usable by all residents of the County.

Open spaces should also be linked to one another to increase their amenity value, encourage active travel between them and to facilitate the green infrastructure network.

Accessibility guidelines set out acceptable distances that people can be expected to walk from home to access their nearest types of open space. These reflect the needs of potential users. Spaces likely to be used on a frequent and regular basis need to be within easy walking distance and to have safe access. Other facilities where visits are longer but perhaps less frequent, for example Regional Parks serving a wider catchment area, will additionally require accessibility by public transport and car users.

It is the aim that everyone in South Dublin County urban area will live within a 5-minute walk or 300m of a public park of at least 0.2 hectares in size.

Given the high-density residential development planned for several areas of the County, this accessibility standard of 300m will also help secure improved provision of high-quality open spaces for the young families likely to be attracted to the strategic developments and add value to the new communities.

When translating access standards to the open space audits of the Parks and Open Space Strategy, GIS ‘network analysis’ software has been used to assess the walking distances based on streets, paths and open space access points to give an accurate assessment of accessibility.

The Accessibility standards adopted by the Development Plan are summarised as:

Public Open Space Hierarchy	Catchment Area
Regional Parks	There should be a Regional Park located within 5km of all homes in the County.
Neighbourhood Parks	Serve a neighbourhood catchment within 800m.
Local Parks / Open Spaces	Serve a local population within a 400m catchment.
Small Parks / Open Spaces	Serve an area within 300m catchment of the local population.
Smaller Residential Amenity Open Spaces	All homes should be within 100m of this or another type of accessible open space.
Civic Spaces / Squares	Serve a civic function and are designed for gathering, movement and social interaction.

Table 5.4: Public Open Space Hierarchy

As illustrated on the following plan, the majority of existing residential areas in South Dublin are within 300m distance (5-minute walking) of a public open space, with the exception of areas such as Adamstown (where additional public open spaces are planned as part of the Planning Scheme), sections of Lucan and north Clondalkin (R136 Ballyowen Road) (the Clonburris Planning Scheme will deliver significant new public open space in this area), east Clondalkin (Monastery Road), north of Templeogue and the settlements of Knocklyon and Ballyboden to the south-east.

It is worth noting that there are significant synergies with adjoining counties in relation to access to public open space and park provision with parks such as Marlay Regional Park in Dun Laoghaire Rathdown-County, Bushy Park and the Phoenix Park in Dublin City and St. Catherine’s Park in Fingal County Council immediately adjoining many of South Dublin’s residential areas.



KEY ACTION

- Initiatives to improve access to parks and open spaces in South Dublin will include: improvements to entrances, routes through and to parks from adjacent residential areas and nearby destinations, improved Greenways and shared routes, improved signage and branding and increased access to information on parks.
- It is the aim that everyone in South Dublin County urban area will live within a 5-minute walk or 300m of a public park of at least 0.2 hectares in size.
- South Dublin will consider the distance between residential areas and parks that provide different functions within the hierarchy of park provision, to ensure equitable distribution of park provision.
- Where residential areas are located further than 300m from a public park of at least 0.2 hectares in size, the upgrade and improvement of Amenity Open Spaces to

Small and / or Local Parks will be considered, in conjunction with local communities.

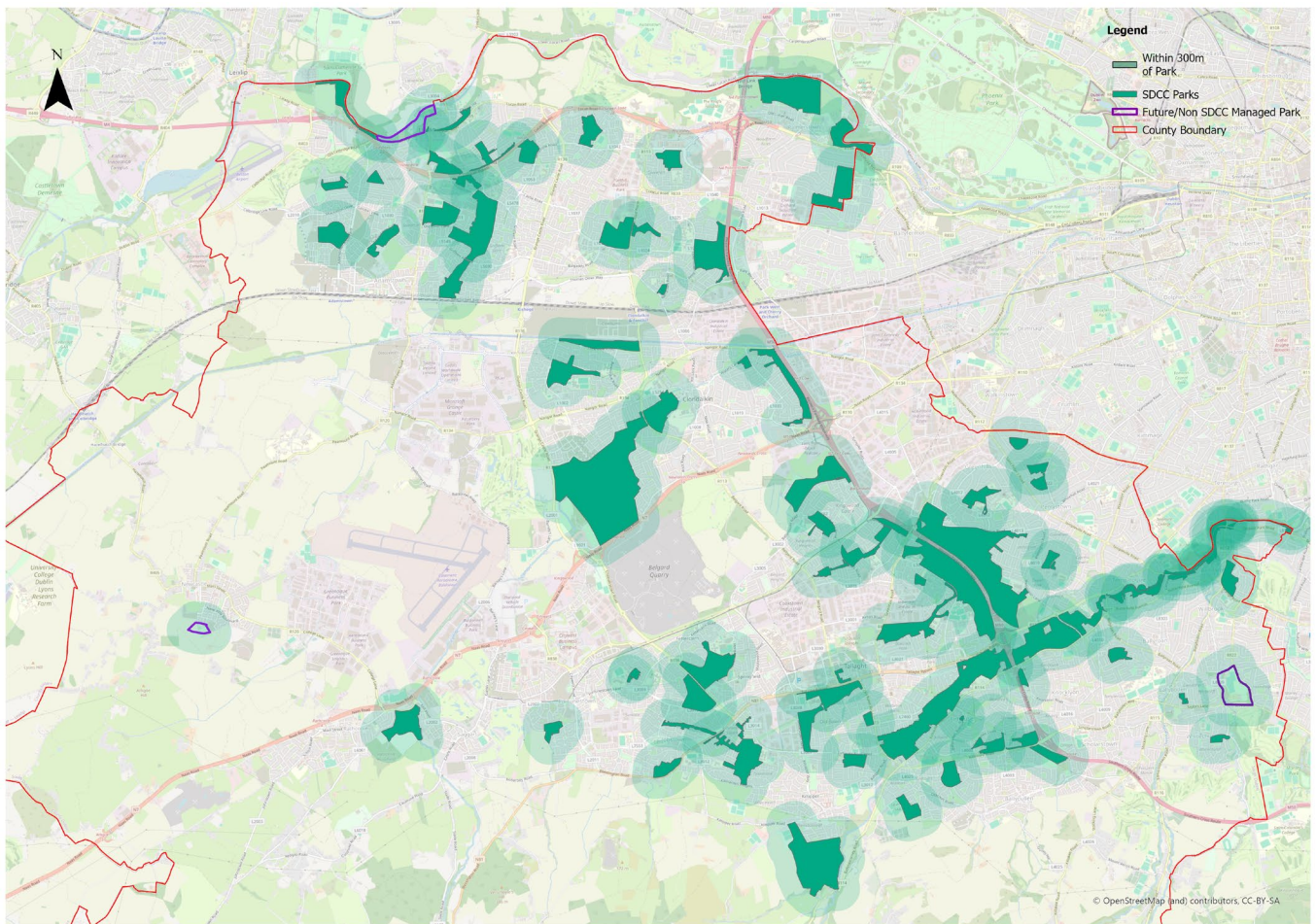


Figure 5.3: 300m (5-minute walking) accessibility bands from parks in South Dublin

Summary:

The quantitative audit of parks and public open space has identified deficits in public open space provision and in meeting requirements for accessibility to parks and open spaces at key locations within the county.

The historical provision of large-scale regional parks in the east of the county has allowed South Dublin to enjoy access to amenity, intensive recreational activity while also facilitating the ecosystem functions required for increasing resilience against Climate Change impacts. These increasingly critical multi-purpose functions are well provided by the larger Neighbourhood and / or Regional Parks, e.g. Tymon Park etc.

The standard of 2.4ha of parks per 1000 of population is a minimum provision, it does not fully provide for the multi-functional requirements of amenity, passive recreation,

intensive active recreation, biodiversity concerns, water attenuation, park quality and other requirements that create a high-quality park or open space. Ecological corridors in some cases may need a separate provision as an ecosystem or Green Infrastructure corridor of wider importance, and these areas should be identified in any plan-making processes.

The existing and currently planned provision of open space does not sufficiently cater for the quantum and geographic coherence needed to successfully provide for these multi-purpose functions. Alternate mechanisms to deliver parks and public open space, adequately sized to cater for protection and enhancement of Green Infrastructure and biodiversity, provision of parkland amenity and active recreational needs, should be considered and should not exclude purchase or designation of land specifically for this purpose.

Residential areas in the west of the county require additional park and public open space provision that is unlikely to be delivered by application of the current standards for public open space in the 'Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements Guidelines for Planning Authorities'. The open space audit shows a deficit in quantity, a lack of larger sized parks and a deficit in access to a park of regional park size (> 5km distance) in this area.

The provision of new parks and open spaces will be sought through the following processes as appropriate:

County Development Plan:

Will consider public open space, open space and green belt and amenity-related zonings and related policies. Consideration of issues highlighted in the Parks and Open Space Strategy will be considered in the next review of the County Development Plan

Development Contribution Scheme: (See also Parks and Open Space Strategy Appendix 1 Implementation Plan). The County Development Plan sets out a hierarchy of public open space with a required standard of 2.4ha per 1000 of population and ensures a minimum provision of public open space on site, within the relevant zoning, as set out under Table 8.2 Public Open Space Standards of the County Development Plan. The Council may, in certain circumstances and at its sole discretion, allow for an element of open space to be located off-site where it exceeds the minimum on-site requirements.

South Dublin County Council will utilise the Development Contribution Scheme, having regard to related policies within the County Development Plan, to meet any shortfall in the need for public open space at different scales and may, in certain circumstances and at its sole discretion, determine a financial contribution in lieu of all, or part of, the public open space requirement for a particular development. The Development Contribution Scheme should include consideration of the following to meet any shortfall: a contribution in lieu of public open space; to go towards the provision and development of new parks / open spaces or to contribute to the upgrade of existing parks / open space as identified in the Development Contribution Scheme, or any other mechanism as provided for in the County Development Plan and Development Contribution Scheme.

Contributions in lieu: will be applied as set out in the County Development Plan and Development Contribution Scheme. When calculating the Contribution in Lieu of open space; consideration should be given both to the cost of acquisition of land for parks / public open space as well as the cost of development of same.

Via Other Land-use Plans:

Will comply with policies as set out in the County Development Plan but allows for more focus on the specific needs within the local area.

As per the County Development Plan, any land use plans will make provision for a minimum of 2.4ha of public open space per 1000 people across the plan lands, having regard to how it can support any Green Infrastructure Plan for the area (with consideration given to ensure the multi-functional requirements of *inter alia* amenity, passive recreation, intensive, active recreation, biodiversity concerns, water attenuation, park quality and accessibility is achieved within that minimum provision). Generally, a minimum of 10%, up to a maximum of 15% of the above mentioned public open space must be on-site where the 'Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements Guidelines for Planning Authorities' apply.

Where a need for intensive, active sports provision is identified within a plan making process, this may require a separate, additional provision.

Riparian corridors: have significant functions in terms of biogeochemical processing and subsequent ecosystem service provision. They have a proven role in controlling the movement and processing of waterborne pollutants. Dependent on the extent of the riparian corridor and its location, there may be situations where the riparian corridor is included within public open space but, as they are they are primarily designated for flood alleviation, habitat creation and protection or improvement of water quality, the appropriate provision of adequate space for the *other* functions that public open spaces provide, which may be unsuited to flood zones, needs to be also considered within the plan making process.

Riparian buffer zones: these are 10m setbacks from the top of the banks of watercourses (as set out in the county development plan). They have specific objectives that are separate to the provision of public open space.

Ecological corridors in some cases may need a separate provision as an ecosystem / GI corridor of wider importance-these corridors should be identified in the plan making process

The accommodation of Nature-based SuDS within public open space is permitted where it complies with the definition of Nature-based SuDS: i.e. contributes to enhancing and improving biodiversity, provides for recreational amenity, attenuates and cleans surface water. If any SuDS component is dominating the public open space allocated, it may need a separate, additional provision.

Via Development Management:

Within relevant developments; 2.4ha per 1000 of population is the required minimum overall standard of provision for parks and open spaces but does not fully provide for the multi-functional requirements of biodiversity, water attenuation, and intensive active recreation, passive recreation and other requirements that create a high-quality park or open space.

Generally, 10% (min) -15% (max) of the above-mentioned public open space must be provided on site as public open space (Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements Guidelines for Planning Authorities).

The County Council will utilise the Development Contribution Scheme to meet any shortfall in the need for public open space at different scales.

Contributions in lieu: will be applied as set out in the County Development Plan and Development Contribution Scheme.

Via Land acquisition: including CPO if required.

Other delivery / funding opportunities: e.g. Centrally funded grant opportunities or similar grant funding schemes



KEY ACTIONS

- SDCC will achieve the provision of a hierarchy of parks and public open spaces to create a linked network of parks to ensure a minimum of 2.4ha of parks and public open space per 1000 people within the county, equitably distributed and across each Neighbourhood area.
- Mechanisms to deliver additional public open space, adequately sized to cater for the multi-purpose functions of public open space, and in line with the hierarchy of parks and open space provision, will be implemented. The implementation of the County Development Plan policies, and / or other Plan policies contributes to the provision of high quality public open space in tandem with development, as does the implementation of the Development Contribution

Scheme. This may also include, where relevant and appropriate at the discretion of the planning authority, contributions in lieu of public open space provision. Other mechanisms may include the purchase, acquisition or designation of land specifically for this purpose

- The implementation of the County Development Plan policies, and / or other Plan policies contributes to the provision of high quality public open space in tandem with development, as does the implementation of the Development Contribution Scheme. This may also include, where relevant and appropriate at the discretion of the planning authority, contributions in lieu of public open space provision. Other mechanisms may include the purchase, acquisition or designation of land specifically for this purpose.
- The provision of parks and open spaces within relevant development sites will be in line with the policies and objectives of the County Development Plan.
- The Council will seek the provision of at least 1 new park in the west of the county, sized to cater for the growing population in this and adjacent areas, the need for access to large scale parks and to protect and enhance green infrastructure and biodiversity, and provide for passive and active recreation, including playing pitch demand.
- To investigate the potential for the proposed park in the west of the county to be included as part of the Green Infrastructure approach, to be further investigated in accordance with objectives in South Dublin's and Kildare's County Development Plans. This could include consideration of a linear park to assist with healthy lifestyles, attracting tourism, active travel, enhancing ecological corridors and improving surface water management, improving the destination potential of the nearby towns and supporting their heritage.

Quality of Public Open Space

The County Council strives to create and manage parks and open spaces that people want to visit. These spaces, through their appearance, range of facilities, standards of maintenance, and ease of access, need to make people feel they are cared for, enjoyable and safe.

The South Dublin Park Users Survey highlights that quality means different things to different people. People use parks and open spaces in different ways, seek different experiences from them and look for different facilities and features, which all affect whether a person feels that they are visiting a good quality facility. Defining and creating good quality public open space is therefore challenging, but based on the findings of this and similar reports, the quality experience in public open space is broadly dependent on the following factors:

- The provision of multi-functional parks that provide a broad range of experiences in one place.
- Ensuring that public open spaces feel safe to use.
- Ensuring that public open space contributes to the wider Green Infrastructure network.
- A variety of facilities within parks and open spaces for all age groups and abilities.
- A comprehensive maintenance regime.
- The prompt repair or replacement of run down, damaged and vandalised facilities.
- Actively addressing unauthorised and anti-social activities, especially dumping, scramble bikes and stolen vehicles.
- Addressing dog fouling in parks and the issue of dogs exercised off a lead.
- The provision of accurate and up to date information on parks and open spaces in a range of formats.

South Dublin County Council's County Development Plan puts great emphasis on the quality of public open space. The provision of high-quality parks and open spaces that are appropriately designed, located and maintained is a key element of placemaking. Public open spaces should also be multi-functional, with both active and passive recreational facilities combined with biodiversity features that enhance the identity and amenity of an area.

Whilst there are no nationally recognised qualitative standards for parks and open spaces, the Green Flag Award scheme is most often used for assessing the quality of parks and open spaces across the UK and more recently in Ireland. 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. The scheme is administered in Ireland by An Taisce (The National Trust for Ireland). Five parks in South Dublin have already been awarded this status by 2025:

- Corkagh Park

- Rathfarnham Castle Park
- Sean Walsh Park
- Tymon Park
- Waterstown Park

The County Council is committed to maintaining its Green Flag parks to the requisite standard and to work in partnership with community groups to secure similar quality awards including Community Green Flag Awards. However, it is recognized that progressing the Green Flag Award process is not the most efficient method to develop management plans for the majority of the County's public parks and open space areas and it is not considered necessary for South Dublin to achieve Green Flags for every park.

Park Management Plans are, however, important to ensure that future maintenance is carried out to a high standard, especially in the larger parks, and similar criteria will be used to develop management plans for all of the listed parks to ensure that the necessary maintenance standards are attained.

For this strategy, a locally set quality assessment has been developed and will be applied to assist in the development of individual management plans for each park during the implementation stage. Scores will be assigned against an expected level of quality/maintenance, accessibility, potential for biodiversity and community value. This assessment process was informed by the responses to the Community Engagement.



Tymon Regional Park: Example of Very Good quality

Improving the quality of parks facilitates increased use of parks and increases the amount of people within walking distance of a useable and valuable park facility. The upgrade of Whitestown Open Space in Tallaght is a recent example. This previously under-used open space has been upgraded to a pleasant 3.39ha local park; providing play facilities, exercise and access to nature as well as a new Greenway route that provides off-road and direct, sustainable access between Jobstown and Killinarden Parks in the same Neighbourhood.



KEY ACTIONS

- To prepare Management Plans for the County's parks, prioritising Regional and Neighbourhood provision, to maximise the leisure and amenity resource offered and for the continued improvement of the park setting, biodiversity and recreational facilities
- To prepare detailed Open Space Audits, using the quality assessment criteria to determine further specific quality improvements to each park and open space and to identify suitable Amenity Open Spaces and / or underutilised open space that can be upgraded to parks during the Implementation of this Strategy.



Bulb planting in open space in Clondalkin

Provision of Parks and Open Space in Neighbourhood Areas

5.4 Citywest/Saggart/Newcastle/Rathcoole

Situated on the urban fringe of the County, this large Neighbourhood Area extends westwards from the employment and residential mix of Citywest and Fortunestown to encompass the three distinct settlements of Newcastle, Rathcoole and Saggart.

Substantial population growth is projected in the Development Plan to 2028 (+165% overall), particularly in the Area of Citywest /Fortunestown (+195%)

Rathcoole Local Park provides the main central public open space, located between Rathcoole and Saggart. Other essential open space assets include areas designated as public open space within Local Area Plans and developed as such within recent developments, however they are not currently managed by the Council, examples of this include open spaces and playgrounds within the Fortunestown Local Area Plan area, and the initial phases of Taobh Chnoic Park and other parks and open spaces within the Newcastle Local Area Plan area.

The Green Infrastructure Strategy has identified potential for a network of natural and semi-natural green spaces, linking parks, gardens, rivers, woodlands, trees and hedgerows throughout the neighbourhood and linking to adjoining areas.

The County Sports Pitch Strategy identifies the need for pitches within the western part of the county, which includes this Neighbourhood Area.

Currently the entire neighbourhood is below the minimum standard in public open space provision. It has no Regional, Neighbourhood or Small Parks. The current per capita open space provision is around 15m²/pp, half the county average.

The on-going development of the area via the Fortunestown and Newcastle Local Area Plans are expected to deliver some additional public open space to contribute to meeting the needs of the projected populations.



Rathcoole Local Park

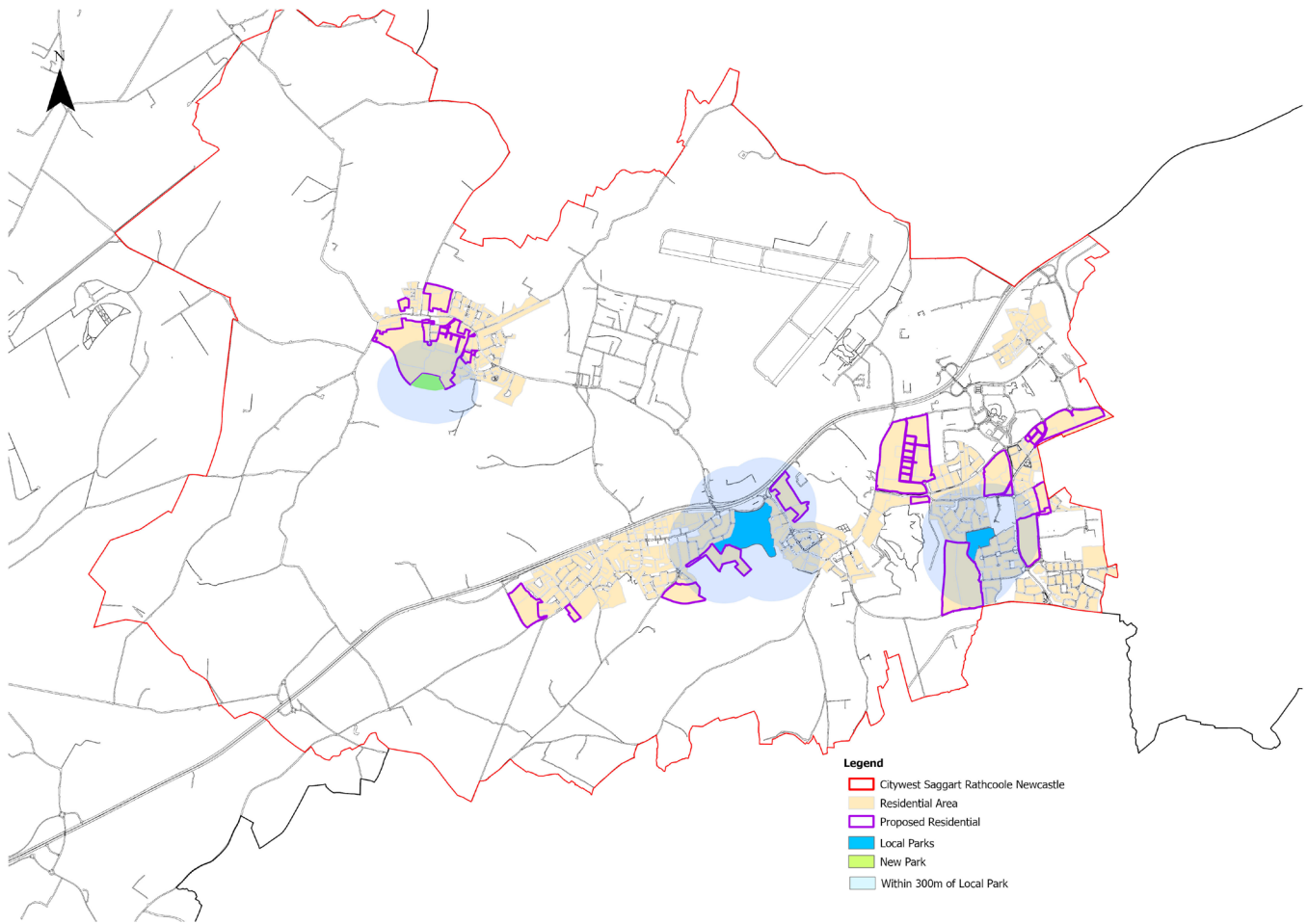


Figure 5.4: Existing and Planned Public Open Spaces in Citywest / Saggart / Newcastle / Rathcoole

Citywest/Fortunestown

This relatively new district forms part of the wider Dublin City and Suburbs settlement and has been developing over the last number of years at a significant pace.

It is an objective of the Development Plan (COS2 SLO 1) that Citywest / Fortunestown areas are provided (from within their own community) public, purpose built and suitable amenities including:

- Accessible playgrounds/playspaces, teenspaces and youth amenities (such as a skate park);
- Designed green spaces including a managed public park with adequate, accessible public seating and that can host festivals and community events;
- Greater biodiversity in the area and more tree coverage;
- Adequate numbers of pitches and clubhouses /pavilions for sports.

The Fortunestown Local Area Plan (May 2012, as extended) identified that public open space provision will be based on a hierarchy of spaces, forming an integrated network of green routes and corridors throughout the Plan

Lands and providing for a range of passive and/or active functions, as detailed in the following table:

Space	Neighbourhoods	Function
District Park	Fortunestown Centre & Saggart - Cooldown Commons	Passive recreation to include for gardening/ allotments, walking, cycling. Active recreation to include for organised sports, informal sports and children's play.
Squares and Plazas	Fortunestown Centre, Saggart-Cooldown Commons & Cheeverstown	Passive recreation to include for walking and seating.
Neighbourhood Parks/Local Parks	All Neighbourhoods	Passive recreation to include for gardening, walking, cycling. Active recreation to include for organised sports, informal sports and children's play.
Pocket Parks	All Neighbourhoods	Passive recreation to include for walking and seating.
Home Zones	All Neighbourhoods	Traffic calming and improved/safer pedestrian activity. Informal sports and play for children.
Green Corridors	All Neighbourhoods	Link spaces within hierarchy; provide nature corridors; provide link to Dublin Mountains & accommodate pedestrian and cyclist routes.

Table 5.5: Fortunestown LAP Table 5.1 Hierarchy & Function of Open Spaces

Carrigmore Park is one of the key Local Parks within this area and forms the central hub of the local green infrastructure network for existing and future residents. It is an existing Local Park with a range of facilities that is

currently subject to a planned upgrade to improve existing facilities and provide enhanced facilities for the local area.

A second public park has been planned and delivered at Saggart-Cooldown Commons (Parklands); this remains in private developer ownership but is open to the public.

Provision of the other categories of open space identified in the LAP's Hierarchy & Function of Open Spaces, are being delivered with development, facilitating a network of green routes and corridors and providing local facilities to adjacent residential areas.



Figure 5.5: Fortunestown LAP Green Infrastructure Framework

Saggart

Defined as a Self-Sustaining Town, the Saggart settlement has a lower target population of 3,499 persons by 2028 (11% growth). It is within reasonable walking/cycling distance of the Saggart Luas Stop at Fortunestown /Citywest, and the Citywest Business Campus is located 2.3km north-east of the settlement providing employment opportunities within walking and cycling distance. Similarly, the level 3 District Centre at Fortunestown provides additional services and retail outside, but accessible to, the core village area of Saggart.

There are no open spaces of note within the area currently, but it is in close proximity to Rathcoole Local Park, located just off the N7.

A playground and outdoor community space is being delivered as part of the Saggart Community facility recently opened at the old schoolhouse.

Newcastle

Newcastle is defined in the Development Plan as a Self-Sustaining Growth Town. The settlement had a population in 2016 of 3,093 which is targeted to grow by 1,946 persons (+63%) to 5,039 persons by 2028. The overarching

principle for the town is to improve the social and physical services to provide for the growing population.

The Newcastle LAP was adopted in 2012 and substantial portions of it have been built. In relation to open space provision, the LAP seeks to create a green infrastructure or network of high quality/amenity green spaces that permeates through the Plan Lands while incorporating elements of heritage and potential biodiversity value.

The proposed open space hierarchy is intended to ensure that all planned public open spaces have a clear function and serve a range of recreational needs within close proximity to homes and workplaces, while contributing to an integrated network of green routes and corridors throughout the Plan Lands.

All proposed developments are expected to contribute to the achievement of this Green Infrastructure Network where relevant and at a minimum rate of 14% on A1 zoned lands. Where there is a shortfall in public open space provision, from planned local and neighbourhood parks, this shortfall is to be delivered by pocket parks that are integrated into the design of neighbourhoods. Pocket parks shall be adequately overlooked and shall be easily accessible from surrounding housing but shall not comprise residual open spaces.

The LAP hierarchy and function of open spaces within the Newcastle plan area is as follows:

Space	Neighbourhoods (See Section 6)	Function
Village Park	Taobh Chnoic	Passive recreation to include for gardening/allotments, walking, cycling. Active recreation to include for organised sports, physical exercise (exercise equipment) informal sports and children's play.
Squares and Plazas	Main Street Ballynakelly West	Passive recreation to include for walking and seating.
Neighbourhood Parks/Local Parks	All Neighbourhoods	Passive recreation to include for gardening, walking, cycling. Active recreation to include for organised sports, physical exercise (exercise equipment), informal sports and children's play.
Pocket Parks	All Neighbourhoods	Passive recreation to include for walking and sitting.
Home Zones	All Neighbourhoods	Traffic calming and improved/safer pedestrian activity. Informal sports and play for children.
Green Corridors	All Neighbourhoods	Link spaces within hierarchy and provide nature corridors.

Table 5.6: Hierarchy and Function of Open Spaces, Newcastle LAP 2012

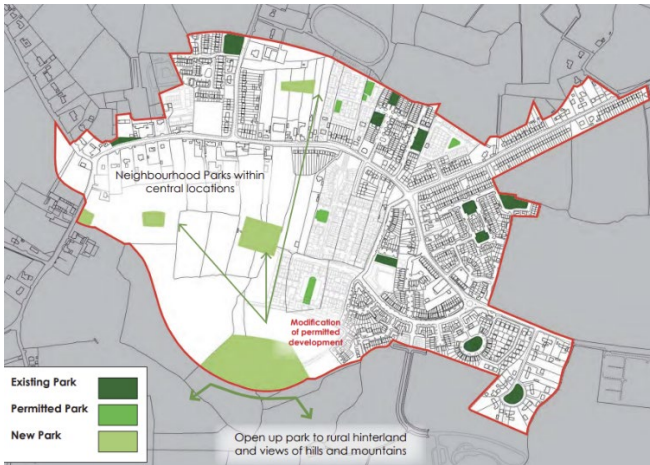


Figure 5.6: Public Open Space Provision & Hierarchy, Newcastle LAP 2012

The LAP sets out a phasing strategy to ensure the development of essential infrastructure and amenities that are required to develop a sustainable community. Residential and/or commercial development across the Plan lands in each phase should not proceed until such time as the required community and parkland facilities and amenities have been constructed.

The open space provision required to serve existing housing and in tandem with further housing developments, as identified by the LAP, is a minimum 6ha to be developed across the Plan Lands and including:

- Taobh Chnoic Park (3.50ha min.)
- Burgage South Park (1.00ha min.)
- Burgage North Park (0.30ha min.)
- Sean Feirm (0.25ha min.)
- Tower House Park (0.10ha min.)
- Ballynakelly West Park (0.20ha min.)
- Village Green (0.07ha min.)

Many of the parks and open space areas have already been constructed in Newcastle as part of the LAP development, including 50% of the large Taobh Chnoic Park and the provision of an allotment site with 29 plots. Most of these currently remain in developer ownership. It is expected that these will transfer to Council ownership in the short to medium term and several of the planned parks and open spaces are providing public amenity and recreational resource within the area.

Rathcoole

Rathcoole is a Self-Sustaining Growth Town, with a population targeted to grow by 2,058 persons (+47%) to 6,409 persons by 2028.

The Development Plan considers that it is important for Rathcoole to develop at an incremental pace, based on the delivery of social, physical and transport infrastructure and

services. The capacity of zoned lands is considered to be sufficient to meet long term demand for the settlement.

Rathcoole Local Park is currently the only open space in the area, located between the settlements of Rathcoole and Saggart. The park is accessible from the north, west and south. The main features include its interesting topography and water features, enhanced by the surrounding rolling landscape, together with a variety of activities that include sports fields, a playground, walking/jogging tracks and landscaped gardens.

Rathcoole Park is subject to a proposed upgrade in tandem with the delivery of the plans for the adjacent zoned lands.

Several specialised habitats, such as regenerating woodland, wetlands and species-rich meadowland have been identified in the area and their biodiversity, wildlife and ecological value is protected.

Objective SLO 1 (G17) also provides for:

The current green wildlife corridor between Saggart and Rathcoole to be maintained and identifies the need to incorporate this corridor into the design and development plans for Rathcoole Park.



KEY ACTIONS

Citywest/Fortunestown LAP Area:

- Continue to secure the open space provision required to serve existing housing and in tandem with further housing developments as set out in the County Development Plan and the Local Area Plan

Newcastle LAP Area:

- Continue to secure the open space provision required to serve existing housing and in tandem with further housing developments as set out in the County Development Plan and the Local Area Plan

Rathcoole Area:

- To implement an upgrade of Rathcoole Park, as set out in the Rathcoole Study presented to the Council in 2024.
- Protect the naturally regenerating woodlands in the area.

Overall:

- The Council will seek the provision of at least 1 new park in the west of the county, sized to cater for the growing population in this and adjacent areas, the need for access to large scale parks and to protect and enhance green infrastructure and biodiversity, and provide for passive and active recreation, including playing pitch demand.

- To investigate the potential for the proposed park in the west of the county to be included as part of the Green Infrastructure approach, to be further investigated in accordance with objectives in South Dublin's and Kildare's County Development Plans. This could include consideration of a linear park to assist with healthy lifestyles, attracting tourism, active travel, enhancing ecological corridors and improving surface water management, improving the destination potential of the nearby towns and supporting their heritage.
- Deliver one of the five planned 3G artificial grass pitches within this neighbourhood, or immediately

adjacent, to cater for pitch demand and training need in accordance with the Sports Pitch Strategy.



Rathcoole Park lake and gardens

5.5 Clondalkin/Clonburris/Grange Castle

This diverse Neighbourhood Area is located 11km west of Dublin City Centre. It includes the newly developing areas of Grange Castle (enterprise and employment) to the west, the Clonburris Strategic Development Zone (planned 11,000 residential units and mixed use) in the centre, and the historic village of Clondalkin.

The population of the area is targeted to grow from 44,500 people (2016) to 55,206 people over the life of the Development Plan.

The neighbourhood is located along a key national transport corridor with Luas, bus and rail, as well as good pedestrian and cycle links, to Dublin City and surrounding settlements, and forms part of the south west corridor and associated growth areas of the Naas Road and the City Centre.

The Grand Canal dissects the neighbourhood, and the corridor is identified as a Proposed Natural Heritage Area (pNHA) and is an important Green Infrastructure Corridor. The River Camac extends from the west at Grange Castle

through to Clondalkin Village, forming another key connection in the Green Infrastructure network of the Neighbourhood Area.

Lands at Clonburris, located north of the Grand Canal, have an approved SDZ Planning Scheme (2019) and represent a major expansion of the footprint of Clondalkin along the Dublin-Cork rail corridor. It is planned to deliver around 8,700 new homes for up to 23,000 people over the next 10 years, and open space and recreational facilities will be central to the achievement of the new neighbourhood as a sustainable community.

Open spaces will accommodate active and passive recreational activities and will be a key element in the green infrastructure network. The SDZ lands already benefit from the amenity of the Grand Canal and are also served by the existing Griffioen Valley Park, as well as the large area of public open space to the south of the Canal, known as the Grand Canal Park in the Planning Scheme.

Based on the target standard set in the Development Plan of 2.40ha/1000 persons, the open space requirement for the eventual population of Clonburris will be around 55ha. The SDZ proposals aim to provide over 90ha of open space

on the lands, supplemented by other green spaces, and all residents will be within 400m of natural and semi natural open space. The Griffen Valley extension, Na Cluainte Park, the Grand Canal Park and local neighbourhood parks will provide the main green public open spaces for active and passive recreation, combined with public squares in the urban areas providing access and linkages to the main hubs and local centres.



Artists impression of Clonburris Strategic Development Zone

It is intended that the SDZ parks and open spaces will be provided in a range of sizes and delivered in phases. A Parks and Landscape Strategy has been prepared by developers for the entire SDZ lands, and agreed with the Council prior to the commencement of development. The strategy includes:

- Overarching design details for the strategic open spaces, local parks and squares, urban spaces and squares, strategic routes and local links;

- Details of active and passive recreation provision on the lands; and
- A Biodiversity Management Plan.

Corkagh Regional Park provide important large-scale green amenity spaces within the southern part of the area. In addition there is a Neighbourhood Park at Collinstown, several Local Parks, one Small Park and large areas of Amenity Open Space.

Upgrades to St. Cuthbert's Local Park and Corkagh Regional Park are in progress.



Corkagh Regional Park

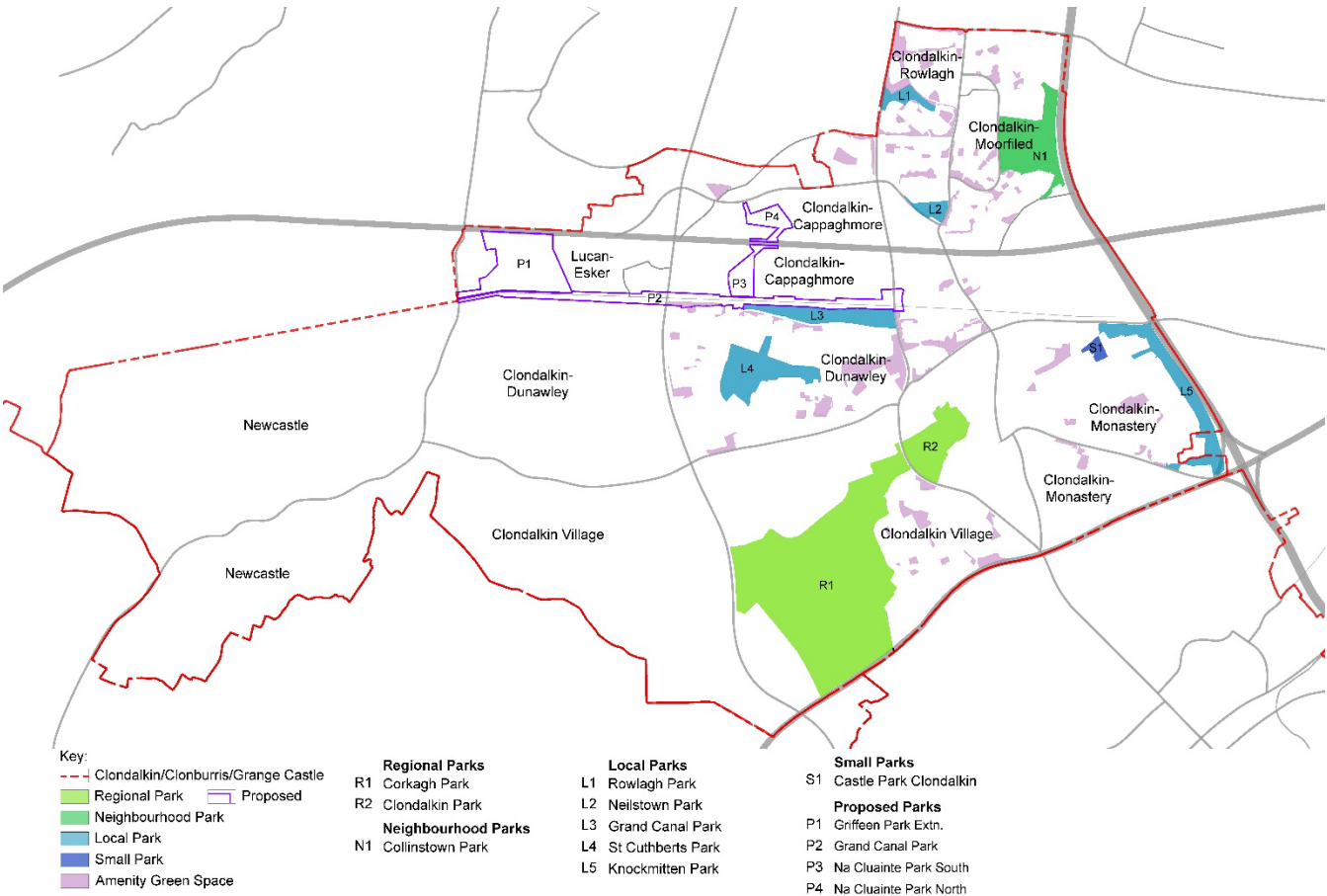


Figure 5.7: Clondalkin/Clonburris/Grange Castle Neighbourhood – Existing and proposed parks

Overall the Neighbourhood Area is well-provided for in terms of the quantity of parks and open spaces, both for the existing population and for the projected population. The quality of the Regional Parks is very good (Corkagh) and good (Clondalkin), while the Neighbourhood, Local and Small parks are assessed as average quality.

In terms of accessibility, most of the built-up areas of the neighbourhood are within 300m (5-minute walking distance) of publicly usable open space, with the exception of the established residential area south of Clondalkin village between Monastery Road and New Road. The other small area with inadequate provision public open space to the north of Clondalkin will be adequately served in the near future by new parks and open spaces to be delivered through the Clonburris SDZ.

The Neighbourhood Area also has access to a wide range of Sports and Active Recreation, with soccer, GAA and rugby pitches located primarily in Corkagh Park and Clondalkin Park, as well as other pitches at St. Cuthberts, Knockmitten Parks. There area also baseball and cricket facilities at Corkagh Park, and tennis courts in Clondalkin Park.

Corkagh Park is an important contributor to the provision of cricket facilities and their maintenance and enhancement of these facilities are important, along with the continued provision of other sports pitches and facilities in the area.

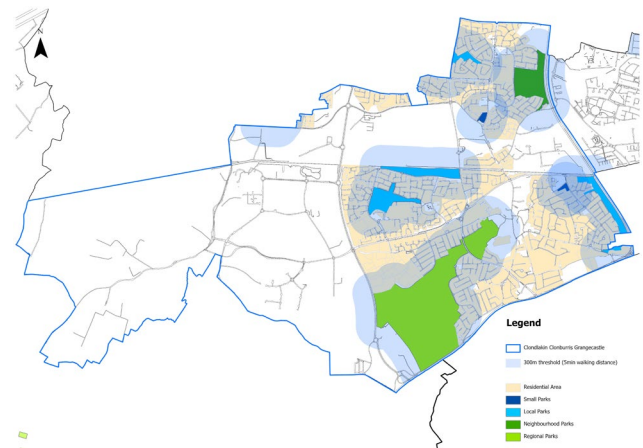


Figure 5.8: Clondalkin/Clonburris/Grange Castle Neighbourhood - Public parks within 300m of established residential areas



KEY ACTIONS

- To monitor the development and delivery of the 'Parks and Landscape Strategy' and the 'Biodiversity Management Plan' for the Clonburris SDZ lands.
- To continue the planned upgrades to Corkagh Regional Park and St. Cuthbert's Local Park.
- To progress plans for new open space provision at Griffeen Valley Park extension, Grand Canal Park, Na Cluainte Park South and Na Cluainte Park North.
- To continue to provide upgrades and improvements to existing parks and open spaces in the area to facilitate improved access, provide increased facilities and enhance biodiversity.
- To investigate the need for the development of a new Local Park or upgrade of existing open spaces to the south of Clondalkin Village
- To consider the upgrade of larger amenity open spaces where suitable, to small / local parks to meet the minimum access criteria to parks.
- To implement the actions of the Sports Pitch Strategy for the County ensuring adequate provision and quality of pitches to meet need
- To preserve and enhance the status of Corkagh Park as a regional park for biodiversity and ecosystems services (including flooding) importance.
- To pursue habitat improvement at Collinstown Park as a stepping stone in GI network.

5.6 Lucan/Palmerstown/Adamstown

This Neighbourhood Area lies between 9km and 16km west of Dublin city centre, with Palmerstown located inside the M50 orbital route. It is bounded to the north by the River Liffey, providing the natural division with Fingal

County, and is dissected by the N4 and M50 transport and economic corridors and by the Kildare rail line with a station at Adamstown. The boundary of the neighbourhood to the south-west follows the ecological and amenity corridor of the Grand Canal.

The urban area is significant in regional terms and includes major shopping (e.g. Liffey Valley), commercial, health, heritage, cultural and community facilities.

The neighbourhood includes the River Liffey Valley, which is protected under a Special Amenity Area Order (SAAO), and is of significant amenity value, as reinforced by its identification as a proposed Natural Heritage Area (pNHA). The Grand Canal is also a proposed Natural Heritage Area (pNHA) and is an important ecological and amenity corridor, dissecting the neighbourhood and linking Dublin Bay with the River Shannon. Both of these semi-natural areas form important elements of the wider Green Infrastructure Network being Core Areas in their own right and forming GI Corridors.

The population of the area is targeted to grow from 59,000 people to 68,483 people over the life of the Development Plan.

Adamstown is a Strategic Development Zone (SDZ) and emerging new town, subject to an approved SDZ Planning Scheme (2014, as amended). The area represents a major expansion of the footprint of Lucan to the west of the County along the Dublin - Cork rail corridor.

When completed, Adamstown will provide up to around 9,000 new homes and all associated amenities and services.

Palmerstown and Lucan are two traditional villages.

The neighbourhood is well-endowed with a variety of existing parks and open spaces, comprising Griffeen Valley Park (and associated Esker Park and Vesey Park);

Waterstown Neighbourhood Park; Local Parks and one Small Park.

Overall the Neighbourhood Area is well-provided for in terms of the quantity of parks and open spaces, both for the existing population (with provision of 130.49ha over the minimum standard) and for the projected population (with 107.73ha over the minimum standard).

The quality of the Regional Parks is generally good, and the Neighbourhood Park very good. Local and Small Parks are assessed as average quality, apart from Lucan Demesne which is good.

South Dublin Council have recently acquired Lucan House and associated grounds; which are currently subject to several surveys and a feasibility report. These lands have a significant historical, cultural and ecological aspect that is currently under assessment. They have not as yet been included in the Parks and Open Space Strategy proposals, as their function is not, as yet fully defined, though their eventual opening to the public is greatly anticipated. These lands direct adjacency to the existing Lucan Demesne Park will greatly enhance the amenity and biodiversity potential of both.

In terms of accessibility, most of the built-up areas of the neighbourhood are within 300m (5-minute walking distance) of publicly usable open space, with the exception of the established residential areas either side of the R136 in the vicinity of Castle Road, and much of Palmerstown to the west of the M50.

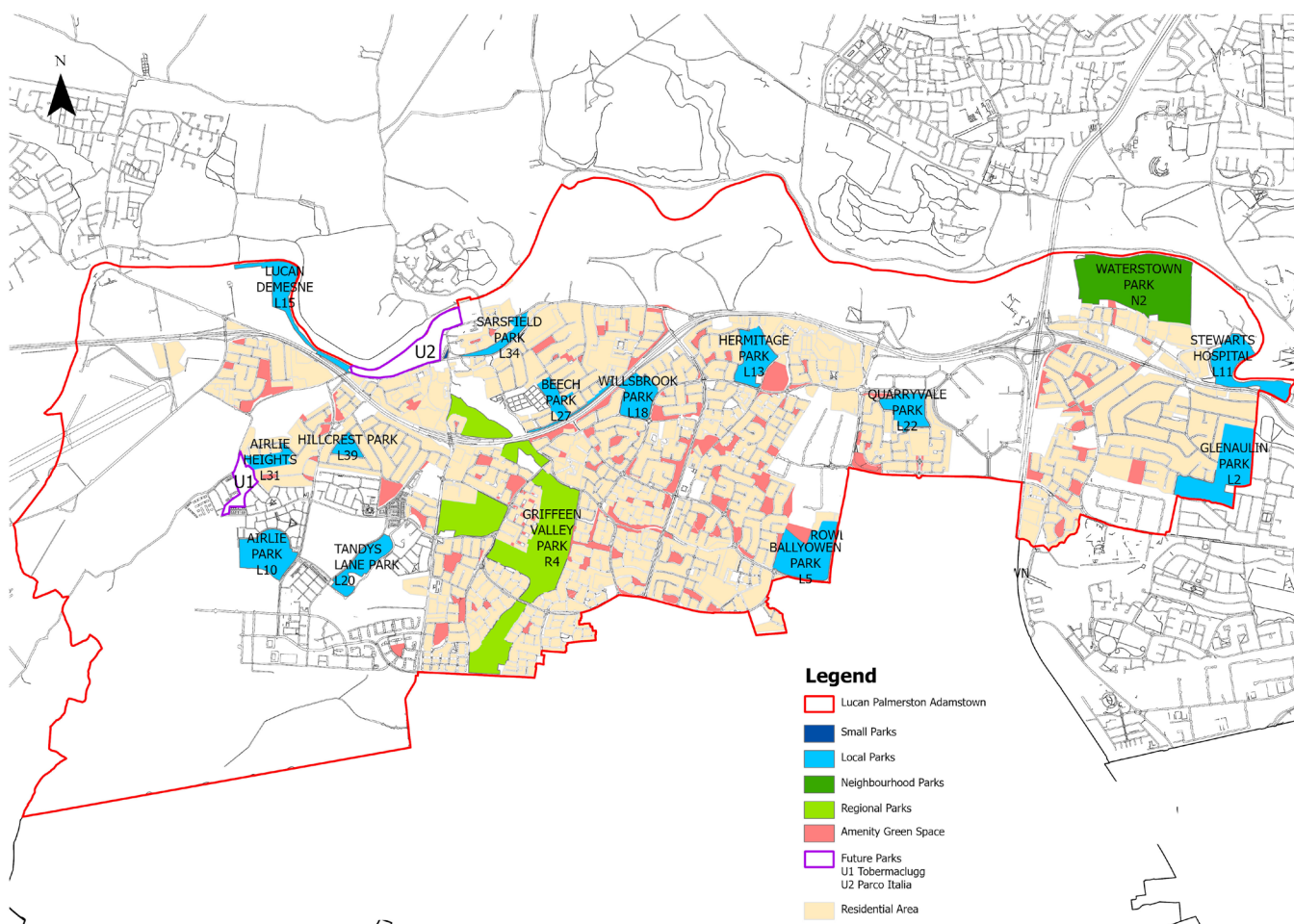


Figure 5.9: Lucan/Palmerstown/Adamstown Neighbourhood – Existing and proposed parks

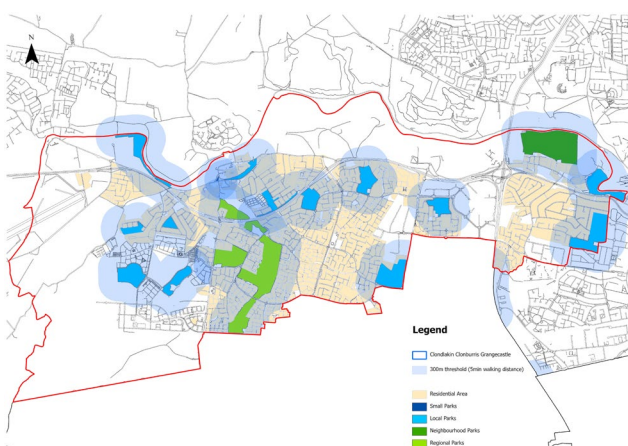


Figure 5.10: Lucan/Palmerstown/Adamstown Neighbourhood - Publicly usable open space within 300m of established residential areas

The Neighbourhood Area also has access to a wide range of Sports and Active Recreation facilities. The majority of publicly accessible sports pitches and facilities are located at Griffeen Valley Park, and also across several Local Parks. A synthetic surface athletics track has been installed in Griffeen Valley Park.

Within Adamstown SDZ, a new multi-sport sized AGP, a GAA sized pitch and a cricket pitch have been recently provided as part of the delivery of the planned parks at Airlie Park and Tandy's Lane Park.

Further community amenities due to come forward include the new Lucan Swimming Pool, Adamstown Boulevard Park to the south of the Scheme area, a park in the north of Adamstown at Tobermacclugg, as well as sports pavilions at Griffeen Valley Park, Arthur Griffith Park and Willsbrook Park.

It is an objective of the Development Plan (COS4 SLO 1):

To continue to improve and develop Glenaulin Park in Palmerstown in tandem with the local community and other stakeholders, to enhance the park amenity including its sports and recreation facilities for park users of all ages including older people, children and teenagers and the local sports clubs and other stakeholders in accordance with the Council's Sports Pitch Strategy and the Parks and Open Space Strategy and Sports Plan.

KEY ACTIONS

- To continue upgrades of Griffeen Valley Park and Local/Small Parks to provide increased facilities and enhanced biodiversity.
- To identify suitable locations for a series of linked Small Parks through upgrading and connecting existing amenity areas to established parks.
- To continue to upgrade facilities at Glensaulin Park in Palmerstown, to enhance amenity, sports and recreation facilities.
- To examine the potential for improvements to amenity open space to cater for access to local park requirements
- To pursue implementation of the third park in Adamstown at Tobermaclug.
- To continue the implementation of the sports pavilion programme in Griffeen Valley Park, Willsbrook Park and Arthur Griffith Park.
- To avail of opportunities to upgrade facilities and enhance biodiversity in parks within this Neighbourhood Area.

5.7 Naas Road

This Neighbourhood Area occupies a strategic location within South Dublin and Dublin City, to the south of the Grand Canal and on a national and key economic transport corridor, with a direct Luas connection and bus links to Dublin City. It is a significant settlement in regional terms and includes major retail facilities, office, industrial and employment areas. It incorporates areas identified for strategic brownfield regeneration and with huge potential for an integrated land use transportation network.

The Naas Road/ Ballymount lands form a significant landbank within South Dublin adjoining Dublin City Council. The development of the Naas Road lands, as noted under the RSES, is a medium to long-term infrastructure sequence with potential for residential development and more intensive employment/mixed uses.

It is intended that the transformation of this neighbourhood to an urban quarter will create a sense of identity and place that connects with the surrounding communities. It will also provide opportunity to connect and develop a Green Infrastructure network and enhance the natural environment and biodiversity of the area.

It entails re-imagining the Naas Road, Ballymount and Park West areas in Dublin, with the potential for 40,000 new homes and 75,000 jobs, making it one of the largest regeneration schemes in Europe.

A primary aim of the Development Plan is to promote the provision of a high-quality public realm identifying the need for the enhancement of existing and provision of new additional civic and public spaces and parks, through a hierarchy of spaces. It also aims to maximise the potential to provide for a connected network of natural green spaces identified within the Green Infrastructure Network of the plan.

Following detailed analysis of the area and public consultation on an Emerging Preferred Concept, the City Edge Strategic Framework was noted by the Elected Members of South Dublin County Council and Dublin City Council in 2022. The purpose of the Strategic Framework is to set out a high-level approach and transformational trajectory for the regeneration of a new liveable, sustainable and climate resilient urban quarter.

The framework sets an ambitious target of 50% green cover to meet the needs of the future population while promoting a reintroduction of biodiversity and combating climate change impacts such as flood risk.

The City Scale Network of open spaces is central to the success of this new part of Dublin and will be achieved by threading together a connected network of green corridors, blue corridors and parks that will also serve recreational needs.

The key features of the green framework include:

- 150 ha of major new parks, linear parks and greenways;
- An expanded Walkinstown Avenue Park and Lansdowne Valley Park;
- Re-naturalisation of the River Carmac;
- Celebration and enhancement of the Grand Canal;
- New Tymon to Phoenix Park Greenway;
- A network of new community parks and local greenways; and
- Significant new Sustainable Urban Drainage features within new developments, along existing and new streets and within parks.



Figure 5.11: The City Edge Strategic Green Framework



KEY ACTIONS

- To monitor and implement the open space recommendations of the City Edge Strategic Framework.
- To ensure adequate provision of public open space, within the plan, in accordance with the hierarchy of provision within the County Development Plan and Open Space minimum quantity provision to meet the needs of the planned population
- To ensure adequate provision of space for active recreation within the plan to meet the needs of the planned population



Proposed Southwest Gate Mixed-Use Development, Naas Road

5.8 Rural Uplands

This rural Neighbourhood Area (generally known as the Dublin Mountains) consists of a small cluster of settlements such as Glenasmole and Redgap and the larger settlement of Brittas, farmhouses and agricultural buildings, clusters and single houses, and small economic/tourism enterprises. The N81 national secondary route dissects the area from Brittas to link with the M50 main orbital route.

The area combines places of scenic and natural beauty alongside popular amenity areas, providing a strategic green buffer between the built-up area of Dublin and the rural settlements. The Dublin Mountains have a high landscape value and sensitivity and are partially designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA) and proposed Natural Heritage Area (pNHA).

Given the essentially rural character of the area, and small settlements with ease of access to high quality natural open space, the provision of public open space is limited to Kiltipper Park on the northern edge of the Neighbourhood.



Figure 5.12: Rural Uplands



KEY ACTIONS

- To support the implementation of the 'Dublin Mountains Forest Conversion Plan' by Coillte Nature, in cooperation with the Dublin Mountains Partnership.
- To pursue implementation of the Dodder Greenway, Kiltipper Park Masterplan Proposals, including reinstatement and restoration of hedgerows to connect the Dodder Valley with the uplands
- Investigate the feasibility of biodiversity actions e.g. red squirrel surveys and other initiatives (in partnership with national bodies).
- To continue to work with landowners and stakeholders in the area via the Dublin Mountains Partnership (DMP) to deliver the DMP Strategic Plan.
- To work with Uisce Éireann and other partners in ensuring the recreational and amenity resource within Bohernabreena Reservoir area is maintained along with its critical function as a water reservoir for the county and area of environmental importance.
- To support the protection of the Natura 2000 and other designated sites within the Dublin Mountains as set out in legislation.

5.9 Tallaght

This neighbourhood includes the County Town and the administrative capital of South Dublin County. It is also designated as a Level 2 Retail Centre in the Retail Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2008-2016.

Situated 12km from Dublin City, Tallaght has a direct Luas connection and bus links to Dublin City and Fortunestown and is located on the N7 economic corridor, which is a key national transport corridor.

This neighbourhood is a significant settlement in regional terms and includes major shopping facilities, civic offices and associated commercial, financial, cultural and community facilities. It is also home to TU Dublin - Tallaght campus, Tallaght University Hospital and significant

employment areas. Outside the town centre are well established residential areas with a strong sense of community.

As a long-established neighbourhood area, this area also has significant numbers of mature trees, all of which contribute as Green Infrastructure and Climate Adaptation measures.

A Local Area Plan (LAP) for Tallaght Town Centre was adopted in June 2020, which aims to facilitate the delivery of between 3,000 and 5,000 new homes and a mix of new employment spaces. The LAP also provides for public open spaces based on urban design principles at locations where they may serve their surrounding areas. It seeks to implement policies and objectives for Green Infrastructure, including the need to connect parks and areas of open space with ecological and recreational corridors to aid the movement of biodiversity and people and to strengthen the overall Green Infrastructure network.

Within the Tallaght Neighbourhood there are two Regional Parks, Tymon Park on the western boundary and Dodder Valley Park straddling the south-western boundary. There are no applicable quantity standards for Regional Parks.

There is generally a good quantitative provision of Neighbourhood Parks, comprising Ballymount Park in the north, and Sean Walsh Park, Killinarden Park and Butler McGee Park within the western central area of Tallaght. Kiltipper Neighbourhood Park also adjoins the southern boundary within the Uplands Rural Area.

Local Parks also well-provided for throughout most of the neighbourhood with seven parks reasonably distributed amongst the main residential areas.

Four Small Parks are dispersed across the neighbourhood.

A wide variety of general Amenity Green Spaces also occur throughout the neighbourhood, including both small and larger informal, usually grassed areas in or adjoining housing estates. These publicly accessible areas of land vary considerably in size (minimum 0.15ha) and function. They may include 'pocket parks' that are usually too small for active recreation but can provide valuable green spaces within the urban environment, somewhere to sit and meet outdoors or occasionally with individual items of play or exercise equipment.

There are no parks or publicly accessible amenity green spaces within the Broomhill and Cookstown industrial estates, or in the area of the expansive Roadstone Quarry to the north-west of Tallaght, as is expected in these non-residential areas.

Despite being geographically distributed on the eastern and southern edges of the neighbourhood, all Tallaght residential areas are within the 5km access threshold of the two Regional Parks, as well as being within 20 minute cycling distance and easily accessible by public transport.

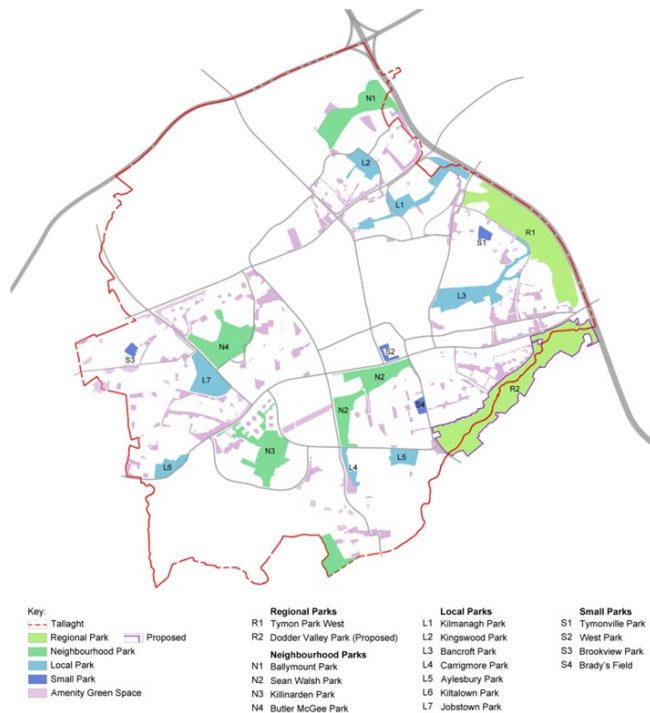


Figure 5.13: Tallaght Parks and Open Spaces

The majority of residential areas also have access to a Neighbourhood Park within a 800m walking distance, with an exception of residents in the eastern part of the neighbourhood Tynon, Glenview, Kilnamanagh, Kingswood and parts of Avonbeg, who instead have easy access to the Regional Parks.

The north and east parts of Tallaght are well connected to Local Parks with all residential areas having access to one within 600m walking distance. Additionally, Local Parks are located in south and west, which fall within 600m walking distance for the majority of Jobstown, Kiltipper, Fettercairn, and Oldbawn residents.

Most parts of Ballymount, Kilnamanagh, Kingswood, and Killinarden have good access to existing parks. The western parts of Tynon have limited access, even though they are located close to Tynon Park West, due to location of the park entrances.

Large parts of Jobstown and Springfield do not have access to any park within 400m walking distance, while Brookview only has access to a Small Park. Similarly, there are small parts of Fettercairn, Millbrook and Oldbawn that do not have park access within the 400m threshold, while

the residential area of Belgard has no access to any park within the prescribed walking distance.

Amenity Green Spaces contribute significantly to the general amenity, social or informal recreational provision of local neighbourhoods, especially within strategic development areas such as Tallaght Town Centre. Similarly Civic Spaces (mostly less than 0.2ha) serve an important neighbourhood function for social interaction and are a key element of higher-density urban areas.

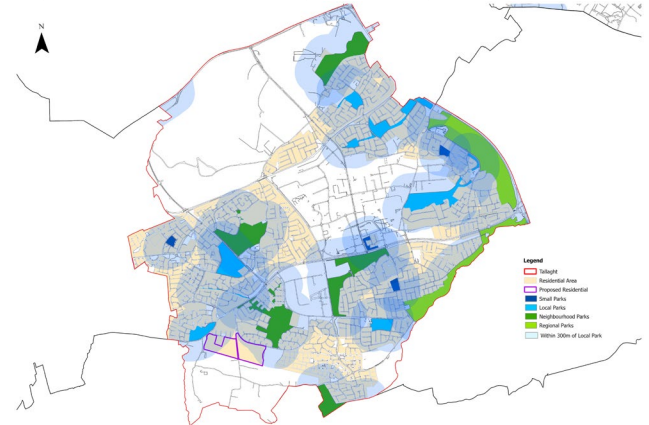


Figure 5.14: 300m walking bands to Tallaght parks from residential zonings in the Tallaght Neighbourhood area

KEY ACTIONS

- Identify the location and mechanism for delivery of public open space identified within the Tallaght LAP.
- Identify walkability issues within the Tallaght LAP area and ensure they are addressed during new developments; to enhance access to existing parks and public areas and in the design of new parks and urban public realm.
- Identify Amenity Green Spaces with the potential for enhancement to become Local and Small Parks, based on their location, access and size.
- Continue to connect and upgrade parks and amenity spaces as part of the public space network.
- To explore opportunities to de-culvert and naturalise the River Poddle and Whitestown Stream.
- To complete the strategic cycle/footway link from the northern part of Killinarden Park, linking the N81 and the Whitestown Stream to Sean Walsh Park to the east.

5.10 Templeogue/ Walkinstown/ Rathfarnham/ Firhouse

This Neighbourhood Area comprises the eastern part of South Dublin County, part of Dublin City suburbs and the wider Metropolitan Area. It is defined by the central spine of the River Dodder from west to east and the rural

landscape setting along the southern boundary. The M50 Motorway dissects the neighbourhood north to south east. Well established residential areas exist throughout, often crossing administrative boundaries.

There are excellent public amenities within the neighbourhood, including shopping, schools, public parks and cultural attractions. Pearse Museum, St. Enda’s Park and Rathfarnham Castle are especially popular attractions, set against the backdrop of the Dublin Mountains. Dodder Valley Park, Tymon Park and Greenhills Park, together with the adjacent Marlay Park and Bushy Park in the neighbouring county, contribute significantly to the amenity value of the Neighbourhood and to the Green Infrastructure network of the wider area.

The Dodder River is a key Green Infrastructure Corridor and contains a proposed Natural Heritage Area, it is a key recreational and biodiversity resource running east-west through this neighbourhood. As it also meets Tymon Park this intersection of Green Infrastructure assets is an important ecological corridor and facilitates active transport across and under the M50. The M50 Green Infrastructure Corridor runs north-south through this area.

There are also 14 Local Parks and 2 Small Parks, but no Neighbourhood Parks. As a long-established neighbourhood, this area also has significant numbers of mature trees, all of which contribute to Green Infrastructure and Climate Adaptation measures.

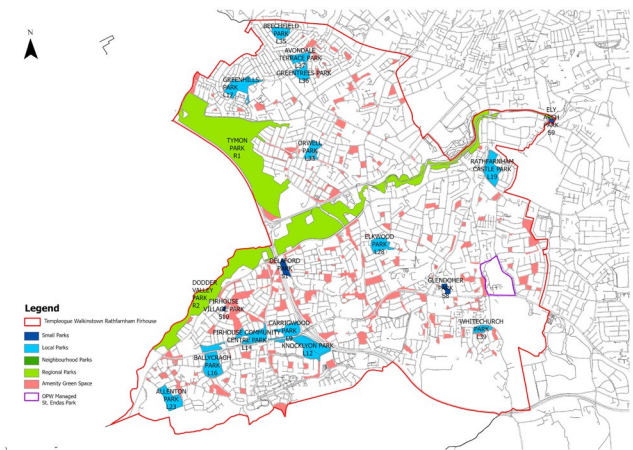


Figure 5.15: Parks in the Neighbourhood Area

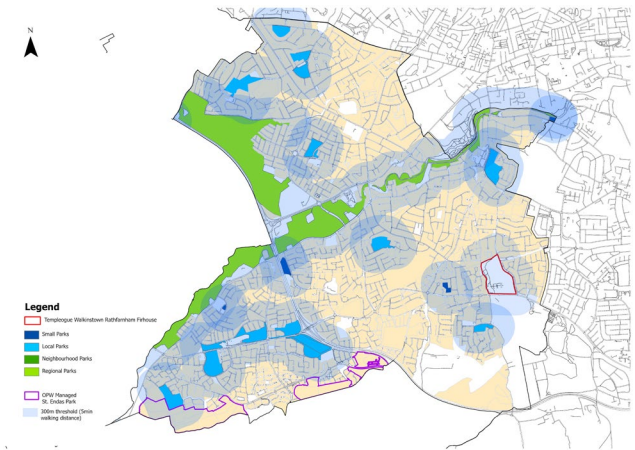


Figure 5.16: 300m walking bands to Templeogue/ Walkinstown/ Rathfarnham/ Firhouse parks from residential zonings in the Neighbourhood area

KEY ACTIONS

- Identify opportunities to develop Small, Local and / or Neighbourhood Parks, by the enhancement of Amenity Open Spaces where appropriate, based on their location, access and size.
- Continue to improve and develop facilities in existing Local and Small Parks
- Continue to connect and upgrade parks and amenity spaces as part of the public space network.
- Seek opportunities to improve the biodiversity potential of the Dodder River and M50 Green Infrastructure corridors, connecting them where possible
- Implement the Ballycullen LAP providing parks and open spaces in tandem with development while protecting existing green infrastructure assets.

