

Parks and Open Space Strategy

Appendices



Appendix 1

Implementation of the Strategy

1.1 Parks and Open Space Action Plan

The following Action Plan collates the Actions set out in each chapter of this Strategy and includes other overarching Actions, including Actions relating to parks and open spaces that arise in other Council Strategies and Plans where appropriate. Where the Parks and Open Space Strategy document replicates policies within other plans that are also referenced here; they are not repeated. Clear priorities, informed by public consultation, are reflected in the following anticipated timeframes for delivery of the strategy:

- Short term: 1 – 3 years, 2025-2028 (within timeframe of the 2022-2028 County Development Plan)
- Medium term: 3—10 years, 2028-2035
- Long term: >10 years, to 2040 (in line with the provisions of National and Regional population target date)

The Council will undertake an annual review of the delivery of the strategy's actions through an assessment of what progress has been made against objectives. An overall review of parks and open space objectives and actions will take place in tandem with the review of the County Development Plan to ensure the strategy remains relevant and can adapt to changing need.

Please note for the purposes of this Strategy where 'Neighbourhood' or Neighbourhood Areas' are mentioned, they refer to the Neighbourhoods and Neighbourhood Areas outlined in South Dublin's County Development Plan 2022-2028.

Ref.	Policy Topic (and secondary topic if relevant)	Key Actions	Responsibility	Timeframe
	Strategic Vision			
POS_SV_01		To seek the provision of good and equitable access to high quality open spaces to support the health and wellbeing of communities.	SDCC	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_SV_02		To proactively plan for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of green infrastructure to improve physical and ecological connectivity, and promote biodiversity and nature conservation and nature restoration.	SDCC	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_SV_03		To continue to examine the provision of parks and open spaces across the county and expand the Geographical Information System Database to include parks and open spaces that are generally publicly accessible to gain a comprehensive understanding of the entire resource available, enable comparison against relevant standards of provision and allow for appropriate future planned provision.	SDCC	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_SV_04		To implement policies and objectives that relate to public parks and public open space as set out in South Dublin's County Development Plan 2022-2028 or any superseeding plan.	SDCC	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_SV_05		To 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.	SDCC	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_SV_06		To consider the distance between residential areas and parks that provide different functions within the hierarchy of parks provision, to ensure equitable distribution of park provision.	SDCC	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_SV_07		To ensure that everyone in South Dublin County lives within a 5-minute walk or 300m of a public park of at least 0.2 hectares in size.	SDCC	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy

Ref.	Policy Topic (and secondary topic if relevant)	Key Actions	Responsibility	Timeframe
POS_SV_08		To seek the provision of new parks and open spaces through a variety of processes, as appropriate and as set out in the Strategy. 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	SDCC	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_SV_09		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.	SDCC	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_SV_10		The provision of parks and open spaces within individual and relevant development sites will be in line with the policies and objectives of the County Development Plan or any superseeding plan.	SDCC	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_SV_11		To 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.	SDCC	Medium
POS_SV_12		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.	SDCC	Medium
	Climate Action			
POS_CA_01		To implement policies and objectives that relate to public parks and public open space as set out in South Dublin's Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 or any superseeding plan.	SDCC	Medium
POS_CA_02		To require the design of sustainable urban drainage systems within parks and open spaces to comply with South Dublin County Council's Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) Explanatory, Design and Evaluation Guide 2022 and where SuDS measures are proposed as an element of public open space they shall be natural in form and integrate well into the open space landscape, supporting a wider amenity and biodiversity value.	SDCC and development partners	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_CA_03		The following climate related actions will be implemented within parks and open spaces, and others identified and implemented as required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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; 	SDCC. In partnership with National Authorities, development partners and local communities.	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy

Ref.	Policy Topic (and secondary topic if relevant)	Key Actions	Responsibility	Timeframe
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Incorporating appropriate and only nature based sustainable flood alleviation measures and surface water attenuation in existing and proposed schemes in accordance with South Dublin's Sustainable Urban Drainage Guidelines and maintain them accordingly. ▪ 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 ▪ Continue to implement South Dublin's Meadowland programme 		
Settlement Strategy				
POS_SS_01		To support sustainable development and urban regeneration that deliver enhancements to the quality of existing parks and open spaces to deliver a range of benefits and uses, and that provide for their long-term maintenance.	SDCC	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_SS_02		To ensure that all new residential development provides access to multifunctional green open space, with a variety of recreational amenity to cater of all ages and abilities, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 8 Community and Public Open Space of the Development Plan or any superseding plan.	SDCC and development partners	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_SS_03		<p>To work with other Council Departments in ensuring that the built environment is child friendly and accessible to all, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increased safety of and access to public spaces. ▪ Recognising the use of paths and roads as play spaces and ensuring that the design of these is considered in public realm projects e.g. play streets. ▪ Creating small incidental play opportunities close to homes and as an integral part of new housing layouts. 	SDCC and development partners	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_SS_04		To ensure that the pre existing biodiversity value, habitats, ecological corridors, quality, use, access or enjoyment of natural, semi natural, green and blue open spaces are considered and maintained where possible within new plans and developments to ensure their value is not lost.	SDCC and development partners	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_SS_04		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 consider, in conjunction with local communities.	SDCC	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity				
POS_GIB_01		<p>Protect, conserve, and enhance the County's biodiversity and ecological connectivity having regard to local, national and EU legislation and Strategies and support the implementation of current and superceding biodiversity strategies in the design and management of all new and existing parks and open spaces, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National Biodiversity Action Plan (2017-2021) ▪ All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (2021-2025) 	South Dublin Council Council in partnership with National Authorities, other state agencies and semi state bodies	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy

Ref.	Policy Topic (and secondary topic if relevant)	Key Actions	Responsibility	Timeframe
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> South Dublin County Biodiversity Action Plan (2020-2026) South Dublin Pollinator Action Plan (2021-2025) SDCC Sustainable Drainage Explanatory Design & Evaluation Guide (2022) 	development partners and local communities.	
POS_GIB_02		To 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.	SDCC and development partners	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
		To 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.	SDCC	Short / Medium
POS_GIB_03		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, including active sports provision where required. The identification of specific land parcels is useful for delivery purposes.	SDCC	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_GIB_04		To ensure that any permitted development supports the principles and protections included in the South Dublin County Green Infrastructure Strategy 2022-2028 or any superceding Strategy.	SDCC and development partners	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_GIB_05		To ensure that parks and open space management regimes prioritise the identification, protection and enhancement of habitats for rare and threatened species.	SDCC	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_GIB_06		To promote the protection of ecological corridors and promote the development of new ecological corridors where connections are required. Maintain ecological corridors throughout the County as continuous elements of green infrastructure that afford passage for wildlife and address the fragmentation of habitats by infrastructure development.	SDCC and development partners	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_GIB_07		To create new green linkages and work with neighbouring authorities to address regional green infrastructure opportunities.	SDCC in partnership with other local authorities and other agencies where appropriate	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_GIB_08		To seek the appropriate development, conservation and management of the County's waterways, in cooperation with relevant management authorities, such as Waterways Ireland.	SDCC in partnership with other local authorities and other agencies where appropriate	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_GIB_09		To uncover existing culverts through parks and open spaces where appropriate and in accordance with relevant river catchment proposals to restore the watercourse to acceptable ecological standards for biodiversity and wherever possible improving habitat connection and strengthening the County's GI network.	SDCC in partnership with other local authorities and other agencies where appropriate	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_GIB_10		To work proactively with landowners and other agencies to restore connectivity of corridors where disruptive development has taken place, or where there are opportunities for establishing new corridors within existing developments.	SDCC and development partners and agencies	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy

Ref.	Policy Topic (and secondary topic if relevant)	Key Actions	Responsibility	Timeframe
POS_GIB_11		To manage parks, open spaces, general amenity spaces, suitable road verges and cemeteries to promote a connected network of green infrastructure that provides enhanced habitats and to sustain natural ecosystems.	SDCC	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_GIB_12		To protect and enhance the biodiversity value of parks and open spaces.	SDCC	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_GIB_13		To enhance genetic biodiversity by planting only native species of Irish provenance (where available), especially in areas of high ecological importance such as river corridors and uplands.	SDCC	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_GIB_14		In the development of individual management plans for parks the requirements of the aforementioned biodiversity and pollinator plans will be taken into consideration and will form a part of the management requirements for the park. The development of individual management plans for parks will include consultation with local stakeholders	SDCC	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_GIB_15	Natura 2000 Sites	To conserve and appropriately manage parks and open spaces within or adjoining EU and nationally designated sites and non-designated locally important areas which act as 'stepping stones' for the purposes of green infrastructure and Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.	SDCC	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_GIB_16		To seek the connection of European sites to the parks, open spaces and other general amenity areas of the County, and with adjoining Counties where possible, to strengthen the wider green infrastructure network.	SDCC in partnership with other local authorities and other agencies where appropriate	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_GIB_17		To ensure that proposals for amenity or recreation within parks and open spaces adjoining or in proximity to protected European sites, will not have a significant adverse effect, either individually or in combination with existing and/or proposed plans or projects.	SDCC	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_GIB_18		To protect, develop and enhance the nature conservation, wildlife habitats and species, where appropriate, in parks and open spaces by supporting nature conservation initiatives and environmental education.	SDCC	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_GIB_19	Proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs)	To ensure that any proposals for development or management of parks and open spaces do not have an adverse impact on the biodiversity, ecological, geological and landscape value of pNHAs, and to seek enhancements of these areas where possible, especially within the more urbanised parts of the County such as the Dodder Valley, Liffey Valley and Grand Canal.	SDCC and development partners	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_GIB_20		To ensure that intact hedgerows/trees above the 120m contour line that contribute to the strong rural character of the County, such as those in Kiltipper Park, will not be diluted, and that important hedgerows/trees and potential wildlife corridors are protected, and enhanced where possible	SDCC and relevant landowners	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_GIB_21	Areas of Significant Amenity Value – Dublin Mountains	To work closely with the Dublin Mountains Partnership and other stakeholders in delivering sustainable amenity and recreational initiatives linked where possible to the existing and planned parks and open space network, and to the Dodder Valley and Kiltipper Parks in particular.	SDCC with partner organisations	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_GIB_22	Liffey Valley and Special Amenity Area Order	To implement the relevant policies in the County Development Plan in relation to the Liffey Valley SAAO	SDCC and relevant stakeholders	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_GIB_23	Dodder Valley	To promote the connection of public parklands to reinforce the County's Green Infrastructure in the Dodder Valley	SDCC and relevant stakeholders	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy

Ref.	Policy Topic (and secondary topic if relevant)	Key Actions	Responsibility	Timeframe
POS_GIB_24		To continue to facilitate and support the development of the Dodder Valley as a linear Regional Park, greenway, and an area of high amenity, recreational, heritage, geology, biodiversity and conservation value.	SDCC and relevant stakeholders	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_GIB_25	Grand Canal	To ensure the appropriate development of the Grand Canal as a linear park and recreational route for walking, cycling, nature study and water-based activities, delivered in accordance with the overall Parks and Landscape Strategy of the Clonburris SDZ lands.	SDCC, relevant landowners and stakeholders	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_GIB_26		To facilitate and monitor the creation of suitable connections between the Grand Canal Park and other parks and open spaces, including new open space provision at Griffeen Park extension, Na Cluainte Park South and Na Cluainte Park North.	SDCC, relevant landowners and stakeholders	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_GIB_27		To pursue biodiversity enhancement within parks open space areas acting as stepping stones in proximity to the Grand Canal Corridor.	SDCC, relevant landowners and stakeholders	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_GIB_28	Invasive Species	To ensure that park development and management proposals do not lead to the spread or introduction of invasive species.	SDCC, relevant landowners and stakeholders	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_GIB_29		To ensure a prompt response and appropriate treatment of invasive species, such as Japanese Knotweed, where notified by members of the public that such species, located on public lands, pose a potential threat to property.	SDCC	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_GIB_30		To continue to implement the Council's Invasive Alien Species Control programme and monitor its effectiveness.	SDCC	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_GIB_31	Trees	To continue to implement South Dublin's Tree Management Strategy: Living with Trees 2021-2026 or any superseeding plan.	SDCC	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_GIB_32		To provide for increased tree canopy across the county, in particular to areas that are lacking trees to contribute to meeting the National Target of 18% afforestation by 2050.	SDCC	Long term
POS_GIB_33		To extend tree trails in Regional Parks across the County, with supporting interpretative data on the Council web site and other media.	SDCC	Medium
POS_GIB_34		To pursue the planting of new woodlands and forestry within appropriate public open space and park locations throughout the County.	SDCC	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_GIB_35		To pursue the planting of 'mini woodlands' in tracts of open grassland in parks and open spaces, as a local community project and to act as an oasis for biodiversity.	SDCC	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_GIB_36		To pursue the implementation of new street tree planting where suitable along roads, particularly between parks and open spaces with the potential to reinforce or create green links, and adopting sustainable planting techniques.	SDCC	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_GIB_37		To work within the Dublin Mountains Partnership to deliver the Dublin Mountains Makeover and other complementary actions to increase continuous tree cover and native woodland species in the county.	Coillte Nature with Partner organisations including SDCC	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_GIB_38	Hedgerows	To promote the role of hedgerows as wildlife corridors, and to enhance their visual amenity and landscape character value, through active management and supplementary planting where required.	SDCC, relevant landowners	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_GIB_39		To pursue the potential to plant hedgerows along roads to increase visual amenity, enhance biodiversity, and help mitigate noise and air pollution.	SDCC, relevant landowners	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_GIB_40		To deliver a hedgerow reinstatement programme for Kiltipper park to renovate the existing field boundaries and bring back traditional techniques of hedge laying to strengthen and reinforce the hedgerows in this park.	SDCC	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy

Ref.	Policy Topic (and secondary topic if relevant)	Key Actions	Responsibility	Timeframe
Healthy Placemaking				
POS_HP_01	Community Engagement	South Dublin, in tandem with local communities, will develop new initiatives in parks and open spaces that contribute to enhancing biodiversity, expanding tree canopy cover and the protection, enhancement and restoration of hedgerows, wetlands and riparian corridors to assist in arresting biodiversity loss, and will further examine how to implement nature restoration at appropriate locations.	SDCC and local stakeholders	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_HP_02		To continue to develop and strengthen partnerships with voluntary groups and other organisations to improve parks and open spaces, and to work in partnership with local groups, schools, sports clubs, youth groups and local residents associations.	SDCC and local stakeholders	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_HP_03		To develop a signage and branding strategy for South Dublin's parks and implement same.	SDCC	Medium
POS_HP_04		To 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.	SDCC	Medium
POS_HP_05	Public Open Space	To contribute to the creation of a strong sense of place within neighbourhoods by enabling connections between parks and open spaces across as part of a robust and resilient Green Infrastructure network which employs nature-based solutions.	SDCC	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_HP_06		To ensure that public open space in new residential developments complies with the quantitative and qualitative standards set out in the Development Plan and this Parks and Open Space Strategy.	SDCC	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_HP_07		To enhance the recreational value of open spaces that serve existing residential areas as part of any future infill developments or where appropriate provide for the upgrade of other parks in the immediate area through a financial contribution in lieu, where a proposed development is not capable of providing the full open space standards on site.	SDCC	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_HP_08		To promote the development of outdoor leisure activities on lands that are designated with Zoning Objective Open Space 'OS' (to preserve and provide for open space and recreational amenities).	SDCC	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_HP_09	General Well-being	To ensure compliance with GI provisions within the Development Plan impacting on human health and wellbeing e.g. provision of parks, recreational and biodiversity areas etc.	SDCC	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_HP_10		To ensure that parks cater for all age and ability groups and to continue to deliver best practice in terms of intergenerational design and universal accessibility.	SDCC	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_HP_11		To support and encourage the cultural, physical and mental health benefits and opportunities that parks and open spaces offer to all users. Recognising the importance for human health and well being, and all ages and abilities are catered for.	SDCC. Active South Dublin. Other Agencies	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_HP_12	Antisocial Behaviour	To respond to antisocial behavioural (ASB) issues in parks and open spaces by ensuring 'safe by design' principles are adhered to in the development of parks and open spaces, increasing passive surveillance wherever possible, preventing unauthorised access, installation of CCTV cameras where appropriate, and working with local youth groups, schools and Community Gardai.	SDCC and relevant state bodies and local stakeholders	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_HP_13		To develop specific plans to reclaim parks that have been disproportionately affected by anti-social behaviour and vandalism through increasing the facilities available to the communities within the parks and in turn increasing the usage of the parks by local people.	SDCC and relevant state bodies and local stakeholders	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_HP_14		To work with An Garda Síochána where illegal entry by unauthorised vehicles into parks and open spaces occurs, and assist where possible in their implementation of the	SDCC and relevant state bodies	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy

Ref.	Policy Topic (and secondary topic if relevant)	Key Actions	Responsibility	Timeframe
		provisions of the Road Traffic (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill.		
Sustainable Movement				
POS_SM_01		To work with other Council Departments and state agencies (such as the NTA) in providing a comprehensive and connected pedestrian and cycle network across South Dublin; making walking and cycling a more achievable mode of transport for all adults and children; and improving the walking and cycling identity of the County.	SDCC and relevant state bodies and local stakeholders	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_SM_02		To link parks and open spaces together and to housing areas with safe footway and cycle routes that encourage sustainable means of travel and promote jogging to and from recreation and leisure facilities.	SDCC and relevant state bodies and local stakeholders	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_SM_03		To enhance connectivity between existing parks and open spaces on either side of the M50 corridor.	SDCC and relevant state agencies	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_SM_04		To investigate funding opportunities for developing or retrofitting an eco-bridge or eco-tunnel across the M50 to provide connectivity between both sides of Tymon Park, and between Collinstown Park and green space at Cloverhill Road, for both biodiversity and for local communities.	SDCC and relevant state agencies	Long
POS_SM_05		To link public parks with public transport modes through improved footways, and to promote additional stops where possible.	SDCC and relevant state agencies and service providers	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_SM_06		To support and promote the planning and implementation of Greenways as shared spaces for pedestrians and cyclists within public parks and as vehicles to improve the local environment and park amenity..	SDCC and relevant state agencies	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_SM_07		To limit internal public car parking to Regional Parks and large Neighbourhood Parks only, apart from exceptional circumstances where specific need is assessed, and to prioritise disabled, age-friendly and family parking.	SDCC	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_SM_08		To provide bicycle parking facilities in all Regional, Neighbourhood and Local/Small parks.	SDCC	Medium
POS_SM_09		To work with other Council Departments to support and encourage walking, cycling and other active travel modes that link open spaces.	SDCC and relevant state agencies	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
Community Infrastructure and Open Space				
POS_CIOS_01	Community Engagement	To continue to develop partnerships with communities throughout the county with involvement in the location, design and management of existing and new parks and open spaces.	SDCC in partnership with local stakeholders	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_CIOS_02		To ensure that the findings and aspirations arising from the public consultation undertaken for this strategy informs public open space, play and recreation provision throughout the County.	SDCC	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_CIOS_03		To continue to develop and strengthen engagement with the local community through all stages of delivery of this Strategy.	SDCC	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_CIOS_04		To increase the number of community events facilitated in parks and to develop and promote child-friendly park events in conjunction with Biodiversity Week, Culture Night and Heritage Week.	SDCC	Short
POS_CIOS_05		To consult with, and seek the views of, young people via available networks and the Teenspace Programme to ensure that park improvements deliver safe, well-used and respected spaces, and monitor the number and outcome of young people consulted.	SDCC	Short
POS_CIOS_06		To explore and develop outdoor classrooms in parks where feasible and with the appropriate educational features for use within them.	SDCC and local stakeholders	Short

Ref.	Policy Topic (and secondary topic if relevant)	Key Actions	Responsibility	Timeframe
POS_CIOS_07	Active Sports Facilities and Centres	To 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 superceeding plans.	SDCC Public and Planning Sections. Active South Dublin Team.	Medium
POS_CIOS_08		To investigate gaps in provision in parks and open spaces across the County and prioritising those areas identified that have a quantitative under-supply of outdoor sport facilities.	SDCC	Medium
POS_CIOS_09		To support the implementation of the County's Sports Plan: Active South Dublin 2023-2028, where relevant to public parks and open spaces, in accordance with the National Sports Policy (2018-2027)	SDCC and Active South Dublin Team.	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_CIOS_10		To support and facilitate the provision of sports facilities as appropriate to parks and open spaces, in accordance with SDCC's Sports Pitch Strategy 2020 and the development of the County Sports Plan and this Parks and Open Space Strategy.	SDCC and Active South Dublin Team.	Medium
POS_CIOS_11		Implement South Dublin's Sports Pitch Strategy under the 5 key headings below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	SDCC	Long
POS_CIOS_12		To deliver the sports changing pavillion programme as agreed by the Council and support the provision of other ancillary facilities as appropriate.	SDCC	Medium
POS_CIOS_13	Accessibility	To deliver Universal Accessibility across all features in South Dublin parks (pathways, furniture, sensory and recreational amenities etc), including compliance with universal design principles as part of the design process for parks and open spaces.	SDCC	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_CIOS_14		Continue the inclusion and consideration of the principles of universal design in all playspace and teenspace proposals.	SDCC	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_CIOS_15		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.	SDCC	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_CIOS_16	Visitor Facilities	To assess the changing requirements for visitor facilities in parks and open spaces, and to seek suitable provision where there is sufficient footfall and in particular Regional and Neighbourhood Parks, to enhance their appeal and enjoyment.	SDCC	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_CIOS_17		To consider and promote the provision of cafés/tea rooms (with public toilets) in Regional Parks and larger Neighbourhood Parks, subject to demand, commercial viability and the character of the receiving park.	SDCC	Medium

Ref.	Policy Topic (and secondary topic if relevant)	Key Actions	Responsibility	Timeframe
POS_CIOS_18		To consider the provision of toilets within Regional and Neighbourhood Parks as part of other built facilities where active management and monitoring is present.	SDCC	Medium
POS_CIOS_19	Play Facilities	To continue to provide innovative play spaces based on natural play, sensory play areas and play trails in parks and public open spaces throughout the County, Under the Play Space Programme (2014-2020) and subsequent initiatives.	SDCC	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_CIOS_20		To deliver the provision of formal and informal play areas with appropriate equipment and facilities, incorporating nature-based play opportunities across the County, ensuring that the needs of differing age groups and abilities are accommodated by increasing the diversity of accessible play equipment.	SDCC	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_CIOS_21		To ensure that the provision and play facilities meets or exceeds the considerations set out in Development Plan Chapter 13 Implementation and Monitoring.	SDCC	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_CIOS_22		To continue to assess the provision of new skateparks where demands exist as part of the TeenSpace programme.	SDCC	Short
POS_CIOS_23		To identify the quietest and busiest times at playgrounds and share this information on the Council web site so that visitors can identify quiet times and quieter playgrounds and plan their visits accordingly.	SDCC	Short
POS_CIOS_24		To review the Council's play policy within the lifetime of the Development Plan, incorporating the feedback and consultation carried out with children during the delivery of South Dublin's Playspace Programme and include the innovative learnings from South Dublin's Teenspace Programme	SDCC	Medium
POS_CIOS_25	Allotments	To continue to protect and manage existing allotment sites in accordance South Dublin's Allotments Strategy, including the provision of required supporting facilities within allotment areas.	SDCC	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_CIOS_26		To 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.	SDCC	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_CIOS_27		To 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.	SDCC	Medium
POS_CIOS_28		To 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.	SDCC	Medium
POS_CIOS_29		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.	SDCC	Medium
South Dublin Neighbourhoods				

Ref.	Policy Topic (and secondary topic if relevant)	Key Actions	Responsibility	Timeframe
Citywest / Saggart / Rathcoole / Newcastle				
POS_SDN_01		To implement the relevant policies relating to parks and open spaces for this Neighbourhood Area		
POS_SDN_02		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.	SDCC	Medium
POS_SDN_03		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	SDCC	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_SDN_04		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	SDCC	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_SDN_05		Rathcoole Area: To implement an upgrade of Rathcoole Park, as set out in the Rathcoole Study presented to the Council in 2024 and protect the naturally regenerating woodlands and biodiversity in the area.	SDCC	Medium / On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_SDN_06		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.	SDCC	Medium
Clondalkin / Clonburris / Grange Castle				
POS_SDN_07		To implement the relevant policies relating to parks and open spaces for this Neighbourhood Area		On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_SDN_08		To monitor the development and delivery of the 'Parks and Landscape Strategy' and the 'Biodiversity Management Plan' for the Clonburris SDZ lands.	SDCC	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_SDN_09		To progress plans for new open space provision at Griffeen Park extension, Grand Canal Park, Na Cluainte Park South and Na Cluainte Park North.	SDCC	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_SDN_10		To implement the actions of the Sports Pitch Strategy for the County in this area ensuring adequate provision and quality of pitches to meet need	SDCC	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_SDN_11		To pursue habitat improvement at Collinstown Park as a stepping stone in GI network.	SDCC	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_SDN_12		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.	SDCC	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_SDN_13		To preserve and enhance the status of Corkagh Park as a regional park for biodiversity and ecosystems services (including flooding) importance.	SDCC	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_SDN_14		To consider the upgrade of larger amenity open spaces where suitable, to small / local parks to meet the minimum access criteria to parks.	SDCC	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_SDN_15		To investigate the upgrade of existing open spaces or other means to increase access to parks within the Clondalkin Neighbourhood Area.	SDCC	Medium
POS_SDN_16		To continue the planned upgrades to Corkagh Regional Park and St. Cuthbert's Local Park.	SDCC	Short

Ref.	Policy Topic (and secondary topic if relevant)	Key Actions	Responsibility	Timeframe
Lucan/Palmerstown/Adamstown				
POS_SDN_17		To implement the relevant policies relating to parks and open spaces for this Neighbourhood Area	SDCC	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_SDN_18		To avail of opportunities to upgrade facilities and enhance biodiversity in parks within this Neighbourhood Area.	SDCC	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_SDN_19		To examine the potential for improvements to amenity open space to cater for access to local park requirements	SDCC	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_SDN_20		To continue upgrades of Griffeen Valley Park and Local/Small Parks to provide increased facilities and enhanced biodiversity.	SDCC	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_SDN_21		To continue upgrades at Glenaulin Park in Palmerstown, to enhance amenity, sports and recreation facilities.	SDCC	Medium
POS_SDN_22		To identify suitable locations for a series of linked Small Parks through upgrading and connecting existing amenity areas to established parks.	SDCC	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_SDN_23		To continue the implementation of the sports pavilion programme in Griffeen Valley Park, Willsbrook Park and Arthur Griffith Park.	SDCC	Short
POS_SDN_24		To pursue the implementation of third park in Adamstown at Tobermaclugg.	SDCC	Medium
Naas Road				
POS_SDN_25		To implement the relevant policies relating to parks and open spaces for this Neighbourhood Area	SDCC	On-going during the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_SDN_26		To monitor and implement the open space recommendations of the City Edge Strategic Framework.	SDCC	On-going during the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_SDN_27		To ensure adequate provision of public open space within the City Edge Plan, in accordance with the hierarchy of provision within the County Development Plan and Open Space minimum quantity provision and within the distance requirements to parks of different scales within the hierarchy to meet the needs of the planned population.	SDCC	On-going during the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_SDN_28		To ensure adequate provision of public open space within the plan to provide for the multi-functional aspects of public open space, including sufficient provision of active recreational facilities to meet the needs of the planned population.	SDCC	On-going during the lifetime of the Strategy
Rural Uplands				
POS_SDN_29		To implement the relevant policies relating to parks and open spaces for this Neighbourhood Area	SDCC	On-going through the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_SDN_30		To support the implementation of the 'Dublin Mountains Forest Conversion Plan' by Coillte Nature, in co-operation with the Dublin Mountains Partnership.	Coillte Nature and relevant partners including SDCC	Long
POS_SDN_31		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	SDCC	Medium
POS_SDN_32		To work with Uisce Éireann and other partners in ensuring the recreational and amenity resource within Bohernabreena Reservoir area is maintained along with its	SDCC and relevant State Agencies /	On-going during the lifetime of the Strategy

Ref.	Policy Topic (and secondary topic if relevant)	Key Actions	Responsibility	Timeframe
		critical function as a water reservoir for the county and area of environmental importance.	landowners and stakeholders	
POS_SDN_33		To support the protection of the Natura 2000 and other designated sites within the Dublin Mountains as set out in legislation.	SDCC and relevant Agencies	On-going during the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_SDN_34		Investigate the feasibility of additional biodiversity actions e.g. red squirrel surveys and other initiatives (in partnership with national bodies).	SDCC and relevant Agencies	Medium
POS_SDN_35		To continue to work with landowners and stakeholders in the area via the Dublin Mountains Partnership (DMP) to deliver the DMP Strategic Plan.	SDCC and Partner Organisations	On-going during the lifetime of the Strategy
Tallaght				
POS_SDN_36		To implement the relevant policies relating to parks and open spaces for this Neighbourhood Area	SDCC	On-going during the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_SDN_37		To identify Amenity Green Spaces with the potential for enhancement to become Local and Small Parks, based on their location, access and size.	SDCC	Medium
POS_SDN_38		Continue to connect and upgrade parks and amenity spaces as part of the public space network	SDCC	Long
POS_SDN_39		To explore opportunities to de-culvert and naturalise the River Poddle and Whitestown Stream.	SDCC	Long
POS_SDN_40		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	SDCC	Short
POS_SDN_41		Identify the location and mechanism for delivery of public open space identified within the Tallaght LAP	SDCC	Short / Medium
POS_SDN_42		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. (SDCC	Short / Medium
Templeogue/ Walkinstown/ Rathfarnham/ Firhouse				
POS_SDN_43		To implement the relevant policies relating to parks and open spaces for this Neighbourhood Area	SDCC	On-going during the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_SDN_44		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.	SDCC	On-going during the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_SDN_45		To continue to improve and develop facilities in existing Local and Small Parks	SDCC	On-going during the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_SDN_46		To continue to connect and upgrade parks and amenity spaces as part of the public space network.	SDCC	On-going during the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_SDN_47		To seek opportunities to improve the biodiversity potential of the Dodder River and M50 Green Infrastructure corridors, connecting them where possible	SDCC and relevant state agencies and authorities	Medium
POS_SDN_48		To implement the Ballycullen LAP; providing parks and open spaces in tandem with development while protecting existing green infrastructure assets.	SDCC	On-going during the lifetime of the Strategy
Implementation and Management				
POS_IM_01	Parks and Open Space Management and Maintenance	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.	SDCC	On-going during the lifetime of the Strategy

Ref.	Policy Topic (and secondary topic if relevant)	Key Actions	Responsibility	Timeframe
POS_IM_02		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.	SDCC	On-going during the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_IM_03		To continue to work towards a pesticide-free park system by monitoring and minimising the use of chemicals and seeking alternatives to their use in line with the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive and in keeping with the National Pollinator and National Biodiversity Plans.	SDCC	On-going during the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_IM_04		To continue the prohibition of the use of glyphosate based herbicides in parks, playgrounds and public gardens, with the exception of the treatment of Invasive Alien Species (IAS).	SDCC	On-going during the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_IM_05		To continue the meadowland programme in accordance with South Dublin's Pollinator Action plan to enhance local area biodiversity in support of the National Pollinator Plan, and to consider additional actions where beneficial to amenity, biodiversity and habitat creation.	SDCC	On-going during the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_IM_06		To improve and maintain the highest feasible standards of grounds maintenance for formal sports areas to maximise their use and appeal.	SDCC	On-going during the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_IM_07	Parks and Open Spaces and the planning system	To update guidelines to planning applicants for submission of landscape proposals (including landscape and public open space design and provision, green infrastructure protection and enhancement, biodiversity, nature based solutions, children's play, sports and active recreation).	SDCC	Short
POS_IM_08		To ensure that planning applications demonstrate how they contribute to the protection or enhancement of Green Infrastructure through the provision of a Green Infrastructure Plan and achievement of the Green Space Factor as part of the application submission, in accordance with the County Development Plan policies.	SDCC	On-going during the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_IM_09		To review developers proposals to implement all necessary measures to create GI connections to the wider GI network, according to the specific case of each development.	SDCC	On-going during the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_IM_10		To review and update the Taking In Charge Guidelines and Procedures for public open space, ensuring the transfer of title occurs in tandem with taking in charge processes.	SDCC	Short
POS_IM_11		To seek coordination of developer guidelines with adjacent councils (Fingal County Council, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Council and Dublin City Council).	SDCC	Short
POS_IM_12		To contribute to the development of national policies relating to landscape, green infrastructure, parks and open spaces as appropriate.	SDCC	On-going during the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_IM_13	Partnerships	To continue to develop partnerships with other state and semi-state organisations involved with the provision and management of public open spaces and active recreation, such as Waterways Ireland and Coillte.	SDCC	Medium
POS_IM_14		To continue to work as an active partner within the Dublin Mountains Partnership and continue to implement the DMP Strategic Plan 2022-2026 and any superseeding plan.	SDCC	Medium
POS_IM_15	Sport and Active Recreation	To continue to provide, manage and maintain a range of recreational opportunities within parks, and to work with sports governing bodies to strategically plan development of facilities without impact on passive uses or the character of parks or open spaces.	SDCC	On-going during the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_IM_16		Continue to work with Active South Dublin and other partners to deliver the Active South Dublin Plan, and any superseeding plan, including to establish a baseline of active sport and recreation facility provision in the county in order to evaluate existing and projected sporting and recreational requirements for the County to inform future developments.	SDCC	Medium

Ref.	Policy Topic (and secondary topic if relevant)	Key Actions	Responsibility	Timeframe
POS_IM_17		To implement the recommendations of the Councils' Sports Pitch Strategy 2020-2035 or any superseding plan.	SDCC	Medium
POS_IM_18	Children's Play	To continue to maintain and upgrade existing playgrounds and playspaces and to improve access to play facilities for all children within South Dublin, prioritising areas currently lacking suitable provision and having a high population of children.	SDCC	Medium
POS_IM_19		To continue the development of natural playspaces across the county where appropriate. Replacing older traditional playgrounds with natural playspaces as they reach the end of the useful life.	SDCC	Medium
POS_IM_20		To expand the potential of natural play provision in parks and open spaces throughout the County.	SDCC	Medium
POS_IM_21	Dogs in Parks	To facilitate the use of parks and open spaces by responsible dog owners	SDCC	On-going during the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_IM_22		To review the requirement for additional off-leash areas for dogs in parks and open spaces, in consultation with other park users.	SDCC	Medium
POS_IM_23		To review the design of off-leash areas to incorporate additional dog and dog owner friendly features	SDCC	Medium
POS_IM_24		To continue to work with Dog Wardens and Community Gardaí where concerns are raised about dogs not under effectual control and to take enforcement action against owners that repeatedly allow their dogs to cause damage and/or foul.	SDCC	On-going during the lifetime of the Strategy
POS_IM_25	Events in Parks	To develop a park events strategy that supports active, cultural or artistic events in the context of environmental sustainability.	SDCC	Medium
POS_IM_26		To explore a web-based interactive search element that the public can access to illustrate park features and facilities, such as: toilets; cafés; sports; horticultural features; play provision including natural play; relaxation; walking for health; events; linkages; formal and historic elements.	SDCC	Medium
POS_IM_27	Parks and Open Space Bye-Laws	To review current Parks and Open Space Bye Laws in relation to contemporary living, the environment and general well-being	SDCC Public Realm	Medium

1.2 Key Delivery Mechanisms

South Dublin County Council Development Contribution Scheme

The Planning and Development Act 2024 makes provision for development contributions to allow for the delivery of public infrastructure and facilities including the following that typically relate to public parks and open space areas:

- the provision of open spaces, recreational and community facilities and landscaping works.
- infrastructure, pertaining to aspects of the natural and built environment relating to land, that provides ecosystemic and social benefits, including infrastructure to support decarbonisation and the reduction of anthropogenic greenhouse gases.
- infrastructure, pertaining to aspects of the natural and built environment relating to water, waterways and water bodies, that provide ecosystemic and social benefits, including infrastructure such as flood defences and sustainable water management solutions.
- works relating to the character and amenity of areas to which the public have access such as roads, footpaths, lanes, parks, squares, open spaces and building facades.
- the acquisition of land for one or more than one of the purposes referred to in the list above

During the lifetime of this Strategy South Dublin County Council intend making a Scheme for Development Contributions that will allow for the delivery of public infrastructure and facilities relating to parks and open space areas, including the types of facilities listed above.

In relation to South Dublin Parks and Open Spaces the following public infrastructure and facilities have been identified *inter alia* as priorities, as part of this Parks and Open Spaces Strategy:

- Implementation of the Parks and Open Space Strategy
- Provision of new parks as set out in the Parks and Open Space Strategy
- Improving the quality of parks and open spaces in the county including:
 - Identifying and implementing improvements to existing Regional, Neighbourhood, Local and Small parks via management plans and recreational audits
 - Identifying existing Open (Amenity) Spaces for upgrade to Small or Local Parks
 - New recreational and amenity facilities
 - Improving existing recreational and amenity facilities
- Improving access to parks and open spaces including:

- Assessing and improving accessibility to all parks and open spaces where required
- Improving routes to and through parks and open spaces to adjoining destinations and residential areas
- Upgrading entrances and access points to parks and open spaces
- Parks interpretation, signage & branding
- Improvement and provision of new greenways and walking / cycling trails including:
 - Green Route programme
 - Dublin Mountains Way upgrades and enhancements
 - Dublin Mountain Partnership Trails
 - Further phases of Dodder Greenway including Balrothery Weir Enhancement and other destination points
 - Camac Greenway
- Sports Pitch Strategy Implementation including:
 - 3G Artificial Grass Pitch Programme
 - Sports Changing Pavillion Programme
 - Sports Capital Grant Projects
- Implementation of the planned Sports and Recreational Facility audit and report
- Other formal / informal sport delivery
- MUGA Programme
- Water Sports Pavillion Lucan
- Teenspace Programme
- Large-scale Recreational Facility Replacement
- Playspace refurbishment and Implementation Programme
- Facilities to support intergenerational activity
- Climate Change Actions including:
 - Green Infrastructure Strategy Implementation
 - Implementation of nature-based SuDS Guidelines where appropriate in Parks and Open Spaces
 - Creation of new Integrated Constructed Wetlands where appropriate in Parks and Open Spaces
 - Implementation of South Dublin's Pollinator Plan Projects
 - Programme of Nature Restoration.
 - Tree Canopy Study and related actions
 - Urban Woodland programme
 - Hedgerow restoration programme
 - Allotment programme
- Landscape Improvements to approach roads in the county including
 - N81 Improvement Scheme and others
- Upgrade to existing parks and open spaces and facilities including:
 - Upgrade to the presentation of parks (Entrances, car parks, access points and boundaries)
 - Sean Walsh Park Upgrade and facilities including Sean Walsh Park Bowling Green
 - Butler McGee Park upgrade
 - Griffeen Valley Park

- Kiltipper Park (Facilities and Enhancements)
- Killinarden Park and Green Corridor
- Lucan Demesne Park
- Upgrade of Plaza at Clondalkin Office
- Rathcoole Park including new pitches and pavilion
- Corkagh Park Study Implementation
- Tymon Park Intergenerational Facility
- St Cuthberts Park Enhancement Project
- Parco Italia, Lucan House and Demesne
- Whitestown Stream Park
- Camac Valley Camping and Caravan Park Refurbishment
- Carrigmore Park
- Grange Castle Golf Course Boundary
- Waterstown House
- DRCD-funded capital infrastructure projects
- New parks at:
 - Central Boulevard Park Adamstown
 - Clonburris Stage 3, Griffeen Valley Park Extension
 - Clonburris Stage 4, Grand Canal Park
 - Clonburris Stage 5, Na Cluainte Park South
 - Provision of new regional / neighbourhood park(s) in the west of the county.

Contributions in Lieu

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

Appendix 2

Park Management

2.1 Park Management, Management Plans and on-going review

Park Management

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.

South Dublin maintains a team with appropriate skills and expertise to manage the multiple functions of its parks and open spaces, including the design, construction, management and maintenance of them. This ensures the correct balance is achieved within the different types of open space to meet the full spectrum of local needs. A changing climate, along with social and economic circumstances, changing development patterns, work and leisure practices, the increased sophistication of consumer tastes and greater public expectations have placed new demands on open spaces which requires a dedicated skill set to manage.

Park Management Plans

Park Management Plans are important to ensure that parks have an individually crafted plan for future operation and maintenance, maintaining the quality of park provision. These plans can contribute to identifying future

improvements and development and that maintenance is carried out to a high standard. The Green Flag process develops management plans for larger parks. South Dublin have developed a similar set of criteria to create management plans to apply to the management of parks to ensure that the necessary maintenance standards are retained.

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. A detailed open space audit and management audit will be used to contribute to the development of Management Plans (set out further below).

Detailed Open Space Audits

This Strategy is concerned largely with the quantitative provision of Parks and Open Space and, as demonstrated by the preceding sections, the assessment has identified future and current public open space requirements for neighbourhoods in South Dublin based upon population and area data.

Improvements in terms of the quality of each park and open space in the County can improve the provision and access data in each neighbourhood and opportunities for the improvement of open spaces and parks should be determined by a further detailed open space audit to supplement the summary quality audit presented in earlier sections of this Strategy. This will entail visits to each identified open space to undertake an audit against a pre-defined set of criteria, complemented by park user target surveys within each neighbourhood to gain further insight into the requirements and aspirations of the local communities.

The detailed open space audit will provide the mechanism by which the future planning and delivery of open space can be most effectively achieved. In summary the audit should:

- Assess the quality of each existing open space (see below)
- Identify the accessibility of open space and where appropriate, identify measures to be undertaken to provide and improve access;
- Assess the quality, value and usefulness of open space and not just the quantity;
- Encourage ongoing input from local communities.
- Assess the suitability of these spaces for upgrade and improvement and make recommendations
- Ensure actions to improve Green Infrastructure within open spaces are identified and implemented, bearing in mind the key role that parks and open spaces play in the wider Green Infrastructure network

- The audit should be updated on a regular basis to record progress with delivery of the strategy and to take account of changing circumstances (such as funding opportunities and windfall sites).

A locally derived Quality Standard considerations has been developed based on previously used Green Flag criteria but including a developed biodiversity section as follows:

A Welcoming Place

1. Welcoming entrances
2. Good and safe access
3. Signage
4. Equal access for all

Healthy, Safe and Secure

5. Safe and accessible equipment and facilities
6. Personal security
7. Appropriate provision of facilities
8. Quality of places

Management

9. Clean and well-maintained
10. Litter and waste management
11. Grounds maintenance and horticulture
12. Building and infrastructure maintenance

Potential for Biodiversity

13. Linkages to GI network
14. Native tree and shrub planting
15. Hedgerows and semi-natural grasslands
16. SuDS features (incl. integrated wetlands)
17. Natural water features (including stream re-profiling)

Detailed Management Audit

The detailed open space audit should be supported by a thorough review of existing maintenance requirements to determine site specific needs for each public open space

and to inform ongoing open space management throughout the County. The audit should provide:

- A detailed record of physical site features and site facilities.
- A review of the extent that biodiversity is being protected and enhanced within the park / open space with an identification of specific habitats and any required management regimes.
- Assessment of the Green Infrastructure Assets within the park and adjacent to the park that can be identified, enhanced and protected.
- A review of existing facilities and activities provided in terms of suitability and changing user requirements.
- Ongoing assessment of condition of specific elements such as footpaths, entrances, boundaries, children's play and sports facilities to be maintained.
- Identification of specific site problems and emerging issues.
- Assessment of operational management practice and reappraisal where necessary to suit changes in open space requirements, such as grass cutting, litter collection, anti-social behaviour, dogs, opening times, management of planting and provision of lighting.
- Review of layout design and identification of opportunities for potential upgrade.
- Assessment of resources and funding required to implement identified actions.
- Establishing priorities for delivery and timescales for investment.

2.2 Green Flag

South Dublin County Council 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

However, it is recognized that assessing all parks against the Green Flag criteria is not appropriate for most of the County's public open space areas and it is not considered necessary for South Dublin to achieve Green Flags for every park. However, the development of Park Management Plans are important to ensure that future maintenance is carried out to a high standard, especially in the larger parks, and the Green Flag award or similar criteria will be used to assist in the development of management plans for all parks to help ensure that the necessary maintenance standards are attained.

For this strategy, a locally set quality assessment (see above) 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.

2.3 Bye-laws

The current Parks and Open Space Bye Laws were adopted by the Council in 2011 setting out the rules that apply to the use of parks and open spaces and ensuring that these rules can be enforced where necessary. It is intended to review the Bye Laws during the lifetime of this Strategy.

2.4 Amenity

The park user survey (See Appendix 4), highlighted that the main user groups visiting the parks do so in the following order of priority: informal exercise (27%), spending time outdoors (24%), children's play (17%), dog walking (14%), meeting friends (11%), playing sports (4%) and other (or no reason given) (3%). This replicates similar results received during the Teenspace Survey carried out by South Dublin, which reiterated a requirement for meeting areas and informal activity for teenagers.

These responses are supported by several studies that show access to nature and outdoors increases physical and mental well-being. Easy access to pleasant, clean parks and open spaces with strong natural elements encourages people to take more exercise, increase every-day activity and offers significant health benefits. South Dublin will continue to carefully manage and operate parks to maintain and enhance the natural component and visual amenity within them and to ensure that parks can continue to provide experience of the natural landscape and access to nature as much as possible. Providing a balance between areas of high activity provision and areas of passive recreation is important in this regard, retaining

views of nature and ensuring visual amenity is maintained, including careful design and placement of proposed facilities and screening of obtrusive elements where possible.

A wide range of benefits and value are conferred by parks and open spaces, and it underlines the importance of having a strategy for the development and management of these resources. The Council recognises the health, social, economic and environmental benefits of open spaces and will promote healthy active lifestyles and encourage greater use of open space.

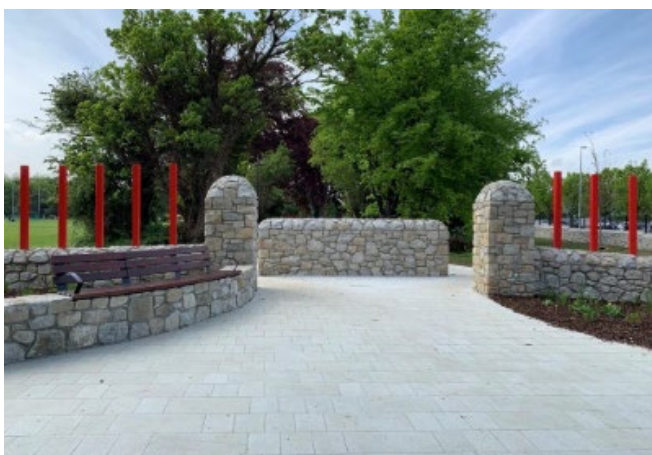
2.5 Access

The Parks and Open Space Strategy sets out the requirements for Universal Access to parks and open spaces with a presumption against providing unnecessary barriers. Where necessary, bollards may be used to demark the entry point to a pedestrian or cyclist facility, but should provide a minimum clear width of 1.5m to accommodate the full range of mobility vehicles and those using cargo bikes.

Access controls should be designed to maintain universal access and the free flow of cyclists through obstructions. On the approach to points of interaction it is preferable to adjust the horizontal alignment by providing deflection and curves to slow movement, rather than providing chicanes or staggered gates which obstruct movement. This will allow cyclists, in particular, to be fully aware of the interaction point and the need to adjust speed accordingly to give way to pedestrians or motor traffic if required.

Access to public parks are sometimes controlled by the use of restrictive facilities such as 'kissing gates', closely positioned barriers forming chicanes, closely positioned bollards and other measures to deter anti-social behaviour, such as the use of illegal vehicles, motorcycles and quad bikes in parks (which increase the risk to other park users and of damage to park infrastructure), and to secure the public space for local communities. However, many of these controls make access difficult for wheelchair users, buggies, bicycles etc. and prevent universal access being achieved; so should be installed only as a last resort and on a temporary basis only, when other measures have failed.

For Active Travel routes in parks and open spaces, current NTA guidance is provided in 'Active Travel Advice Note: Access Controls of Active Travel Facilities' (July 2022).



Example of welcoming access to a park, with a gap of 1.8m provided to allow universal access

Where suitable access controls are proposed (to prevent inappropriate vehicular access to pedestrian and cycling facilities, including shared greenways and segregated cycleways); universal access should also be considered.

The County Council will continue to monitor illegal vehicle access, particularly in regard to the securing entrances and boundaries to parks, along with the involvement of the local community and Gardai. Tackling the anti-social use of scrambler bikes and other off-road machines in public parks will also be assisted by the recent Road Traffic (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill.

The legislation has introduced measures to:

- Use of a motorised vehicle prohibited on public or private land, except in cases where there is permission from the landowner. This proposed covers places such as parks, green areas, waste ground, beaches and others, while the use of vehicles on private lands (such as farms) will not be affected.
- An Garda Síochána have powers to detain a vehicle used in a location where permission from the landowner has not been received.
- An Garda Síochána is enabled, on foot of a warrant, to enter a private premises and remove a vehicle suspected of having been used contrary to the new offence.



2.6 Lighting

In general lights are not provided in parks and open spaces in South Dublin. Park opening hours are generally aligned with seasonal daylight. Allowing for dark areas within parks in South Dublin protects the environment and protected and endangered mammal species including bats. In any case, as parks are large open space generally devoid of sufficient number of park users at night time, encouraging people to use parks at night time is not advised.

The exception to this is considered along certain active walking and cycling routes that are sufficiently busy, which have no obvious alternative route or certain Active Travel Routes. In these cases, specially designed lighting systems are normally required, such as sensors on lights to allow them to turn off when not in use, use of dimmable lights etc. Low level lighting should also be considered. As research develops in this area it is expected that further interventions in terms of light colour and temperature will be implemented to decrease impact on sensitive species.

Facilities such as 3G Artificial Grass Pitches and other intensively used recreational facilities generally require floodlighting. In these cases, the proposed location of these facilities is carefully considered and designed accordingly.

Environmental surveys and assessments are required prior to all such proposals being made to ensure there are little or no impacts to the existing environment.



2.7 Pesticide Use

South Dublin continues to work towards a pesticide-free park system by monitoring and minimising the use of chemicals and seeking alternatives to their use in line with the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive and in keeping

with the National Pollinator and National Biodiversity Plans.

South Dublin have implemented a prohibition of the use of glyphosate based herbicides in parks, playgrounds and public gardens, with the exception of the treatment of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) as part of a IAS Control Plan. South Dublin's Pollinator Plan seeks to reduce or eliminate the use of pesticides in South Dublin's parks and open spaces.

The management and control of Invasive Alien Species in particular remains a challenge in this regard as much of the control of these invasive species, which are a risk to biodiversity, is dependent on the sustained use of pesticides. The Council will however review their use and seek and implement alternatives where feasible. Where not feasible the Council reduce potential harm by the use of injection where possible, rather than broadcast spraying.

2.8 Dogs in Parks

Dog owners are a regular and welcome visitor to South Dublin's Parks. They constitute a valuable part of the park user community, providing increased use on a regular basis and passive surveillance of park activities. However, dogs are not permitted in playgrounds, and uncontrolled dogs can be intimidating for other park visitors. Whereas most dog walkers are responsible, dog fouling is a concern in some areas, with public health and environmental risks attached and is particularly difficult to monitor and control where dogs are off leash. Targeted education and enforcement will be planned and undertaken where a need is identified.

In addition, commercial dog walking is not permitted in South Dublin's Parks and Open Spaces without permit.

The SDCC Bye-laws for Parks and Open Spaces, in relation to dogs, includes the following provisions:

- No person shall take into or allow to remain in a Park any dog unless it is under effective control on a leash other than in areas designated (dog runs) or at times specified by the County Council.
- No person in charge of a dog in a Park shall engage it in coursing or permit it to be engaged in coursing in a Park.
- Persons in charge of a dog in a park shall take reasonable care to prevent it from causing annoyance to any person using the Park or worrying, chasing, injuring or disturbing any animals, birds or other creatures in the Park.
- Such persons shall be liable for any damage or injury which may be caused by the dog, and remove it from

the Park if so directed by an Employee of the Council or an Authorised Person.

- If a dog, other than a guide dog, defecates in the Park, the person in charge of the dog shall remove the faeces from the ground and dispose of in a proper manner or other receptacle which may be designated for the purpose.

Off-leash dog areas in South Dublin parks are currently provided at Corkagh Park, Clondalkin; Griffeen Valley Dog Park, Lucan; and a dog run in Waterstown Park, Sean Walsh Park and Jobstown Park.

By way of comparison, there are four off-leash dog areas in parks managed by Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council; one designated off-leash area within Dublin City Council parks; and nine off-leash dog areas in Fingal County Council's parks.

South Dublin also operates a Dog Warden service and undertakes enforcement in relation to the Control of Dogs Acts. The Council will continue to work with Community Gardaí if concerns are raised about dangerous dogs and will take enforcement action against owners that repeatedly allow their dogs to cause damage and/or foul.

2.9 Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS)

The implementation of SuDS is a nature-based solution to water management that aims to mimic natural infiltration processes from the environment. If SuDS areas are designed correctly they will provide multi-functional areas. The main benefits of correctly designed SuDS areas are:

- Reducing the rate and quantity of stormwater discharge;
- Improving the quality of stormwater discharges and receiving water bodies; and
- Providing recreational amenity to open spaces
- Supporting diversity in habitats and improving biodiversity value.

South Dublin's Sustainable Drainage Explanatory Design & Evaluation Guide, SDCC 2022 gives guidance to designers on the correct implementation of SuDS in South Dublin developments. Unless a SuDS area is designed in accordance with the guidelines to achieve the four benefits above it is not considered to be appropriate to a public open space area.

The maintenance of these areas will require a change in existing maintenance regimes and South Dublin will plan for same.

2.10 Biodiversity

South Dublin will continue to maintain parks and open spaces to conserve and support biodiversity. Parks and Open Spaces are an important component of the Green Infrastructure of the county and many of South Dublin's parks contain a diverse range of habitats with woodlands, hedgerows, rivers, ditches, ponds and wetlands.

South Dublin will remain proactive and innovative in the management of parks and open spaces for biodiversity. A county specific Pollinator Action Plan (2021-2025) has been developed, which will be reviewed during the lifetime of this Strategy. This plan supports the delivery of National Biodiversity Action Plan (2017-2021), the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (2021-2025) and South Dublin County Biodiversity Action Plan (2020-2026).

In recent years, South Dublin have implemented both long and short flowering meadows in parks and open spaces, which are an important source of biodiversity and provide support for pollinators. It has been expanding year on year since its inception and it is intended to continue to implement and expand the meadowland programme where appropriate.

The mini woodland programme has also been well received, with the support of community groups expanding and enhancing the native tree cover of the county. It is intended to continue to implement and expand the mini woodland programme where appropriate.

APPENDIX 3

Guiding Policies

This Parks and Open Spaces Strategy has links with policies, strategies and plans at international, national, regional and local levels as summarised below.

3.1 International Context

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

These 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), agreed upon in 2015 by world leaders, aim to create a better, fairer, world by 2030 – ending poverty, urgently addressing climate change and ending inequality.

“The Sustainable Development Goals are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. They address the global challenges we face, including those related to poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace and justice. The 17 Goals are all interconnected, and in order to leave no one behind, it is important that we achieve them all by 2030”.

The 17 Global Goals

- No Poverty: Access to basic human needs of health, education, sanitation
- Zero Hunger: Providing food and humanitarian relief, establishing sustainable food production
- Good Health and Wellbeing: Better, more accessible health systems to increase life-expectancy
- Quality Education: Inclusive education to enable upward social mobility and end poverty
- Gender Equality: Education regardless of gender, advancement of equality laws, fairer representation of women
- Clean Water and Sanitation: Improving access for billions of people who lack these basic facilities
- Affordable and Clean Energy: Access to renewable, safe and widely available energy sources for all
- Decent Work and Economic Growth: Creating jobs for all to improve living standards, providing sustainable economic growth
- Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure: Generating employment and income through innovation
- Reduced Inequalities: Reducing income and other inequalities, within and between countries

- Sustainable Cities and Communities: Making cities safe, inclusive, resilient and sustainable
- Responsible Consumption and Production: Reversing current consumption trends and promoting a more sustainable future
- Climate Action: Regulating and reducing emissions and promoting renewable energy
- Life Below Water: Conservation, promoting marine diversity and regulating fishing practices
- Life on Land: Reversing man-made deforestation and desertification to sustain all life on earth
- Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions: Inclusive societies, strong institutions and equal access to justice
- Partnerships for the Goals: Revitalize strong global partnerships for sustainable development

3.2 European Context

Currently at EU level there are no directives relating specifically to the planning, design and management of parks and open spaces. The most relevance guidance includes:

The European Landscape Convention (Florence Convention)

This is the first international treaty to be exclusively devoted to all aspects of the European landscape. It applies to the entire territory of the member countries and covers natural, rural, urban and peri-urban areas. It concerns landscapes that might be considered outstanding as well as every day or degraded landscapes.

Ireland ratified the ‘European Landscape Convention’ (ELC) in 2004.

The general purpose of the Convention is to encourage public authorities to adopt policies and measures at local, regional, national and international level for protecting, managing and planning landscapes (natural, rural, urban and peri-urban) throughout Europe so as to maintain and improve landscape quality.

This in turn aids the public, institutions and local and regional authorities to recognise the value and importance of landscape and to take part in related public decisions. In response to Ireland’s commitment to this convention a National Landscape Strategy was published by the Irish Government in 2015.

EU Habitats Directive/EU Birds Directive

These Directives give protection to species of flora and fauna, habitat types and species of birds. Designation of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection

Areas (SPA) by EU member states is central to the objective of both Directives.

The following three European Natura 2000 Sites are located within the County:

- 001209 Glenasmole Valley SAC
- 002122 Wicklow Mountains SAC
- 004040 Wicklow Mountains SPA

Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) are designated to conserve and protect species and habitats of national importance in Ireland and are established under the Wildlife Acts. These can include species listed under the European Habitats and Bird Directives. In South Dublin County there are seven proposed NHAs (pNHAs), which were originally identified on a non-statutory basis but have not been formally designated. The following seven pNHAs are identified within the County, with those at Glenasmole Valley and Wicklow Mountains also being Natura 2000 sites:

- 000991 Dodder Valley
- 000128 Liffey Valley
- 002104 Grand Canal
- 001212 Lugmore Glen No
- 000211 Slade of Saggart and Crooksling Glen
- 001209 Glenasmole Valley Yes (SAC)
- 002122 Wicklow Mountains* Yes (SAC & SPA)

EU Green Infrastructure Strategy

In 2013, the European Commission adopted a Green Infrastructure Strategy, Green Infrastructure (GI) — Enhancing Europe's Natural Capital “to promote the deployment of green infrastructure in the EU in urban and rural areas.”

The strategy recognises that Human society depends on the benefits provided by nature such as food, materials, clean water, clean air, climate regulation, flood prevention, pollination and recreation. However, many of these benefits, frequently referred to as ecosystem services, are used as if their supply is almost unlimited and treated as free commodities whose true value is not fully appreciated. The strategy further recognises that the Green Infrastructure approach is a successfully tested tool for providing ecological, economic and social benefits through natural solutions. It helps us to understand the value of the benefits that nature provides to human society and to mobilise investments to sustain and enhance them.

Other international (UK) documents of particular relevance to the Parks and Open Space Strategy include:

- ‘Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard’, Fields in Trust 2017
- ‘Open space strategies - Best practice guidance’, CABI 2009
- ‘Planning and Design for Outdoor Sport and Play’, UK Fields in Trust

- ‘Nature Nearby’, Natural England, March 2010
- ‘Access to Natural Greenspace Standard’ (ANGSt)
- ‘Developing Open Space Standards - Guidance and Framework’, Greenspace Scotland and Scottish Natural Heritage (June 2013)
- ‘Improving access to greenspace - A new review for 2020’, Public Health England
- Planning Policy Guidance 17: ‘Planning for open space, sport and recreation’ – although no longer current guidance, the content is still of practical value, along with The Companion Guide to PPG 17 (‘Assessing Needs and Opportunities’). PPG 17 was replaced by the National Planning Policy Framework in March 2012.

3.3 National / Regional Context

The Parks and Open Space Strategy has been prepared in the context of the following National planning policy frameworks (as set out in the Development Plan):

- National Development Plan 2018-2027
- Project Ireland 2040: National Planning Framework
- The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021
- The National Mitigation Plan 2017
- The National Adaptation Framework 2018
- Section 28 Ministerial Guidelines including Specific Planning Policy Requirements outlined under Section 28(1) of The Act.

Regional planning policy frameworks comprising:

- The Eastern and Midlands Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2019-2031, including the Dublin Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan, The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midlands Region

National Climate Action Plan

The Climate Action Plan 2024 (CAP24) is the third annual update to Ireland's Climate Action Plan.

The purpose of the Climate Action Plan is to lay out a roadmap of actions which will ultimately lead us to meeting our national climate objective of pursuing and achieving, by no later than the end of the year 2050, the transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy. It aligns with the legally binding economy-wide carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings that were agreed by Government in July 2022.

‘A Policy for the Provision and Maintenance of Parks, Open Spaces and Outdoor Recreation Areas by Local Authorities’, DoEHLG (1987)

The provision of open space has historically been the remit of the local authority. The primary legislation relating to the provision of open space was the Town and Regional Planning Act, 1934, which stated that provision may be made by Planning Schemes for the reservation of particular lands for the use as public parks, recreation grounds, open spaces, allotments, or other particular purposes, whether public or private.

In 1963 the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act was passed. This act repealed the earlier Town Planning Acts and placed an obligation on local authorities to make Development Plans. The Act stated that a development plan shall consist of a written statement and a plan indicating the development objectives for the area in question, including objectives for preserving, improving and extending amenities.

In 1987 the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government published the document (DoEHLG) published: ‘A Policy for the Provision and Maintenance of Parks, Open Spaces and Outdoor Recreation Areas by Local Authorities’.

This guidance which is now almost 30 years old still represents the only national advice specifically for local authorities providing for parks, open spaces and outdoor recreational activities. The document identified the growing demand for the provision of public parks, open spaces and recreational areas and the need to co-ordinate this provision if public demand is to be adequately catered for and if maximum value is to be obtained from the limited resources available.

The guidance emphasised provision of a hierarchy of spaces with prescriptive quantitative guidance standards as follows: Local Park of minimum 2 hectares open space per 1,000 population with a typical provision of a 16 Hectare Neighbourhood Park and 2 No. 2 Hectare Local Parks per 10,000 population. The Neighbourhood Park should be capable of including:

- Up to 6 football pitches
- Up to 10 tennis courts
- Up to 2 netball or basketball courts
- Up to 2 golf putting greens
- 1 children’s playlot
- 1 athletic facility
- Car parking

More recently, emphasis has been re-balanced to focus on the quality and accessibility of provision. In this respect, the following documents have proven useful.

National Landscape Strategy (2015–2020)

This policy document was delivered by the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht as a response to meeting Ireland’s obligations under the Florence Convention. It recognises the complexity and relevance of the Irish landscape and seeks to protect, manage and plan for the sustainable stewardship of the Irish landscape. Six key objectives are defined:

1. Recognise landscapes in law.
2. Develop a National Landscape Character Assessment.
3. Develop landscape policies.
4. Increase landscape awareness.
5. Identify education, research and training needs.
6. Strengthen public participation.

‘Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas (Cities, Towns & Villages)’ DoEHLG 2009

(Note, this document has been superseded-see below, but is worthwhile describing as it included valuable information in relation to the development of high quality public open space.)

This document considered public open space provision in relation to Amenity/quality of life issues, and including:

‘Public open space can have a positive impact on physical and mental well-being as it provides spaces to meet, interact, exercise and relax. It needs to be appropriately designed, properly located and well maintained to encourage its use. It is one of the key elements in defining the quality of the residential environment.

Apart from the direct provision of active and passive recreation, it adds to the sense of identity of a neighbourhood, helps create a community spirit, and can improve the image of an area (especially a regeneration area).

Well-designed open space is even more important in higher density residential developments.

Recommended qualitative standards include:

- Design: The layout and facilities – particularly in larger parks – should be designed to meet a range of user needs, including both active and passive recreation, as

identified in the city/county strategy referred to above.

- **Accessibility:** Local parks should be located to be within not more than 10 minutes' walk of the majority of homes in the area; district parks should be on public transport routes as well as pedestrian/cycle paths. Playgrounds should be carefully sited within residential areas so that they are both easily accessible and overlooked by dwellings, while not causing a nuisance to nearby residents.
- **Variety:** A range of open space types should be considered having regard to existing facilities in the area and the functions the new spaces are intended to provide.
- **Shared use:** The potential for maximising the use of open space facilities (such as all-weather pitches) should be explored, for example, by sharing them with nearby schools.
- **Biodiversity:** Public open spaces, especially larger ones, should provide for a range of natural habitats and can facilitate the preservation of flora and fauna.
- **Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems** are often used to reduce the impact of urban runoff on the aquatic environment.
- **Provision for allotments and community gardens:** Allotments are small plots of land which are let (usually by a local authority) to individuals for the cultivation of vegetables and plants. They are of particular value in higher density areas.

The recommended quantitative standards are:

- In green-field sites or those sites for which a local area plan is appropriate, public open space should be provided at a minimum rate of 15% of the total site area. This allocation should be in the form of useful open spaces within residential developments and, where appropriate, larger neighbourhood parks to serve the wider community;
- In other cases, such as large infill sites or brown field sites public open space should generally be provided at a minimum rate of 10% of the total site area; and
- In the case of institutional lands and some private sites characterised by substantial open lands which in some cases are accessible to the wider community, any proposals for higher density residential development must take into account the objective of retaining the "open character" of these lands, while at the same time ensuring that an efficient use is made of the land. In these cases, a minimum requirement of 20% of site area should be specified; however, this should be assessed in the context of the quality and provision of existing or proposed open space in the wider area.

Regarding the quantitative aspect, the Guidelines note it will be necessary to take a more flexible approach to quantitative open space standards and put greater emphasis on the qualitative standards.

'Urban Design Manual - A best practice guide', DoEHLG, 2009

(Note, this companion document to the now superseded 'Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas (Cities, Towns & Villages)' is also worthwhile describing as it included valuable consideration to the design of public realm)

A companion document to the Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas. The Manual Guide introduces the core principles of urban design and sustainability insofar as they relate to residential development. These principles have in turn been informed by the qualities of successful places and draws up 12 Criteria to encapsulate the range of design considerations for residential development as follows:

CONTEXT How does the development respond to its surroundings?

CONNECTIONS How well connected is the new neighbourhood

INCLUSIVITY How easily can people use and access the development?

VARIETY How does the development promote a good mix of activities

EFFICIENCY How does the development make appropriate use of resources, including land?

DISTINCTIVENESS How do the proposals create a sense of place?

ADAPTABILITY How will the buildings cope with change?

PRIVACY AND AMENITY How does the scheme provide a decent standard of amenity?

LAYOUT How does the proposal create people friendly streets and spaces?

PUBLIC REALM How safe, secure and enjoyable are the public areas?

PARKING How will the parking be secure and attractive?

DETAILED DESIGN How well thought through is the building and landscape design?

All the above criteria come with a number of guiding questions and indicators to ensure residential

developments and the landscapes therein are well designed.

**Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements Guidelines For Planning Authorities
The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage 2024.**

The above 2 documents were superseded by these Guidelines in 2024, it outlines the following:

Green and Blue Infrastructure

The following key principles should be applied in the preparation of local plans and in the preparation and consideration of individual planning applications:

Plan for the protection, restoration and enhancement of natural features, biodiversity and landscapes, and ensure that urban development maintains an appropriate separation and setback from important natural assets. New development should seek to protect and enhance important natural features (habitats and species) within and around the site, should avoid the degradation of ecosystems and include measures to mitigate against any potential negative ecological impacts.

Plan for an integrated network of multifunctional and interlinked urban green spaces. This is addressed further in Public Open Space below.

Promote urban greening and Nature-based Solutions (including Sustainable Drainage Systems and slow-the-flow initiatives) for the management of urban surface waters in all new developments and retrofitting in existing areas to ensure that the benefits of ecosystem services are realised

Refer to DHLGH publication Nature-based Solutions to the Management of Rainwater and Surface Water Runoff in Urban Areas Water Sensitive Urban Design Best Practice Interim Guidance Document, 2022 for further information in relation to Water Sensitive Urban Design. . Planning authorities should adopt a nature-based approach to urban drainage that uses soft-engineering techniques and native vegetation (including the protection of the riparian zone) to minimise the impact on natural river processes.

The use of Nature-based Solutions at ground level may not be possible on certain brownfield sites due to historic land contamination. In such cases, alternative solutions such as green roofs and walls can be considered.

Public Open Space

All statutory development plans should include a strategy for the provision of an integrated hierarchy of public open spaces and corridors across the plan area to meet the

needs of the planned population. The availability of accessible and high quality public open spaces within all settlements that are part of a wider GBI network will be important in creating sustainable settlements. This should include a hierarchy of multifunctional public open spaces and corridors that are accessible and provide for the recreational needs of the planned population, while also creating space for nature and ecosystem services.

The public open space strategy in the development plan should include objectives relating to the provision of:

(a) Regional, district and local level public parks and greenways. These are generally publicly owned and managed parks e.g. by a local authority or public body such as the OPW or Waterways Ireland.

(b) Public open space provided as part of new development proposals. These spaces should be designed to retain and protect natural features and habitats of importance within the site and to maximise biodiversity gain. They should also form an integral part of the overall design. These spaces may be offered for taking in charge by the local authority following the completion of the development.

The objectives of the development plan public open space strategy should be informed by the objectives of the RSEs and any regional GBI strategy. The form, size and distribution of new public open spaces should be planned and take account of open space provision within the area and broader nature conservation and environmental considerations.

While there is no set standard of open space provision per settlement in Ireland, it is recommended that opportunities to enhance the overall quantum of public open space and to restore and enhance nature and biodiversity within settlements is harnessed where opportunities arise, for example, through regeneration or urban enhancement projects and in new development areas. The level of provision should take account of the needs of the planned population, protected zones, landscape character and statutory obligations to protect certain habitats and biodiversity. Ideally, all residents within a settlement will have access to a multi-functional public open space within walking distance of their home.

Public open spaces should be designed to cater for a range of active and passive recreational needs (including play, physical activity, active travel, cultural uses and community gardens and allotments, as appropriate to the context) and to conserve and restore nature and biodiversity. It will be necessary to balance improved access to natural assets with the need to protect the environment as increased levels of tourism, sports and leisure can impact negatively on nature and biodiversity. In addition, the provision of public open spaces should not

result in any direct or indirect adverse effects on the integrity of European Sites.

Public Open Space

Public open spaces in residential schemes refers to the open spaces that form part of the public realm within a residential development. This is distinct from a public park.

Open spaces provide for active and passive recreation, nature conservation, pedestrian and cycle connection and provide an important visual break between streets and buildings. All residential developments are required to make provision for a reasonable quantum of public open space. There is a need to focus on the overall quality, amenity value and biodiversity value of public open spaces. The spaces should integrate and protect natural features of significance and green and blue infrastructure corridors within the site and should support the conservation, restoration and enhancement of biodiversity. The public open space should also form an integral part of the design and layout of a development and provide a connected hierarchy of spaces, with suitable landscape features, including seating and provision for children's play

Policy and Objective Public Open Space

It is a policy and objective of these Guidelines that statutory development plans include an objective(s) relating to the provision of public open space in new residential developments (and in mixed-use developments that include a residential element).

The requirement in the development plan shall be for public open space provision of not less than a minimum of 10% of net site area and not more than a minimum of 15% of net site area save in exceptional circumstances. Different minimum requirements (within the 10-15% range) may be set for different areas. The minimum requirement should be justified taking into account existing public open space provision in the area and broader nature conservation and environmental considerations.

In the case of strategic and sustainable development sites, the minimum public open space requirement will be determined on a plan-led basis, having regard to the overall approach to public park provision within the area.

In the case of sites that contain significant heritage, landscape or recreational features and sites that have specific nature conservation requirements, a higher proportion of public open space may need to be retained. The 10-15% range shall not therefore apply to new development in such areas.

In some circumstances a planning authority might decide to set aside (in part or whole) the public open space

requirement arising under the development plan. This can occur in cases where the planning authority considers it unfeasible due to site constraints or other factors, to locate all of the open space on site. In other cases, the planning authority might consider that the needs of the population would be better served by the provision of a new park in the area or the upgrade or enhancement of an existing public open space or amenity.

It is recommended that a provision to this effect is included within the development plan to allow for flexibility. In such circumstances, the planning authority may seek a financial contribution within the terms of Section 48 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) in lieu of provision within an application site.

Ready, Steady, Play: National Play Strategy Guidelines

The Government, under the National Children's Strategy, launched in November 2000, included a commitment to develop National Play and Recreation Policies. This strategy aims to create better play opportunities for children. Its overall objective is to plan for an increase in public play facilities and thereby improve the quality of life of children living in Ireland by providing them with more play opportunities.

With the publication of this policy, Ireland became one of the first countries in the world to produce a detailed national policy on play. The reason for the development of such a policy by Government was to honour commitments made in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), the National Children's Strategy (2000) and the Programme for Government (2002).

The objectives of the National Play Policy are:

- To give children a voice in the design and implementation of play policies and facilities.
- To raise awareness of the importance of play.
- To ensure that children's play needs are met through the development of a child-friendly environment.
- To maximise the range of public play opportunities available to all children, particularly children who are marginalised, disadvantaged or who have a disability.
- To improve the quality and safety of playgrounds and play areas.
- To ensure that the relevant training and qualifications are available to persons offering play and related services to children.
- To develop a partnership approach to funding and developing play opportunities.
- To improve information on, and evaluation of, play provision for children in Ireland.

Actions for Biodiversity 2017–2021

The National Biodiversity Plan is developed in line with the EU and International Biodiversity strategies and policies. The measures Ireland will take are presented as actions under a series of 7 strategic objectives. The objectives include the mainstreaming of biodiversity across the decision-making process in the State, the strengthening of the knowledge base on biodiversity and increasing public awareness and participation.

The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan for 2021-2025

This is a five-year road map that aims to help bees, other pollinating insects and our wider biodiversity. The new Plan is even more ambitious than the first (2015-2020) – with more partners coming together to deliver more actions this time around. It is about encouraging a better way of managing our whole landscape to permanently support our struggling biodiversity.

The AIPP 2021-2025 has 186 actions spread across six objectives. It was developed by a 16-member steering group who provide oversight, with implementation coordinated by the National Biodiversity Data Centre. Responsibility for delivering the actions contained in this new Plan is shared out between the main partner organisations.



2.4 Local Context

The South Dublin Climate Action Plan 2019-2024

South Dublin County Council's Climate Change Action Plan 2019-2024 identifies actions across thematic action areas and sets out how South Dublin County Council is improving its energy efficiency and reducing its greenhouse gas emissions. It commits to making South Dublin a more climate resilient county and to engaging with our citizens. Steady progress is underway towards achieving the targets, however as legislation is reviewed and updated, the targets are revised accordingly. The thematic areas are as follows:

- Energy and Buildings
- Transport
- Flood Resilience
- Nature Based Solutions
- Resource Management

The County Development Plan

The South Dublin County Development Plan 2022-2028 was made on 22nd June 2022 and came into effect on 3rd August 2022. The South Dublin County Development Plan sets out the framework to guide future development with the focus placed on the places we live, the places we work, and how we interact and move between these places while protecting our environment. The aim is to progress to a more sustainable development pattern for South Dublin in the immediate and long-term future up to 2040 and beyond.

The County Development Plan is underpinned by the promotion of a compact urban form of development as being a central part of mitigating climate change. The policies and objectives of the Core Strategy seek to provide for a consolidated urban form within existing settlements that are integrated with existing and planned public transport and the delivery of social and physical infrastructure, including parks and open spaces.

It is the aim of the County Council to strive towards the delivery of connected neighbourhoods, and with the provision of community facilities and services that are accessible within a 10-minute walk or cycle from home, or accessible via public transport services connecting people to larger scaled settlements where such services are available.

County Development Plan policies include:

SDCC support the provision of recreational facilities for our growing county. SDCC have a growing and diverse population and have identified the need and requirements for the delivery of high quality recreational facilities to support the health, well-being and recreational needs of

our population in our corporate policies and implementation plans.

Policy COS4: Sports Facilities and Centres

Ensure that all communities are supported by a range of sporting facilities that are fit for purpose, accessible and adaptable.

COS4 Objective 1:

To promote the provision and management of high-quality, multi-functional, sport and recreational infrastructure across the County, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, to meet existing and future needs, to include sports hubs and multi-sport astro-pitches, in accordance with the South Dublin County Council Sports Pitch Strategy (2020), the National Sports Policy (2018-2027) and the aims of the South Dublin County Sports Partnership, consistent with RPO 9.15 of the RSES.

COS4 Objective 8:

To support the provision of permanent space for well-established sports and recreational activities at appropriate locations within the County, aspiring to the standards and conditions met for such playing areas by National Governing Bodies, where feasible and in accordance with proper planning and sustainable development

COS4 Objective 11:

To facilitate as far as possible all sports played by the citizens of South Dublin County including rugby, recognising the growing numbers taking part in the sport and the particular requirements of the game in terms of pitches.

COS4 Objective 19:

To ensure where possible and appropriate, that all public all-weather pitches provided by South Dublin County Council cater for all team sports and are large enough to cater for a full size GAA pitch.

COS5 Objective 3: To support the implementation and expansion of the Council's TeenSpace Programme (2021) and the implementation of the Sports Pitch Strategy (2020) or any superseding documents.

COS5 Objective 13: To ensure that parks and open spaces provide for a wide range of recreational and amenity activities that are easily accessible to all in the community, irrespective of age or ability

COS5 Objective 14: To ensure that public open space and associated recreational facilities are accessible by walking,

cycling and public transport, as appropriate to their position within the open space hierarchy set out in Table 8.1 and include safe bicycle parking spaces at appropriate locations.

Green Infrastructure Strategy

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.”

The County's rural areas, river valleys, forests, woodlands, hedgerows, trees and parks and open spaces provide valuable carbon sequestration services, absorbing CO₂ from the atmosphere and storing it in the soil. In urban areas tree planting and other local GI interventions provide cooling and shade, ensuring a liveable and comfortable environment for residents and visitors. GI planting and SuDS can also play a significant role in stormwater runoff.

Parks and open space are integral to achieving connected neighbourhoods and for facilitating walkable urban environments. Forming an essential part of the County-wide GI network, public open space is central to the success of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures through nature-based solutions.

SDCC's Pollinator Action Plan 2021-2025

In April 2021 South Dublin County Council launched the SDCC Pollinator Action Plan 2021-2025. The Pollinator Action Plan is based on the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan and sets out a broad range of actions that South Dublin County Council have committed to over the five years of the plan.

The delivery of local pollinator actions by SDCC represents the Councils commitment to promoting habitats and food sources for pollinators in South Dublin and addressing the rapid decline in bee populations.

SDCC's Biodiversity Plan 2020-2026 'Connecting with Nature'

The action plan presents a background to the diversity of nature in the County and to the challenges that face biodiversity and the County in a time of change.

The document outlines a series of objectives and actions that aim to achieve the protection and enhancement of the County's biodiversity, while aiming to ensure that the County's residents, businesses and visitors continue to enjoy and benefit from the many services that nature provides.

The action plan responds to national obligations under the National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017 -2021 and under European policy under the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030.

SDCC's Sports Pitch Strategy 2020-2035

SDCC's Sports Pitch Strategy sets out the project need for public sports pitches over the lifetime of the strategy and seeks to address the demand that will accrue. The actions within the plan are divided as follows:

- Improve match play equivalents of existing pitches.
- Maintain flexibility in use and allocation of pitches to maximise pitch use.
- Conserve ability to change configuration of pitches through positive design and management.
- Seek and provide opportunities for new grass pitches to meet growing demand.
- Provide artificial grass pitches to augment long term capacity and meet training need.

SDCC's Tree Management Policy 2021-2026 'Living with Trees'

Living with Trees highlights the importance of trees in our County. The main objectives of the Policy are:

- To continue to implement a proactive tree management programme.
- To expand the tree canopy in the County.
- To implement a public awareness and education programme.

The policy allows for a pro-active and systematic approach to tree management, resulting in a healthier tree population and creating a greener, more sustainable environment for residents and visitors to the County.

South Dublin's Sustainable Drainage Explanatory Design and Evaluation Guide

Natural Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) allow for a sustainable and natural surface water drainage regime to be implemented. These types of SuDS offer multiple benefits when compared to traditional drainage systems and aim to maximise the benefits of rainwater once it falls

on the surface. SuDS not only improve the quality of surface water runoff and decrease runoff volumes but also improve certain aspects of developments such as biodiversity, public amenity and make areas more visually attractive and vibrant. They can help combat the adverse effects of climate change by reducing temperatures at street level in urban areas and reducing volumes of rainfall-runoff which can aid to alleviate flooding issues. SuDS can best be summarised as offering a "total" solution to rainwater management while traditional drainage can be considered as only providing a "collection and disposal" approach.

Well-designed SuDS incorporate a "SuDS management Train" which manages rainfall as close as possible to where it falls on the surface using natural drainage features ideally incorporating vegetation. The surface water runoff then passes through a series of both local and regional SuDS systems before finally discharging to the receiving watercourse or surface water drainage network at predeveloped greenfield runoff rates. SuDS are not limited to new developments and can be retrofitted into existing developments also.

In order to be acceptable within public open space in South Dublin, natural SuDS shall be designed to comply with the 4 pillars of SuDS design;

- Managing and controlling water quantity
- Maintain and improve (if required) water quality
- Maintain and improve biodiversity
- Provide for public amenity and good quality landscape design

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.

National Sports Policy 2018-2027

This national policy highlights the influence and importance of sport across Irish society, it provides a vision for Irish Sport in 2027 and defines the key actions required to achieve its ambitious goals:

"Lead Role for Local Authorities

Local Authorities are key stakeholders in the context of the public spaces which are widely used for sport and physical activity. They manage the public parks; they are responsible for the local road network; and they are key facilitators for outdoor recreation with almost 1 in 5 recreational walkers walking in public parks and 1 in 3 adult sports participants taking part in public spaces. Public spaces are often used on an informal basis by meet-and-train groups while sports clubs are also widespread users of these spaces.”

ACTION 8 We will establish, through Sport Ireland, an initiative to support Local Authorities in developing Local Sports Plans consistent with the overall vision and objectives of this National Sports Policy. The Local Plan will review needs and set out actions to increase participation locally. It will be developed and implemented in cooperation with LSPs, clubs, communities and partners within and beyond sport.

ACTION 22 We will work with relevant stakeholders to explore the merits of a new programme of current sports funding under a targeted scheme to support schools on a sustainable basis in defraying reasonable costs (such as necessary transport and facility hire) incurred in delivering the aquatics strand of the PE curriculum. We will encourage Local Authorities to promote and facilitate more sharing of facilities locally, especially where capacity is available at off-peak times during the day, in the evening or during holiday periods in the case of educational establishments. This will involve working closely with clubs and sporting bodies, schools and colleges, leisure facility providers and others. As part of the Local Sport Plans, Local Authorities will also lead on other collaborative initiatives to improve access locally e.g. Local Authorities and LSPs will combine to see how recreational areas can be utilised more fully by local communities for sport and physical activity e.g. for parkruns.

“Local Authorities have a significant role in promoting participation in sport and physical activity in the community. They invest significant resources in physical infrastructure for sport and physical activity and employ sport and recreation development officers. They are strongly engaged in community development through the LCDCs and the associated Local Economic and Community Plans, which seek to enhance the quality of life and wellbeing of communities linking strongly with the policy agenda around sport and physical activity. They have a close working relationship with LSPs and NGBs, sports clubs, facility providers, schools, community groups and other stakeholders locally. As already noted, we see

potential for an expanded role for Local Authorities in leading collaboration within and beyond sport in their local area.”

Active South Dublin Plan 2023 (SDCC’s Local Sports Plan):

On the 08/05/2023 SDCC formally ratified the aims and actions of the inaugural 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 is 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. Relevant sections include:

Ambition 4:

Optimise the potential of existing natural and physical assets such as community centres, parks, mountains, water, leisure centres and schools as places where sport, physical activity and recreation can occur.

Ambition 6:

Significantly enhance the availability of quality sport, recreation and physical activity facilities and spaces through the full delivery of our sports capital programme and other capital programmes.

- Work collaboratively to deliver the planned projects included in the current Three-Year Capital Programme 2023-2025 and beyond, and seek to expand the range of sport, physical activity and recreation projects in the Council’s capital programmes based on assessed need and demand.
- Ensure that the Active South Dublin work programmes are aligned to and support the ongoing implementation of the Council’s strategic plans for pitches, parks and open space, green infrastructure, cycling and other relevant strategies

APPENDIX 4

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

4.1 Park User Survey

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.

Questionnaire Responses

The questionnaire was available on the South Dublin County Council web site accompanied by a promotional video, and comprised:

Part 1: Context

Q1, 13 + 14 Personal details of the respondent

Part 2: Understanding Community Use of County Parks

Q2	Which of the following park(s) have you visited in South Dublin County in the past 12 months? (Please select all that apply)		
1	Corkagh Park	2,076	25%
2	Tymon Park	2,092	25%
3	Dodder Valley Park	1,373	16%
4	Waterstown Park	520	6%
5	Griffen Valley Park	912	11%
6	I haven't visited any of the above parks in the last 12 months	159	2%
	Other/no answer	1,216	15%

Q3	If you have not visited any of these parks in the last 12 months, which of the following options best describes why? Please select all that apply		
1	They are too far away or difficult to get to	350	9%
2	Parks do not interest me	16	0.5%
3	There are other types of open spaces or parks nearby that I prefer to visit	404	9%
4	I have a disability that prevents me from using parks	59	1.5%
5	They are poorly maintained	156	4%
6	Parks do not feel safe	199	5%
	Other/no answer	3,143	71%

Q4	Which park is located closest to your home?		
1	Corkagh Park	889	19%
2	Tymon Park	1,095	23%
3	Dodder Valley Park	808	17%
4	Waterstown Park	178	4%
5	Griffen Valley Park	629	13%
6	Clondalkin Park	133	3%
7	Other/no answer	990	21%

Q5	Is the park closest to your home the one you visit most often?		
1	Yes	3,212	79%
2	No	765	19%
	No answer	66	2%

Q6	How do you typically travel to this park?		
1	On foot	2,804	57%
2	Bicycle	431	9%
3	Public transport	41	1%
4	By car	1,497	31%
	Other/no answer	91	2%

Q7	What are the main reasons you visit this park (please rank in order of importance)?		
1	To exercise	2,728	27%
2	To walk the dog	1,481	14%
3	To take children to play	1,719	17%
4	To meet up with friends	1,119	11%
5	To spend time outdoors	2,416	24%
6	To play sports	461	4%
7	Other/no answer	237	3%

Q8	Prior to the Covid-19 crisis, how often would you typically visit this park?		
1	Daily	1,174	28%
2	Weekly	2,096	50%
3	Monthly	555	13%
4	Less often	277	7%
	No answer	57	2%

Q9	How often do you typically visit this park now – during the evolving Covid-19 crisis?		
1	Daily	1,983	47%
2	Weekly	1,566	38%
3	Monthly	284	7%
4	Less often	287	7%
	No answer	53	1%

Q10	How long do you typically stay?		
1	Less than 30 minutes	158	4%
2	30 minutes – 1 hour	2,142	50%
3	1-2 hours	1,613	38%
4	2-4 hours	251	6%
5	More than 4 hours	45	1%
	No answer	52	1%

Q11	How do you rate the current condition of this park?		
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