

**Waterford's Partnership
With The
All-Ireland Pollinator Plan**

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Waterford City & County Council

All – Ireland Pollinator Plan

‘It is a shared plan of action supported by more than 90 governmental and non-governmental organisations –

‘To Help our pollinators and improve biodiversity’

A Call To Action

To enhance the local landscape for pollinators, and
A demonstration of one’s biodiversity credentials;



Biodiversity

Refers to the variety of life on Earth

Encompassing the processes that sustain life.

Which - supports human and societal needs, which together underpin the good health of our



2019 Waterford City and County Council Accepted the Call

to become a

All Ireland Pollinator Partner

To support pollinators on public lands,

Working with community groups & schools,

To raise awareness of the importance of
pollinators and biodiversity.



Waterford's Partnership involves a number of *Actions*

- Alter The Frequency Of Mowing
- Pollinator Friendly Planting
- Provide Nesting Habitats
- Reduce Or Eliminate The Use Of Pesticides
- Raise Awareness

And finally –

Track this Progress



Waterford's Journey

No one quick solution in preventing biodiversity decline

Playing a role in being more pollinator friendly



Waterford City

Tramore

Dungarvan

Waterford Greenway

Kilbarry Nature Park



Alter the frequency of mowing

Less frequent grass cutting programme green verge support many dandelions -peak flowering time late March to May ***Waterford City Outer Ring Road***

A time many bees and other pollinators emerge from hibernation

Early, easily available source of food is a lifesaver for pollinators in spring

78 Hectares of grassed open spaces maintained and managed- emphasis on Biodiversity



Wildflower Meadows

Adopted measures to include the creation of meadows, to provide a more diverse species rich meadow to support insect communities.

Dungarvan - 2 Hectares maintained as coastal wildflower meadow at Strandside Bridge, Youghal Road

Further 3 Hectares maintained as a biodiversity initiative - Urban Meadow Making within the town environs

Tramore - 3 Hectares maintained - Urban Meadow Making

Kilbarry Nature Park - 8 Hectares maintained - Urban Meadow Making



Pollinator friendly planting

All new planting locations are entailing the greatest if not all planting which is pollinator friendly.

150 number Semi Mature trees planted throughout our Parks and Residential estates– yearly

Greenway construction – almost 100,000 trees/shrubs planted along with wildflowers

Evident in approach planting to the town in Dungarvan

This transitional continues in Tramore – redesign of the Copper Coast Roundabout & Upper Branch Road Junction

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Pollinator friendly planting -RSC Roundabout

Many of our roundabouts are landscaped and maintained under sponsorship

2020 - joint initiative with the sponsor, Fairybush Landscaping - redesigned to become a pollinator friendly roundabout.



Bee Hotels installed along the Greenway involving the Men's Shed & local schools - colonising new sites

Raise awareness primarily addressed by the National Biodiversity Data Centre

Waterford Council equally raises awareness through its social media platform and its environmental awareness programmes



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Net result –the increasing of a more diverse public space in County Waterford.

Reduce Use of Pesticides

Pesticides -herbicides, insecticides & fungicides

2020 Objective -

Reduce the requirement of herbicides in the means of control of unwanted weed growth

- focusing on the highly public areas, that being our parks and urban centres.

Analyse the most fitting method for our requirements – mechanical methods or sustainable herbicides

Further expansion of the most appropriate method into the areas under our jurisdiction



Waterford City

Within our Parks from Spring 2020

In order to control unwanted weed growth staff have moved to sustainable herbicide containing *Pelargonic acid*
- derived from sustainable plant origins (Sunflower & Oilseed Rape)
with no residual activity.

Equally one such application was carried out within the city centre in early June 2020.

All future applications to control unwanted weed growth within City Parks shall be completed using sustainable herbicides such as a Pelargonic acid.

Tramore

Town Centre – kerbside weed control consists of 3 applications per growing season.

2 of these applications were completed using mechanical means as a direct alternative to the use of the *Pelargonic acid* as in the city.

Dungarvan

Within Walton Park, the Town centre a non- glyphosate, product has been used to control unwanted weed growth which has no residual activity.

Outcomes

Pelargonic acid, a sustainable herbicide is currently a more achievable method for weed control -being rolled out for 2021.

Within the control of Japanese Knotweed, traditional herbicides remain as an effective product in its control;

-owing to this fact they will remain in place into 2021.



Progress Tracking

In 2020 Waterford attained Green Flag Award status for 2 amenities in Waterford City and County.

The Green Flag Award scheme is an international mark of quality which recognises the efforts of local community engagement with green space involvement.

Kilbarry Nature Park and the Waterford Greenway were awarded the
An Taisce Green Flag Award for parks and green spaces.

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HIGHLY COMMENDED

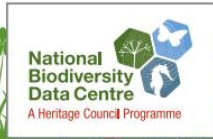


SPECIAL AWARD 2020

Green Flag for Parks Pollinator
Award for the preservation of
pollinating insects



www.pollinators.ie



Waterford City - Temporary meadows

Where large green areas of suitable housing estates left grow as a temporary meadow;

While allowing adequate open space for game play and recreation

Introduced last year – Due to Restrictions

Examples would include:

Ballygunner – Large field at junction by Gael Scoil.

Cherry Mount – Large green area at bottom of estate.

Rockingham Ferrybank- Large green areas.

Temporary - remain meadow until school summer break - return to lawn for the traditional summer season.





'We need to shake the outdated social stigma that comes from having a lawn a few centimetres longer than your neighbour's,

'Local authorities are unlikely to reduce the intensive management of spaces without a change in public attitudes and an embrace of "messier" grassland.'

(2019, The Guardian)



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