

Project: Proposed Development of Shanganagh Park Masterplan – Phase 1, Shankill, Co. Dublin
Information: Biodiversity & Habitat Protection

- The proposed development has involved ecological input from specialists and experts from the initial concept stages. This has not only resulted in a significant reduction in the potential ecological impacts but has resulted in design optimisation and the development of enhancement opportunities.
- The masterplan seeks to protect and enhance biodiversity in Shanganagh Park.
- To assess the impacts of the Phase 1 proposal on the biodiversity of Shanganagh Park, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council were required to carry out an Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) and a Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) in the previous Part 8. The EclA concluded *“The construction and operational mitigation proposed for the development satisfactorily addresses the mitigation of potential impacts on the terrestrial, mammalian, avian and aquatic sensitive receptors through the application the standard construction and operational phase controls. No significant effects on biodiversity are likely.”*
- The results of this consultation have created a detailed management plan which include biodiversity initiatives and mitigation measures such as:
 - Reduced light spill and timing of lighting. The increased pitch lighting within the park will be managed to ensure they are primarily used during winter months when bats colonies are in hibernation and strictly timed to reduce impact during seasons of foraging activity. The lighting design aims to reduce any light spill to surrounding foraging areas for the bats.
 - 1ha of native woodland will be planted which will provide additional habitats for biodiversity.
 - *The proposal will see a loss of 2.5ha of meadow within the park to support the development of active recreation. Modifying how we manage this grassland to a more intensive mowing policy which will result in a lower biodiversity within the pitch area. However our local seed harvesting project which harvested seed from the area in 2022 will provide seed to develop over 1.25ha of meadow within the park. In addition, it is proposed to allow a meadow to develop around the perimeter of the pitches.*
 - Natural fertilisers to sustainably manage our pitches
 - Amphibian Conservation Plan, for protected species such as newts and frogs, is planned to support movement and protection of species that rely on our watercourses and waterbodies in the park
 - New wetland areas around the pitches will manage up to 5000 litres of rainfall and support wetland habitats and species, including additional potential areas for newts and frogs that already occur in the park.
- It is proposed to increase the diversity corridors along the railway line.
- An Environmental Impact Assessment screening will accompany the planning documents. Previously this was appealed to An Bord Pleanála in the previous Part 8 and it was determined that a full EIAR was not required.
- An alternative to the original ramp has been designed to limit encroachment into an ecologically sensitive area while also retaining the required slope for universal access. The callisthenics workout zone and the natural play area have been moved and altered.

- This area will retain much of its character because the pitches will be grass and the natural sense of enclosure of the trees and woodlands. It is proposed to strongly integrate the proposed development into the parkland setting by developing a meadow around the perimeter, ensuring the slopes are shallow and planting trees and woodlands throughout.
- It is proposed to use only natural and organic fertilisers on the playing fields and all topsoil and subsoil material on site will be retained and re-used during the construction.
- The area to the east of the DART line will be retained and enhanced as a wild/biodiversity area as part of the masterplan. DLR will seek to engage with local groups/ volunteers to improve biodiversity in the park and undertake local tree planting and biodiversity projects. Once the pitches are operational, the current pitch closest to the Bray Road will be allowed to develop as a meadow and taken out of operational use.

Note: Some of these are outside the scope of this proposed development but are part of the overall masterplan.