![dlr Comhairle Contae County Council logo]

A Climate for **Trees**

TREE STRATEGY 2024-2030

The dlr Tree Strategy A Climate for Trees 2024-2030 arrives at a time when the climate change crisis is at the forefront of global environmental concerns. Following on from *dlr Trees, A Tree Strategy for Dún Laoghaire Rathdown, 2011-2015*, this new future-focused strategy highlights the role of trees and the role of the urban forest in addressing climate action, mitigation and adaptation; one of dlr's key corporate objectives.

Trees are a key element of dlr county's green infrastructure and offer us many benefits. The Dublin Tree Canopy Study (2017) showed that dlr county has good overall tree cover equivalent to 18.9% of the total land area in the county. This is the highest level of the four Dublin local authorities, and it is slightly above the government's new target for the country. We are aware that our urban areas face numerous challenges relating to environmental sustainability, public health, and community well- being. Our trees play a crucial role in addressing these challenges and in creating a sense of natural harmony across the county.

We plant trees because they are beautiful, trees can soothe and relax us and enhance mental and physical health and wellbeing. They frame our surroundings, enhancing our sense of identity, our sense of place and highlight local landmarks. The dlr rich tree stock provides a connection to nature and help us safeguard our unique biodiversity heritage. Our trees ensure shelter, food and space for wildlife - an essential part of the county's ecological network, forming wildlife corridors from the mountains to the sea. By planting and caring for trees, we improve our surroundings, reduce pollution, lower energy costs, and improve the appearance of local spaces and places.

Developing a Geographic Information System (GIS) database of the dlr tree stock and recording species, size, location, condition, and maintenance levels provides a starting point to conserve and monitor what we have. It will ensure that we plan to place the right tree in the right space and in the right place. Increasing tree canopy cover in our streets and roads and identifying gaps in existing street tree cover will provide additional natural benefits and services. Examining canopy cover at ward level, for example, could help us to identify what areas would benefit from additional tree planting and improve engagement in a very targeted way. Our current network of dlr parks and open spaces creates steppingstones for wildlife to pass through safely, and highlights spaces, rich in a variety of trees, for people living in the county and visitors to experience and enjoy.

Our trees are one of dlr's greatest natural assets. Raising awareness of their benefits highlights their critical role in enriching our surroundings, our environment and our heritage. Moreover, we must continue to promote our trees through ongoing education, providing advice, and working in partnership with local communities to protect and replenish our county stock. We are confident that this comprehensive new strategy and implementation plan will manage, protect, and enhance dlr's urban forest through tree planting, adequate maintenance, preservation, and community engagement. By valuing and caring for our trees in this way, they will inspire and be a source of joy and recreation for future generations.

Denis O'Callaghan
Cathaoirleach

Frank Curran
Príomhfheidhmeannach / Chief Executive

Contents

01

A Shared Vision

Introduction

This strategy brings clear focus to the role of trees and the urban forest in climate action, mitigation and adaptation. Over its 7-year timeframe, the strategy will:

- ✔ support good decision-making on trees and the urban forest,

- ✔ enable knowledge sharing and upskilling, and

- ✔ promote meaningful partnerships between the many guardians of trees in the County

This strategy includes:

A Shared Vision

Including the aims and objectives of the strategy

What we have

Information on our tree population and the benefits of trees

Policy Statements

Our policy approach to tree planting, care and partnership
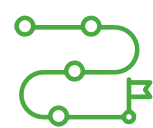
Implementation and action plan

Our specific targets and how we will measure progress

This new strategy builds on the outputs of *dlr Trees, A Tree Strategy for Dún Laoghaire Rathdown 2011-2015*. Implementation will be monitored, results of actions will be analysed, and revisions made to actions as appropriate, with a mid-term review in 2027 of the strategy's action plan, resources and timelines.

60,000 street trees in **council** ownership

2/3 of County's trees are in **private** ownership

Overall tree cover **18.9%** of **land area**

dlr Comhairle Contae County Council

Vision Statement

We will manage and develop our urban forest together for community wellbeing and climate resilience.

From the Mountains to the Sea, dlr has a recognisable leafy character which transfers a wealth of benefits to its residents. Recognising that the trees are one of dlr's greatest assets and providers of clean air, wildlife corridors, human well-being, amongst many other benefits and increases the financial and environmental value of those sylvan streets. The quantity of ecosystem benefits varies depending on the number, size, health, and location of our urban trees. Therefore, management of the trees will have an impact on the quantity of ecosystem benefits being delivered.

To create a sustainable urban forest all sectors of the community must help to realise the vision for the urban forest and assist with an integrated approach to maximise benefits.

The integrated management approach by the Council to achieving this vision has the following aims:

Cultivating a climate resilient urban forest

▶ Trees take in carbon from the air and store it in the wood, plant material and under the ground (in the roots). Without trees much of the carbon which is driving climate change would still be in the atmosphere. A good management strategy and healthy urban forest can help reduce the negative effects of climate change.

▶ Trees are dynamic biological organisms - healthy trees require adequate space (above and underground) and suitable growing media to mature and be climate resilient. Meeting these basic requirements can be challenging in the urban environment.

Integrating the Urban Forestry model

▶ Urban Forestry is a holistic approach to managing trees in a place, the model's main principles are:

  - a healthy tree and forest resource

  - a community-wide support, and

  - a comprehensive management approach

in order to maintain the maximum level of net environmental, ecological, social, and economic benefits over time. (Clark, Matheny, & Victoria, 1997)

▶ Central to the urban forestry model are the following management objectives:

  - Trees are viewed as critical infrastructure.

  - There is a focus on overall canopy cover and forest management.

  - Trees have equal priority to other urban infrastructure such as roads and services.

  - The economic value of the urban forest is recognised and valued.

  - There is a focus on larger longer-lived trees.

  - Use of ecological-based design.

  - The urban forest is seen as a continuous resource regardless of ownership boundaries.

Working in partnership

▶ Dlr is directly responsible for 33% of the tree cover in the county, 67% of the urban forest is in private and institutional ownership.

▶ Management of our public trees is the responsibility of the local authority and should be fulfilled with the involvement of the local community, such as schools, businesses, developers, community groups, industry, and householders.

▶ Everyone in the local community contributes to the urban forest as a whole and has an important role to play. Dlr will lead by example through the implementation of this strategy in collaboration with the local community.

Policy Context

Climate resilience is the capacity of a system, whether physical, social, or ecological, to absorb and respond to climate change and by implementing effective adaptation planning and sustainable development to reduce the negative climate impacts while also taking advantage of any positive outcomes.

National Adaptation Framework Planning for a Climate Resilient Ireland

UN Strategic Development Goals

Ireland is committed to achieving the SDGs as set out in the Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment 'The Sustainable Development Goals National Implementation Plan 2018-2020'. These international goals adopted by the UN seek to eradicate poverty and protect the planet and acknowledge that development must balance social, economic and environmental sustainability. It is a Policy Objective of Dlrcc to contribute towards achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The tree strategy is part of dlr's commitment to delivering on the UN SDGs and several goals are met or being contributed to through its implementation.

SDG 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

SDG 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

SDG 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

SDG 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.

SDG 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

SDG 15 Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

SDG 17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the (Global) Partnership for Sustainable Development.

The 2050 vision, under the Convention on Biological Diversity[1] and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030, also calls for protecting and restoring ecosystems and trees play an important role.

1   https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/0b54/1750/607267ea9109b52b750314a0/cop-14-09-en.pdf

European Context

Under the European Green Deal which strives to create a carbon neutral continent, the EU's Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 tackles the protection and restoration of nature. The European Commission's recent proposal for a Nature Restoration Law[2] is the first continent-wide, comprehensive law of its kind. It is a key element of the EU Biodiversity Strategy, which calls for binding targets to restore degraded ecosystems, in particular those with the most potential to capture and store carbon and to prevent and reduce the impact of natural disasters. Its targets include:

▶ **forest ecosystems** – achieving an increasing trend for standing and lying deadwood, uneven aged forests, forest connectivity, abundance of common forest birds and stock of organic carbon.

▶ **urban ecosystems** – no net loss of green urban space by 2030, and an increase in the total area covered by green urban space by 2040 and 2050.

Under the EU Biodiversity Strategy's Framework, the new EU Forest strategy promotes biodiversity-friendly practices for enhancing the quantity and quality of EU forests and has provided, guidelines on biodiversity-friendly afforestation, reforestation, and tree planting[3]. The release of these guidelines coincides with the completion of the updated Dlrcc tree strategy 2024 and upholds our strategy's aims and objectives. These guidelines support local authorities, organisations, and society on how to instigate the EU's commitment to plant at least 3 billion additional trees in the EU by 2030, in full compliance with ecological principles.

> We need everybody's help to heal Europe's lungs. Today's guidelines will help reach two key objectives - on the one hand, that we protect our primary and old-growth forests, of which so few remain in Europe, and on the other, that we increase the number and quality of forests by following the principle of 'the right tree in the right place'. Planting trees can strengthen a sense of community and will allow generations of Europeans to enjoy green legacies for years to come.

EU Commissioner for the Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, Virginijus Sinkevicius on the Guidelines on Biodiversity-Friendly Afforestation, Reforestation and Tree Planting

2   https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/nature-and-biodiversity/nature-restoration-law_en
3   Guidelines on Biodiversity-Friendly Afforestation, Reforestation and Tree Planting https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/documents-register/detail?ref=SWD(2023)61&lang=en

National Context

National Government policy recognises the key strategic challenge of climate change. The Government published the 'Climate Action Plan 2019' and the 'National Adaptation Framework' (2018) developed under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015, all of which combine to comprise a strong legislative and policy framework for climate action, ensuring climate adaptation measures are mainstreamed within County Development Plans with the goals of creating climate resilience and sustainable development.

Local Context

A core value of the Council's Corporate Plan is

'Climate First - Adopt a climate first approach to decision making'.

Climate Action is an important strategic objective of the Dlr County Development Plan and provides the framework along with the Climate Change Action Plan 2019-2024 for creating an environmentally resilient county.

The Dlr County Development Plan 2022-2028 (CDP) has adopted the principle of sustainable development and identifies Green Infrastructure (GI) as a key strategic asset for the County which can aid in the creation of a climate resilient County. The urban forest is a key component of Green Infrastructure.

We are currently experiencing a biodiversity crisis. The protection and enhancement of our Ecological Network is a priority action for Dlrcc, and trees are an important component of our wildlife corridors and Ecological Network, as described in our dlr County Biodiversity Action Plan and Dlr County Development Plan.

Creating the Strategy

Strategy development started in Autumn 2020 and included the following **steps**:

STEP 1

A scoping exercise and a review of the previous strategy

STEP 2

Pre-draft Issues Paper that incorporated a review of the outgoing strategy

STEP 3

Stakeholder engagement; presentations, consultation and workshops

Reviewing the Tree Strategy: Issues Paper

In November 2020, dlr Parks and Landscape Services published an Issues Paper that included a summary of the review of the outgoing strategy. It sought the views of consultees on data collection, funding of tree planting programmes, volunteering, citizen science/tree stewardship and education/raising awareness.

Submissions on the Issues Paper

64 submissions were received, mostly from individuals, 9 from councillors, and 1 from a national organisation (Bat Conservation Ireland). Participants were well-disposed towards trees and expressed an interest in being involved in tree activities. 78% of contributors expressed an interest in being involved in a citizen science project and/or a voluntary Tree Stewardship Scheme. There was strong support for drafting a new strategy along with calls for investment to manage the urban forest. Submissions highlighted and emphasised opportunities for the Council to co-operate and collaborate with communities, businesses, residents' associations and Tidy Towns groups.

Stakeholder Engagement

The process included the following stakeholder focus groups:

► Businesses, Institutions, Schools, Colleges, Private Landowners

► Community Groups (representatives of dlr Public Participation Network, residents' associations, Tidy Towns groups, Men's Sheds, gardening groups)

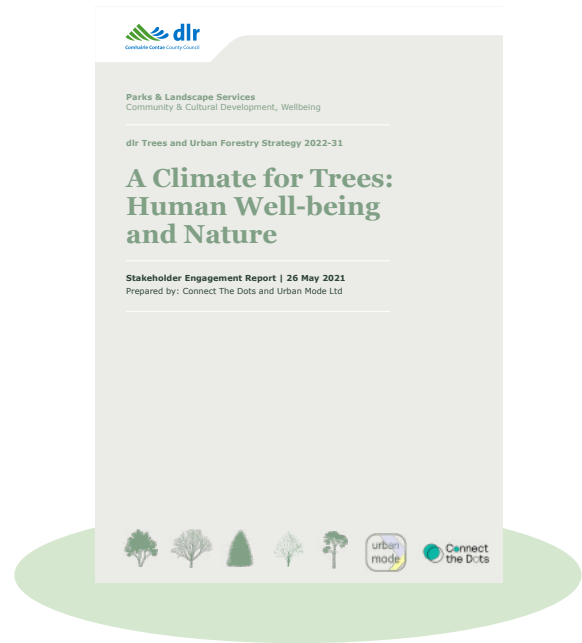► Internal - dlr Staff from all sections

► Youth groups from the county

Each group comprised 20-25 people

The new Strategy was also presented to the Community, Culture and Wellbeing Strategic Policy Committee and to the Council Area Committees.

The main findings from the stakeholder engagement process can be summarised as follows:

► Most participants view trees as valuable features to their living environments.

► The value of trees in climate change mitigation and habitat provision is less known.

► There is a widespread willingness among many organisations and individuals to work with the local authority as well as with educational and research institutions to contribute to activities such as tree planting, tree care, tree talk walks and citizen science.

► There is also a general understanding that compromises and alternatives have to be found for problems such as; risk of injury not covered by insurance, light obstruction, and the removal of mature trees for new developments.

► Reducing the inequality of tree cover in the County should be a priority.

The full stakeholder engagement report can be found on the dlr Co. Co. website, see Appendix 3.

dlr
Comhairle Contae County Council

Parks & Landscape Services
Community & Cultural Development, Wellbeing

dlr Trees and Urban Forestry Strategy 2022-31

A Climate for Trees: Human Well-being and Nature

Stakeholder Engagement Report | 26 May 2021
Prepared by: Connect The Dots and Urban Mode Ltd

02

What we have

The County's Tree Population

The Evidence Base

Overall canopy cover was studied in a remote-sensing project by UCD, the *Dublin Tree Canopy Study 2015-17*. At an operational level, certain trees in Council-ownership have been recorded by Council staff in field surveys, with detailed information on species and characteristics such as height, spread, girth and tree health. Significant knowledge gaps remain in respect of tree species and tree characteristics of much of the Council's trees and of privately-owned trees in both urban and rural areas. Little is known of the overall population's profile - species composition, diversity, age, and tree health. This information is vital for resource management and requires targeted investments in human resources and applied research.

Strategic Level – Dublin Tree Canopy Study (DTCS)

In 2015, the four Dublin local authorities and the OPW commissioned UCD's Department of Geography to undertake a tree canopy study of the Greater Dublin Area, the first of its kind in the state. The results of the DTCS were published in 2017. The DTCS used satellite imagery and a random sampling methodology to estimate tree cover across Dublin City and County. The study provides an important, initial picture of the tree population in terms of overall tree cover.
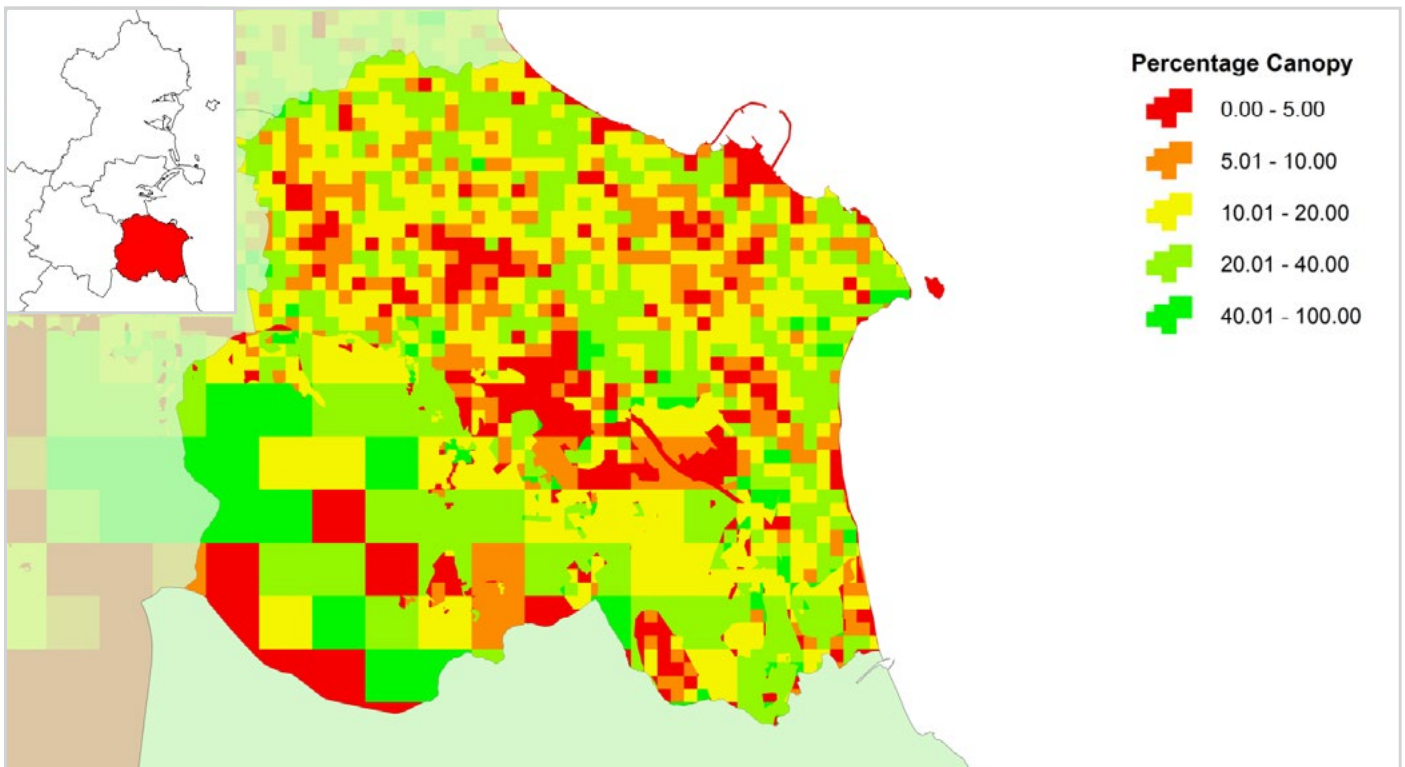
Tree Canopy Cover

The Government's national afforestation target is to increase forest cover in Ireland from 11.6% to 18%[4]. The Dublin Tree Canopy Study showed that Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown has good overall tree cover equivalent to **18.9%** of total land area in the county. This is the highest level of the four Dublin local authorities, and it is slightly above the governments new target for the country. County Dublin has an average mean canopy cover of 10% revealing significant differences between the canopy cover of the four local authorities. Europe's mean average is 15.25% with the highest being Stockholm at 57.3% and the lowest being Athens at 0.9%.

There are substantial areas of trees and small woodlands, mostly in rural areas, and many in private and institutional ownership. Significantly, two-thirds of the county's tree canopy cover is under the management of independent institutional organizations and private landowners. We need to better know and understand the current composition of the trees in those ownerships.

Land use in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County is almost **60% urban** (7,566 ha) and is planned to increase within "compact growth" parameters (National Planning Framework 2040). Urban dlr has a significantly higher urban tree canopy cover than other parts of Dublin at 16.38% but this is lower than the governments average target of 18% forest cover by 2050 for the country. Rural tree canopy cover in the other 40% of the county was calculated at 22.78%. Canopy cover enhancement can be most efficiently realized by maximizing protection and maintenance in combination with new plantings.

Percentage Canopy

- 0.00 - 5.00
- 5.01 - 10.00
- 10.01 - 20.00
- 20.01 - 40.00
- 40.01 - 100.00

Estimated Tree Canopy Cover across Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, showing percentage cover in sampling grid cells The distribution of cover is uneven, and most cells have cover fractions of ≤10%. (Urban: 250m., rural: 1.0km.); overall dlr cover = 18.9% (DTCS. 2017)

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4   Coilte website press release 3rd Feb 2023. https://www.coillte.ie/gresham-house-launches-irish-forestry-fund-with-coillte-and-isif-to-drive-afforestation-in-ireland/

Statistical comparison of Urban Tree Canopy Cover in four Dublin Council areas.(DTCS. 2017)

Local Authority	Urban area (ha)	Urban tree canopy area (ha)	% Urban tree canopy cover	Mean canopy per grid cell (%)	Mean canopy per grid cell (ha)
Dublin City	11,425.27	1,185.11	10.37%	10.02%	0.58
dlr	**7,565.79**	**1,238.9**	**16.38%**	**15.83%**	**0.81**
Fingal	11,754.11	1,151.41	9.80%	9.04%	0.39
South Dublin	9,426.95	927.77	9.84%	9.07%	0.42
Total	**40,172.12**	**4,503.19**	**11.21%**	**4.30%**	**0.24**

Inequity in Tree Cover

Due to land use, some medium or high-density residential areas have low tree canopy cover. This is expected where terraced houses with small gardens cannot support large canopy trees. Larger residential properties tend to have larger gardens and often support mature trees. High density residential areas tend not to have wide footpaths that can sustain tree planting. However, street tree planting is arguably more important in high density residential areas where they would help maximise green infrastructure opportunities and improve the quality of the design and the well-being of the residents. Critical to this is the appropriate selection of trees planted sustainably, thus allowing them to grow to maturity.

Operational Level - Surveys of Council Trees

Since 2011, dlr Parks and Landscape Services (dlr Parks) staff have carried out tree surveys using a cloud-based, computer software package when staff resources allowed. Surveys of this kind enable the Council to maintain a comprehensive inventory of its tree resources. As part of a proactive management approach, trained staff undertake *Tree Condition Assessments* producing recommendations for Tree Work programmes under the *Annual Tree Care Programme*. These works are carried-out by Parks direct labour crews and/or private contractors.

Tree surveys are dependent on staffing resources and the most recent surveys ended in 2018. Surveys have largely been confined to street trees with areas prioritised according to risk management criteria. Of an estimated 60,000 street trees in Council ownership, **16,013 (27%)** were surveyed up to 2018.

Trees are dynamic and changing and the urban environment has many unpredictable factors which can make it difficult for trees to grow. There will always be a level of reactive management, however, making a shift to proactive planned tree management can reduce the demand on resources and time. The approach which began in 2018 within Dlr set a good framework on which to build a proactive management system, by initiating a GIS tree inventory and putting the foundation of a risk-based maintenance plan in place.

Figs 1 and 2, show some characteristics of this surveyed cohort. It is notable that a significant proportion of the trees are in the early part of their expected lifespans

Figure 1: Height of Tree Population
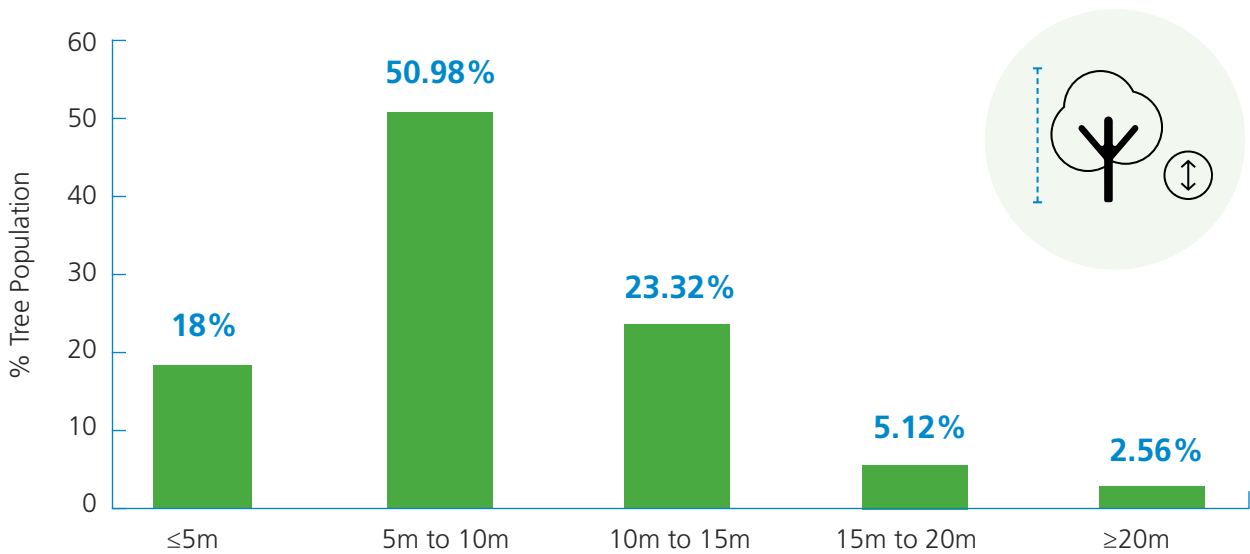
Figure 2: Diameter at Breast Height of Tree Population
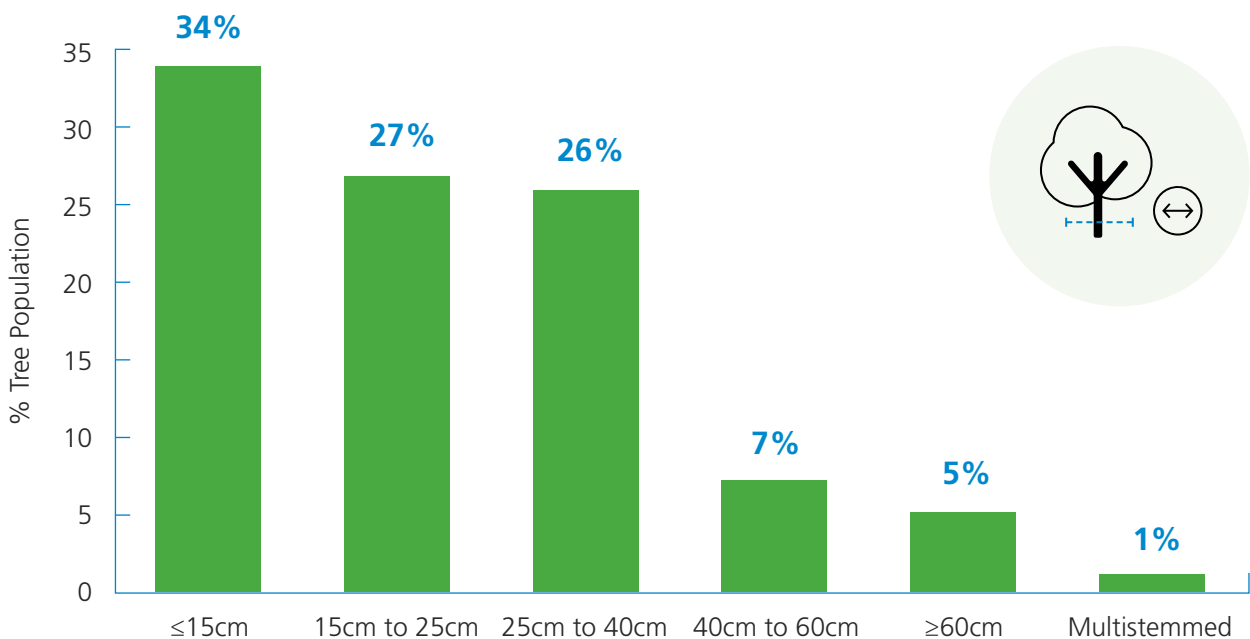
The Benefits of Trees

Trees have **inherent value** as organic, living organisms, independent of humankind. They have long been valued by humans for their utilitarian benefits, food and timber production, shelter and construction. In recent years, the key role of trees in **nature-based solutions** for **climate mitigation and climate adaptation** has been recognised.
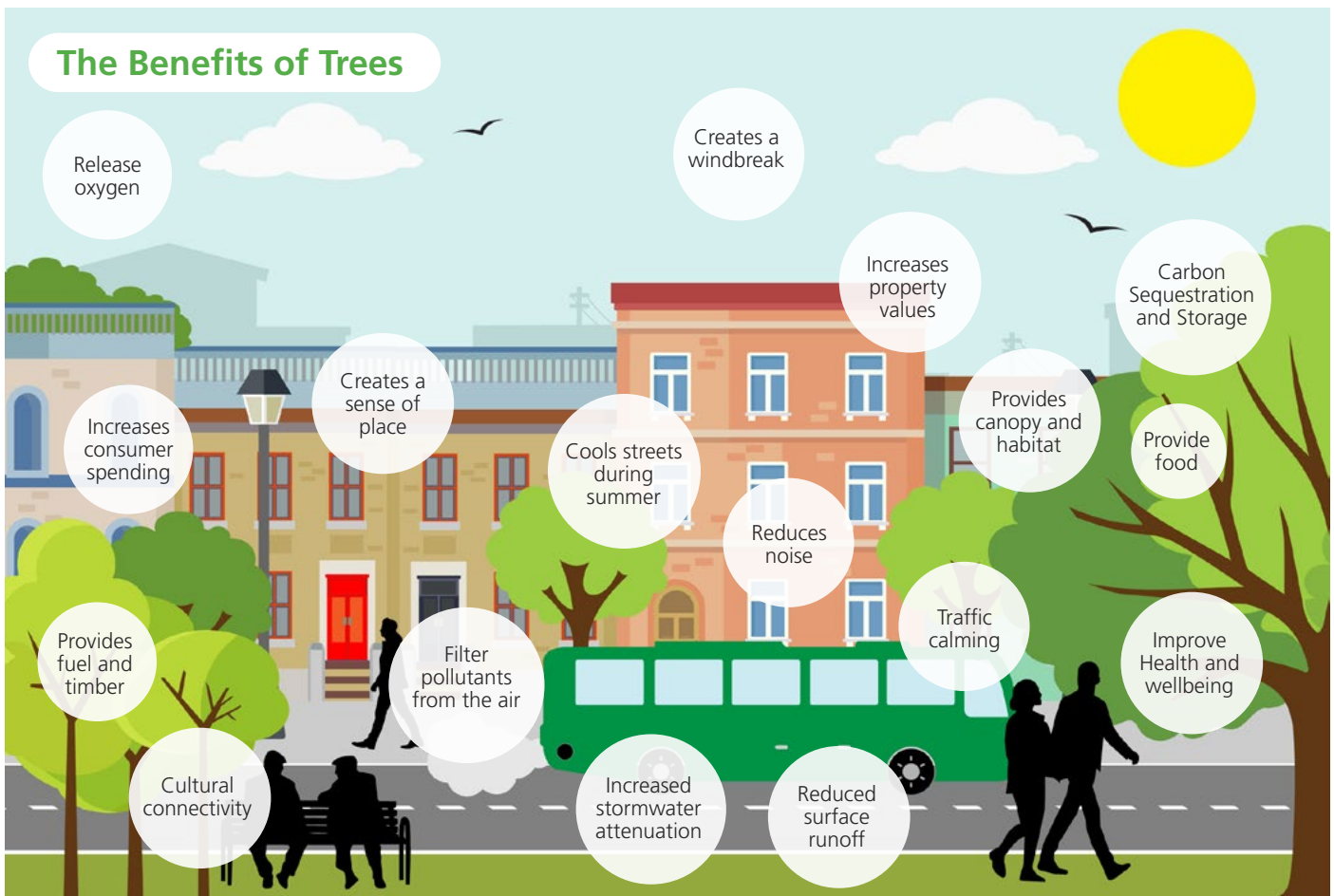
Healthy trees improve air quality, sequester, and store carbon, and reduce water run-off. They have been found to **reduce street level dust** and **particulate pollution** from the air. Trees have been found to reduce the effects of flash flooding by **intercepting rainfall and storm-water runoff**. They also reduce **traffic and other noise** by absorbing, masking and deflecting sound.

A healthy tree **stores carbon** as it grows, and planting trees is one of the cheapest means of temporarily drawing carbon dioxide (CO_2) from the atmosphere. Large growing trees can absorb more carbon as they increase in size.

Native trees are integral to our **ecosystems** and have enormous intrinsic biodiversity value. Our native trees can be thought of as a **'mini' ecosystem** with food chains and complex interactions between different species and populations. The value of individual trees for wildlife depends on their species, age, and location. Older native trees **have an even greater variety of microhabitats** and generally support more species within, near and under the tree itself.

Mature trees contribute to **local identity and sense of place** and can improve local road safety by acting as a **physical buffer between vehicles and pedestrians**.

Trees have been shown to have a positive impact on **mental and physical health and well-being** and they reduce the physiological symptoms of stress. See Appendix 3 for full list of benefits.

The Benefits of Trees

Release oxygen · Creates a windbreak · Increases property values · Carbon Sequestration and Storage · Increases consumer spending · Creates a sense of place · Cools streets during summer · Reduces noise · Provides canopy and habitat · Provide food · Provides fuel and timber · Filter pollutants from the air · Traffic calming · Improve Health and wellbeing · Cultural connectivity · Increased stormwater attenuation · Reduced surface runoff

Communication is Key:

The benefits of trees are a well-established fact and though vital to the livability of our communities, they are often viewed as free and/or are taken for granted. Identifying the tree benefits that resonate with our community and connecting the environmental services provided by trees with topical issues is important, such as emphasising stormwater reduction.

Communicating the Benefits of Trees

Using i-Tree[5], dlr Parks have undertaken evaluations of benefits of individual trees. dlr Parks developed the dlr Tree Tag project to communicate some of these benefits. The appointment of a full-time Tree Officer will allow DLR to update and expand this project in association with schools and community groups.

5   https://www.itreetools.org/

Challenges

Climate Change

The increase in carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has some positive effects on trees and plants, by improving their growth rate[6]. Warmer temperatures over time are changing weather patterns and disrupting the usual balance of nature and lengthening the growing season. Other effects of climate change include more severe and frequent storms and increased drought, which threaten the health of trees[7]. Planting a diverse range of tree species will assist with creating a more resilient urban forest.

Urban Sprawl/ Intensification/ Density

Population growth is driving increased development of housing, along with businesses with associated facilities and infrastructure. This in turn increases pressure to clear land of vegetation and especially mature trees for developers to optimise the number of units on a site. An increase in population also increases the pressure on open spaces and parks to provide recreational facilities which then compete against new planting areas.

Retained trees on development sites offer huge benefits for that development assisting in the sales, blending the new development into the landscape, and enhances the application for planning.

The appointment of an Arborist and Landscape Architect should take place at the earliest possible stage, their combined understanding of the tree constraints on site can contribute to the developments design. The earlier this is addressed the better the design and the lower cost to the scheme. Dlrcc strongly advise that retention of existing healthy mature trees is made a high priority. All categories of trees surveyed can provide good design outcomes to a site if they have the possibility of becoming healthy mature trees in future given a viable environment. Therefore trees designated in low value categories should not be discarded from a site too easily. It is therefore critically important that the Arborist and Landscape Architect are an integral decision-making part of the development team from the start of the process. Designs which follow these simple principles will provide a more sustainable environment and application.

Replacing mature tree losses with small tree sizes and species does not maintain the tree

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6   Carbon Fertilization is also known as Carbon Dioxide Fertilisation. It is the phenomenon that the increase of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere increases the rate of photosynthesis in plants.

7   https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/science/causes-effects-climate-change#:~:text=As%20greenhouse%20gas%20emissions%20blanket,the%20usual%20balance%20of%20nature.

benefits being provided nor the sustainability of the urban forest. Therefore, it is important to plant large tree species and establish strong healthy trees which will survive into the future. The establishment period of trees occurs after planting and is the period of time that it takes the roots to regenerate and the tree to survive without any assistance from irrigation[8].

It takes several decades for newly planted replacement trees to mature and therefore to compensate for previous tree loss in terms of sequestration of CO_2 and its other climatic functions, biodiversity, and amenity value. Trees are slow growing and therefore the removal of mature species should be a last resort if they are healthy.

Larger growing species are preferable replacements if there is sufficient space for them to grow to maturity as they will provide more benefits than small or medium growing trees typically planted in urban roadside margins and gardens.

Pests & Disease

Climate change is escalating the risk from plant diseases and pests. Irelands geographical location as an island has protected it from many diseases and pests spreading through Europe. However due to the movement of goods and imports, Ireland is still susceptible. The emergence of Ash Dieback in recent years has the potential to create a huge impact on biodiversity and landscape within Ireland. Warmer temperatures and drought can create more stress on trees making them more susceptible to diseases and harmful effects of pests. Ireland uses its protected zone status, monitoring, and surveillance to keep out pests and diseases that have entered Europe[9].

Dlrcc have put in place our own biosecurity measures in relation to procurement of trees and plant material

Trees and Plant material should be grown and raised in Irish nurseries.

In the event where trees and plant material are not of Irish provenance there is a requirement that these plants have been contained within the nursery for a minimum of 12 months prior to being planted in the county.

Dlrcc follows all government advice to protect the natural environment from the emergence of any pests and diseases.

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8   https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/EP314

9   https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/a8885-forest-health/#pests-and-diseases : Plant Health & Biosecurity Strategy 2020-20251go v.ie

Tree Strategy Aims:

Government policy recognises the important function trees play in providing a healthy liveable environment for the population. Dlrcc's long-term vision recognises the value trees play as an important community asset, it recognises that the benefits trees bring support Council key plans, strategies, and policies. Our tree strategy sets out three broad aims for how we will achieve our vision. These aims address the challenges and management issues faced by the council. Specific objectives set out how we propose to overcome these challenges and issues. Appendix 1 lists the specific policies to fulfill each objective.

AIM 1	AIM 2	AIM 3

Value and Protect our Trees

- Evaluate our urban forest. **Gather accurate information and knowledge** of our tree resource, which will help to systemise the management of council owned trees within our residential areas, parks open spaces and roads.

- Increase **urban tree canopy cover** on public lands. .

- Influence the **tree canopy cover on private land** and within development sites.

- Protect and retain **existing trees** throughout the county.

Manage & Enhance the Urban Forest

- Implement management practices that aim to create **climate resilience** within our urban forest, by increasing canopy cover, and to diversify and plant large tree species.

- Protect and enhance Biodiversity by:

  a. increasing and restoring the **biodiversity of our trees** through the planting of native species where feasible.

  b. increasing the **connectivity of our urban forest** within the landscape for our wildlife corridors and link to our Ecological Network.

- **Maintain and manage** existing trees and woodlands in a consistent and proactive manner by:

  a. Developing and sustaining a diverse and healthy tree population.

  b. Reducing risks and impacts of climate change on tree health.

Education and Awareness through advice and partnership

- Develop, foster and promote a shared *County Tree Culture*

- Raise awareness and understanding of trees and their **role in climate action and biodiversity.**

- Encourage and co-operate with **businesses/ institutions** in caring for and planting trees, hedgerows, and woodlands.

- Collaborate and support **residents and community groups in tree care and planting** in gardens, local amenity spaces and neighbourhoods.
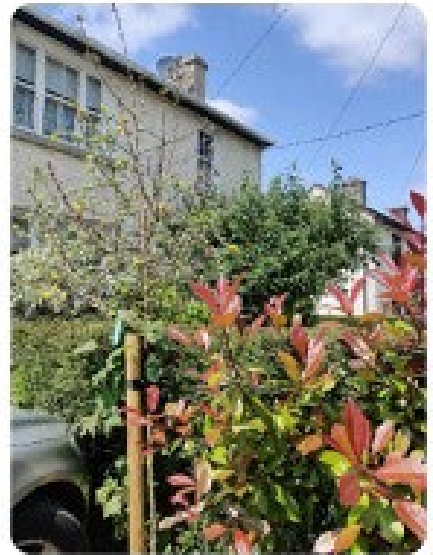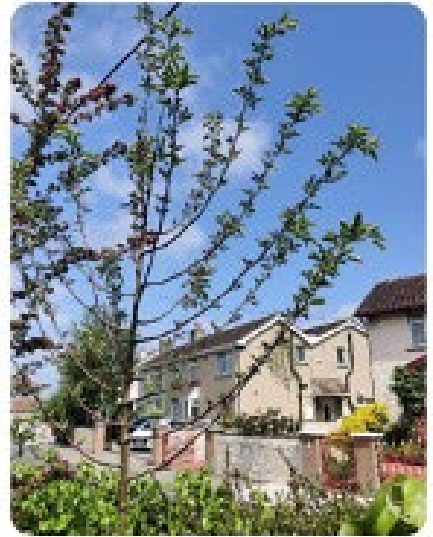
Trees of Ballinteer Park
May 2023

Trees planted within gardens by residents of Ballinteer Park supported by Dlr Parks.

03

Management of trees within dlr

Aim 1

Value and Protect our Trees

Gathering Accurate Information

To manage the urban forest effectively it is critical to know what we have. Having detailed knowledge of the tree population, such as species, age and condition, enables effective use of resources, to proactively maintain trees in good health and condition.

Dlrcc have previously conducted comprehensive street tree audits in several wards. Although street trees only make up a small percentage of the total urban forest, the street tree audit information provides a useful sample of the overall canopy and can allow realistic calculations to be made regarding urban forest benefits. Street tree data can be analysed using 'iTree': a modelling program, peer-reviewed, software suite from the USDA Forestry Service. This can calculate the economic and environmental benefits of the street tree population confirming the value of our green infrastructure and justifying the cost of maintaining this vital asset.

Increase Canopy Cover

Increasing canopy cover and tree planting throughout the county will become more critical in future. Our canopy goals are based on right tree and right place, an assessment of planting space availability and the baseline estimated from the last canopy cover study (16.38%). Increasing dlr's urban canopy cover to 18% in line with the government's target is an increase of 1.62% an ambitious but realistic and achievable target for

a densely populated urban area. New canopy and tree assessments in future will allow us to assess performance, reassess targets and adapt priorities to changing needs. Examining canopy cover at ward level for example could help us to identify what areas would benefit from additional tree planting and improve management in a very targeted way.

> We will seek to increase Canopy cover in our streets and roads through the planning process for new streets, and by identifying gaps in existing street tree cover. This will help to maximise canopy cover and provide additional tree benefits and services.

Our regional and larger parks have some of the densest tree populations containing some of our largest and mature trees throughout the county and these woodlands deserve to be manged in a more targeted way to ensure they are healthy and survive into the future. Specific management plans directed at these woodlands will also make it easier to assess if the council are retaining or increasing canopy cover on public land within targets set by the government and supported by the council.

It is difficult to assess the trees and hedgerows within private ownership however an analysis of canopy cover can provide very useful information in respect of change of canopy cover. This is generally most evident where development is concentrated. On private land, a combination of education and outreach, and refocusing of regulatory mechanisms to specifically achieve canopy target objectives, will be required, so the council can ensure protection and enhancement of canopy cover in private lands. We will work with private owners to advise and develop plans to retain and increase canopy cover on private lands.

The following policies will be implemented as part of the strategy:

Policy 1

The Council will look to develop a **Geographic Information System (GIS)** database of the tree population recording species, size, location, condition, and maintenance. This will allow continuous audit of the urban forest and tree canopy.

Policy 2

The council will increase canopy cover within the urban area to 18%, an increase of 1.62%.

Policy 3

The Council will prepare **Woodland Management Plans** for its largest woodlands, including but not limited to Marlay Park, Cabinteely Park, Fernhill, Ballawley, Deerpark, Killiney Hill, Shanganagh Park.

Policy 4

The Council will engage with research projects on the county's tree canopy cover when resources allow.

Policy 5

The council will seek to ensure the protection and enhancement of canopy cover in private lands, through education, outreach, partnership, and regulatory mechanisms where available.

Policy 6

Together with our Biodiversity Officer Parks will explore links between **ecosystem services** provided by the county's trees. This work could identify woodlands and hedgerows throughout the county which will need cooperation to protect and inform decision-making for **targeted interventions**.

The Planning System: Improve the existing and influence the new

The planning system plays a significant role in the strategic (Forward Planning) and tactical (Development Management) preservation and protection of trees, and in the incorporation of new trees as intrinsic elements in new developments. Existing mature trees are a vital asset to development, adding a sense of place, and providing ecosystem services. Dlr's urban canopy cover stood at 16.38% in 2017.

Substantial and appropriate new planting can partly mitigate the negative impacts of tree removal arising from development. In reality the number of replacement trees required to mitigate the loss of mature trees on site, would be substantial and not many development sites would have the green/open space available on site for this extent of planting, therefore the priority should always seek to maximise the retention of existing tree and hedgerow cover.

Trees are often retained within new developments but decline over time because of inadequate provision of root and crown space and negative impacts during construction. Activities that kill or harm trees include root severance, soil compaction, water table alterations, changing soil levels, damage by machinery and harmful substances. It is vital that such impacts be prevented and prohibited. The Council recognises the importance of retaining existing trees and requires they be given genuine, careful consideration through all stages of Development Management, from feasibility stage to post-practical completion including enabling works.

Policy 7

When consistent with planning objectives and conditions, the Council will use its powers, under the Planning and Development Act 2000, to ensure maximum and robust retention, conservation and management of trees, woodlands and hedgerows.

Policy 8

To produce a supplementary planning publication on development and trees.

Planning applications for development sites

The Council requires careful and detailed consideration of the retention of trees in proposed developments. Development proposals must include an Arboricultural Report, prepared by a qualified Arborist when submitting a planning application where there are known trees on site. The Report shall include a Tree Survey, Tree Constraints Plan, Arboricultural Implications Assessment, a Method Statement and Tree Protection Plan demonstrating any special techniques for successful implementation in accordance with <u>BS 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction</u>.

Design of site layouts should seek to retain the maximum number of trees which are in good health and sustainable. The Council requires evidence of genuine attempts at tree retention, conducted in a multi-disciplinary manner through the early involvement of the developer's arboricultural and landscape consultants. Not only are trees within the development site

important but making sure that trees in adjacent land holdings are also protected is essential, as building works can go right up to the boundary meaning that the root zone of trees on adjacent lands are often negatively affected. Grants of permission typically include standard conditions for trees: appointment of a qualified arborist as Arboricultural Consultant for the duration of the development, payment of a Tree Bond and the full implementation of the arborist's recommendations for Tree Surgery, certified as satisfactorily undertaken by the Consultant.

Other tree-related conditions may apply, e.g., to conserve hedgerows and replacement planting. Replacement planting on development sites should assist in meeting the councils target for canopy cover of 18%. New tree planting should be sustainable and should demonstrate that it won't come under threat due to services in the ground or proximity to buildings in the future.

Dlr opened three parks in Cherrywood during May 2023, which will provide amenity and recreation for the local community.

1 Tully Park:
Area - 9 hectare / 22.2 acre
Trees* Phase 1 - 520no. (60% native species)
Whips / Transplants / Shrubs** Phase 1 – 2,000no. (all native species)
Trees Phase 2 – 1,000no. (est.)
Whips / Transplants / Shrubs** Phase 2 – 5,000no. (est.)

2 Beckett Park:
Area - 5 hectare / 12.6 acre
Trees* - 730no. (60% native species)
Whips / Transplants / Shrubs** – 8,000no. (all native species)

3 Ticknick Park:
Planning Scheme Area – 12.2 hectare / 30.1 acre
Planning Application Area – 19.1 hectare / 47.2 acre
Trees* - 1,100no. (all native species)
Whips / Transplants / Shrubs – 23,000no. (all native species)
Trees Phase 2 – 2,000no. (est.)
Whips / Transplants / Shrubs** Phase 2 – 50,000no. (est.)

Opening of Tully Park, 2023.

Replacement tree planting

Compensatory or replacement planting is required when a tree in publicly or privately owned land is sought to be removed or damaged due to development or utility works. However, this should not be the first step, the starting point should be to AVOID removal of trees which is best at the project planning stage. If this is not possible then minimisation of the impacts by development or construction should be introduced. If neither of these is an option, then **restoration** should be considered and finally replacement or compensatory planting should be proposed[10].

The number of trees required to compensate for loss of existing trees depends upon the size of the trees to be lost. This is set out in the following table:

Trunk diameter of tree lost to development (cm measured at 1.5 metres above ground level)	Number of Replacement Trees
Less than 15	1
15 – 19.9	2
20 – 29.9	3
30 – 39.9	4
40 – 49.9	5
50 – 59.9	6
60 – 69.9	7
70 – 79.9	8
80+	9+

Policy 9

An Arboricultural Report is required for any planning application where there are trees, shrubs or hedges on site or outside the boundary within 20m of any construction works.

Policy 10

The Council encourage new and replacement planting of trees on development sites and recommend that new plantings are in line with the above table or attempt to achieve a target of 18% canopy cover along with government and council canopy cover targets.

Policy 11

Where a tree of category A, B or C is to be removed then replacement trees should be proposed. Replacement trees should increase biodiversity, be an appropriate species for the location, and have a mature canopy spread equivalent to, or greater than, the tree(s) removed. The replacement tree should be no smaller than dbh 6.5cm.

Policy 12

Where a loss of trees occurs, a contribution towards offsite planting may be considered where it is shown that the site cannot accommodate replanting. This is to be developed as part of the supplementary planning publication on planning and trees.

Policy 13

Protection of County value hedgerows and the provision of native hedgerows as part of the landscaping plan should be included in a development proposal. The consideration of how the hedgerows link to the surrounding landscape and enhance the Ecological Network should also be included in any development proposal.

10 Smithsonian National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute, Mitigation Hierarchy Guidelines to mitigate impacts of development and cause no net loss of biodiversity. https://nationalzoo.si.edu/ccs/mitigation-hierarchy adopted by the BTRS Forum for Tree Replacement

Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs)

Section 205 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 empowers the local authority to make TPOs when it is considered to be

> *"… expedient, in the interests of amenity or the environment, to make provision for the preservation of any tree, trees, group of trees or woodlands".*

Tree Preservation Orders have been found to be an effective tool in preserving trees throughout the UK, but have been less effective in combating the practice of pre-clearance or "Enabling Works" of potential development sites prior to seeking planning permission. In Ireland, in general TPO's have not become an effective tool for councils to protect trees, the procedure is unwieldy and difficult to monitor. Dlrcc would encourage a review of legislation which could more effectively protect existing trees on private lands and lands zoned for development.

Policy P14

Dlrcc encourage a review of legislation to strengthen protection of existing trees.

Monitoring and Enforcement

During the construction process, trees are often damaged because of design decisions as well as construction activities, such as the storage of building materials, movement of construction equipment, etc. In addition, root damage and changes in site conditions can cause the dieback of trees or increase the likelihood of tree failures. Although planning conditions and tree bonds can be placed as an incentive on planning permissions, without monitoring and enforcement there is little incentive on construction sites where space is limited, and delivery is priority to ensure that trees are properly protected.

Policy P15

The Council will allocate adequate and appropriate resources to monitor and enforce planning conditions in respect of permitted developments. When necessary, the Council will act urgently to affect full compliance with conditions to achieve tree protection and retention. Robust provision shall be made for the protection and retention of important trees in accordance with BS5837: 2012 prior to commencement of any site works, including site clearance and demolition of existing structures.

Aim 2

Manage and enhance the urban forest

Scope of responsibility - Parks and Landscape services (dlr Parks)

The Council is responsible for managing all trees on its land holdings - parks, open spaces, cemeteries, allotments, community gardens, libraries, streets and public realm. All such trees are managed by dlr Parks in co-operation with other services departments, principally Roads Maintenance. The Council is also responsible for managing trees on sites that have been Taken-in-Charge. The Council is not responsible for trees on verges or open spaces that have not been Taken-in-Charge, or where there is a private management company. Social housing tenants are responsible for tree management in their gardens. However, Council approval is needed before undertaking tree works or removing trees.

Dlr Parks advises on Development Sites for Developmental Management.

Dlr Parks also advises and responds to over 1500 public enquires on trees per annum.

The lead responsibility for trees lies with dlr Parks. However, all Council departments have a role to play in promoting a tree culture in the organisation and the county.

3 Horse Chestnut in the People's Park, Dun Laoighaire

Tree management shall be in accordance with the following standards and any subsequent updates:

- **European Arboricultural Standards**: Technical Standards in Tree Work, including Tree Pruning, Tree Planting, Tree Cabling and Bracing

- **BS5837:2012** Trees in relation to design, planning and demolition. Recommendations

- **BS8545:2014**. Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape. Recommendations

- Guidelines for the planning, installation and maintenance of utility apparatus in proximity to trees. NJUG, 2007. U.K

- Irish Water Connections 'Code of Practice'

- Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets

- **NRA Guidelines** for the Protection and Preservation of Trees, Hedgerows, and scrub prior to, during and post-construction of national road schemes, TII (Transport Infrastructure Ireland)

- Tree Species Selection for Green Infrastructure - Specifiers Guide. Tree Design Action Group, U.K.

- **The National Tree safety group**, 'Common sense risk management of Trees' U.K.

- DAFM; A Guide for Landowners to Managing Roadside Trees

The Council have and continue to train staff to ensure effective and efficient service delivery in tree care and planting. Service delivery will be consistent with the Council's legal obligations, its duty-of-care and with the objectives of this Strategy.

Large tree works are undertaken by external contractors. Under a framework agreement, contractors are vetted on their experience, quality of work and value for money.

Trees are globally recognised as part of the solution to climate change and if the tree population in dlr is to be increased and be effective in climate change mitigation then it needs to be sufficiently resourced with a dedicated budget and Tree officer who can coordinate management and implement this strategy.

Management Strategies

Good tree management practices aim to protect existing trees, increase canopy cover, species diversity and tree size, to increase ecosystem benefits. Certain strategies need to be instigated to help create this resilient forest that is in our vision.

1	2	3	4
The right tree in the right place	Diversity in planting	Securing our forest health: Biosecurity and Procurement	Enhance Trees and Biodiversity

The Right Tree in the Right Place

The principle of "right tree in the right place" is core to our Strategy. We will ensure that as far as possible, only tree species appropriate to the local ecology and site characteristics are planted, and that these will only be planted in appropriate locations.

The "right tree in the right place" is an established principle for sustainable tree planting. This needs to be applied in different settings.

- **Urban areas**; along our streets and within residential settings
- Within **parks and woodlands**
- **Riparian** (riverside) zones
- Important **semi natural** and **biodiversity areas**

Urban Areas

Trees can be planted anywhere, however within an urban setting certain criteria must be considered if the tree is to grow to maturity in that location, without conflict with buildings or other infrastructure. Will the tree cause problems with shading, be subjected to vehicular damage or is there enough soil volume without conflict with adjacent utilities? Within our urban streets quality is essential over quantity. It is more important that trees can establish well and gain maturity.

Dlr Parks do not remove trees which are considered to have been historically planted in inappropriate settings, but we manage them within our urban forest to reduce conflict as long as they are healthy and in good condition.

Streets are an unnatural environment for trees, and street trees need specific management and protection. When planting street trees; species, size and form are important but also when possible installing tree pits which contribute to sustainable urban drainage systems should be considered. (Refer to TDAG guidance). Trees with sufficient root space are more resilient.

Parks and Woodlands

Planting the right tree in the right place means considering the local wildlife, landscape and soil type when selecting species and locations to ensure trees or hedgerows benefit their surroundings and will not cause damage to the local environment (natural, built and historic) in the long term. Considerations for this include.

- ▶ Wildlife and landscape: how the trees or hedgerows fit into the existing context

- ▶ Riparian zone/Designation (pNHA, SNA, etc)

- ▶ Heritage & archaeology: trees or hedgerow planting that supports heritage rather than damages it.

"Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown creates its own unique micro-climate, the Urban Heat Island Effect, making it warmer than the surrounding semi-urban and rural areas. This is mainly due to heat absorption from built-up areas, waste heat generated from urban activities and a lack of tree cover, which can reduce temperatures in the area through shading".

dlr Climate Change Action Plan (2019-24)

Riparian Zones

Planting the right tree along riverbanks can help restore water quality, alleviate flooding and improve habitats. For multiple plantings of trees such as copses or woodlands along rivers there are very specific criteria to be met.

The planting of riparian zones will be done with input from our Biodiversity Officer or an ecologist to ensure that the appropriate tree planting is chosen for riparian zones within our parks and to help restore these habitats as part of our restoration for biodiversity.

Beyond selecting appropriate species and locations for planting, a system wide rethink on how we consider trees and hedgerows as assets is needed. Dlrcc will shift our thinking from seeing trees as an aesthetic enhancement, to being functional assets within our county: we must make our trees work for us, just as we must work to better look after them. This means we must fully appreciate their benefits, integrate them into our decision making and business planning activities, and actively plant and manage our trees and hedges to deliver these benefits for our communities.

Policy 16

The Council will endeavour to plant 'The Right Tree in The Right Place'.

Diversity in tree planting

Ireland has a limited range of native tree species, our most common include Ash, Oak, Birch, Hazel, Rowan and Scots Pine. According to the Tree Council of Ireland there are 28 native trees[11]. It is broadly understood that native trees support greater numbers of wildlife species, they are adapted to our climate conditions and resilient against biotic and abiotic stresses. Difficulties can arise in relation to native trees when planted as street trees or in narrow sites or along transport routes due to their habit or growth form. However, in the urban fringe, or when planting woodlands, opportunity to plant native species of Irish provenance should be the preferred choice.

To optimise multiple ecosystem services of our natural ecosystems which are at the forefront of climate resilience, it is essential to promote native species diversity, age and size. These are also essential elements for a resilient urban forest which is adaptable to change (climate change, pests and diseases, stresses).

Once a tree inventory is produced it will provide a baseline for analysing our current tree diversity and track progress towards diversity goals. Most cities have a low urban species diversity, as streets are often planted uniformly based on aesthetic. There is a need to remove monocultures and introduce diversity in the urban forest, but this often is in conflict with design objectives as a complete mix of species can create a lack of cohesion or neighbourhood identity. There are established strategies and design objectives to overcome this, including:

10-20-30 Rule: The rule suggests an urban tree population should include no more than 10% of any one species, 20% of any one genus, or 30% of any family.

Height to First Branch: The distance from the ground to the first branches of the tree canopy creates the visual and physical pathway that we view or walk under. By keeping this space equal between trees, the walking or viewing experience appears uniform between trees.

Tree size and shape: Planting similar sized trees and similar shaped trees beside each other will provide a uniform view.

Policy 17

The Council will encourage planting a diversity of tree species, sizes and ages to build resilience in the urban forest carefully selecting native tree species as appropriate to ensure we do not adversely impact on our ecosystems and biodiversity, and non-native trees as street trees or specimen trees in parks.

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11 Native Irish Trees, Tree Council of Ireland. https://www.treecouncil.ie/native-irish-trees

Biosecurity and procurement

To maximise ecosystem benefits provided by trees, we need to make sure that trees being planted are healthy and in good condition. The quality of tree stock being planted is extremely important and best practice planting procedures must be in place. There is difficulty in sourcing Irish grown trees above a certain size and there is a reliance on importing trees in Ireland which can increase the potential for imported pests and diseases. Dlr Parks have measures built into their procurement procedures to ensure an improved standard of biosecurity.

▶ Trees should be of **Irish provenance**. If not available in Ireland, trees should have been grown within the supplying nursery for a minimum of one year.

▶ Request information as to when the nursery received the trees being provided – plant passport, date imported. This provides **proof/ audit trail** of how long plants have been grown on nursery and all nurseries should have it readily available.

▶ Explore **contract-growing** of trees, including as part of the quarantine of imports. Agree procurement early in the project and implement as a separate contract from a construction contract.

▶ Where landscape design is part of construction project, a separate landscape contract should be prepared, with prudential measures for **tree procurement to ensure biosecurity.**

Biosecurity refers to the set of precautions taken by an organisation to prevent the introduction and spread of harmful organisms. Such organisms include non-native pests such as insects, and pathogens such as viruses, bacteria and fungi.

Policy 18

The Council will adhere to government advice, best practice, and biosecurity guidelines when sourcing trees to reduce the risk of introducing pests and disease.

Trees and biodiversity

Biodiversity is the variety of life on earth. Our native trees, hedgerows and woodlands play an important role as part of our biodiversity and in supporting other species. Many of these species are threatened and becoming rarer. As noted in the All Ireland Pollinator Plan in their native tree list for biodiversity, our native trees support a diversity of species, for example:

Blackthorn provides a home for

109 insect species

Related to cherries and plums, the fruit of the blackthorn resemble small plums and are enjoyed by lots of animals, including woodmice, finches and foxes.

Oak is Ireland's national tree and its ability to sustain biodiversity makes it hugely important to our wildlife.

Oak supports **284** different insect species

324 lichens

and can live for **1000** years

Birch supports **229** insect species

126 lichens

In spring, its growth of seed-rich yellow-brown catkins attracts birds.

Birch can be recognised by its silver-white peeling bark
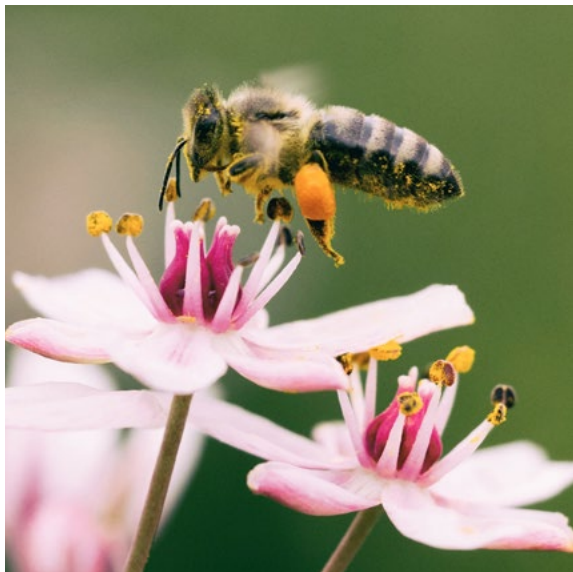
Trees are an integral part of our Ecological Network, an important conservation strategy for the survival of wildlife in our ever-increasing urban county. The importance of protecting and restoring our Ecological Network across the County is recognised by Dlrcc and it is also included in our Dlrcc County Development Plan. The wildlife corridors of our Ecological Network connect important biodiversity areas including our protected sites and locally important habitats thus allowing movement of mobile species and providing refuges, breeding, and foraging areas for wildlife. Treelines, hedgerows, riparian zones and woodlands are some of the most important of these wildlife corridors. Dlr's network of parks and open spaces can create steppingstones for wildlife to pass through safely.

Some plants and animals are able to move between habitats and can survive in a number of conditions. Hedgehogs and foxes for example can adapt well to urban environments but some of our rarer species need specific native trees, woodlands and their associated deadwood to complete their life cycle in one place. Management and biodiversity enhancement of the tree population will play an important part in safeguarding our county's biodiversity.

Why are native trees best for biodiversity and climate resilience?

The timing and method of arrival of tree species have important implications for their value to native Irish wildlife and biodiversity. Native trees arrived in Ireland over 10,000 years ago when the ice sheets retreated. Other plants and animals also colonised over that time and evolved close relationships with these tree species, becoming reliant on them for food, breeding sites and shelter. Non-native trees do not have the same long-term relationship with these plants and animals therefore, this strategy promotes the use of native species wherever possible. Where non-native tree species are used to support the adaptation of urban areas to climate change, they should if possible be near native or have fruits, berries or provide pollen.

Policy 19

The Council will leave standing dead wood and felled trees in place where it is assessed that there is no risk to safety. Log piles, decaying wood have good habitat potential.

Policy 20

The Council will leave root balls or plates in place, where risk assessed for public safety, for their habitat potential.

Policy 21

The Council will leave ivy on trees as it is recognised as a valuable habitat and food source. Ivy will only be removed to aid tree inspections or prevent possible windthrow or if it's damaging another valuable habitat.

Policy 22

The Council will create new native woodlands (with a complexity of vegetation structure beneath the forest canopy particularly shrub and understorey layers) and riparian areas for biodiversity where appropriate. It will also encourage natural regeneration on sites where possible.

Policy 23

The Council will adhere to all legislation for the protection of wildlife during its tree management activities.

Policy 24

The Council will require that developers comply with protected species legislation when dealing with trees on development sites, and in accordance with the Council's Biodiversity Action Plan.

Policy 25

The Council will aim to enhance biodiversity through native tree planting in appropriate locations

Scheduled and unscheduled tree work

Operational management, through the annual Tree Care Programme, provides detailed information for pruning, removal and new plantings proposed throughout the county through the Local Area Committees of the Council in December and January. Trees are living biological organisms and therefore cannot be predicted to behave in an exact way. At times there is some requirement to act outside of the planned works often for safety reasons. Trained staff will assess and make judgement calls where necessary in a reasonable timescale unless considered an emergency which will be dealt with at the highest priority.

Tree pruning is often necessary to maintain good tree health, manage risk to the public and to property. Risk from dead, dying or dangerous trees is also managed. The Council will undertake such works for sound justifiable reasons.

Policy 26

The Council will as much as possible manage trees proactively. Where extensive works are being undertaken the council will consult with the resident's association where we have contacts.

Tree removal

Tree removal takes place on trees that are dead, dying, dangerous or a risk to public safety. There are limited occasions when removals may occur outside of this and no alternative option for retention is viable such an example may include tree removal obtained through the planning process, thinning a woodland for the health and condition of other trees around them, essential road/construction works. The Council will provide an explanation for this on request. The council will try and replace any tree removed as close to its location as possible.

Policy 27

The Council will not remove trees without good reason and will endeavour to replant as close to its location if possible.

Trees and transport infrastructure

Urban areas are moving away from being car centric and towards walking and cycling which provide for a more sociable network within streets. People have always preferred to cycle and walk through parks and open spaces and bringing more trees into the streets and cycleways will encourage more walking and cycling and create a better connectedness to nature. Retrofitting streets and roadways for cycleways provides opportunity to increase the urban forest. Where roads and services are redesigned to be more considerate of pedestrians and cyclists aboveground, some opportunity arises to retrofit locations for suds and tree pits.

Trees have equal priority to urban infrastructure such as roads and services and should be considered as infrastructure themselves, however where a tree has become an obstruction or interferes with a light stand, road sign, sightline, cycle, or pathway the Council will act to remove that obstruction.

If a privately owned tree is causing an obstruction or hazard the responsibility lies with the owner to prune the tree on their land. The Council through the Roads Act can force that owner to take action if not done within a reasonable timescale, or if it is deemed an immediate danger the Roads Section can take action and pursue costs[12].

Where a tree's roots have been reported to be uplifting a pedestrian path this will be directed to the roads department who are responsible for the path's maintenance. There are a number of ways a path can be repaired following damage from tree roots. Removal of a tree is the last resort although may be the best option if the tree is of low value due to health and condition or that the repair works will destabilise the tree.

Policy 28

The parks department will work with the Roads or Active Travel section to identify new planting opportunities, especially on transport layout designs or realignments.

Policy 29

Where a tree is causing an obstruction to transport routes, the Council will take action to prune the tree and make that route safe.

12 Section 70, Roads Act, 1993

General tree management policies

It is the Council's duty as a tree owner to manage trees on their land to reduce risk but also to preserve trees for their amenity and environmental values. The Council take the management of their tree population very seriously, and appropriate and timely management takes place to reduce hazards or risk and improve public safety including remedial pruning works where and when necessary. The Council recognises that trees may cause problems for people and sometimes the wrong tree has been grown in the wrong place. The Council will act reasonably to find a balance where issues are raised. The following polices will advise on the Council's tree pruning polices where appropriate.

Traffic management and tree pruning works to specimen black pine (Pinus Nigra) on public land Sandyford.

Work Priority Rating System

To ensure the most efficient and effective use of resources, tree works will be prioritised on safety priority order unless they are deemed an emergency. Emergency works are reactive and if they pose an immediate threat to the public, a roadway or property works should be reported within 90 minutes to obtain a tree contractor to make safe.

General tree works shall be prioritised as follows:

⚠️ **Urgent and Essential** – action within 3 months.

▶️ **Essential** – action within 12 months

🕐 **Desirable** – action within 24 months.

🚫 **None Required** – unnecessary works: No action.

Tree pruning

The Council receives many requests for trees to be pruned or felled. Individual requests, queries and recommendations will be dealt with efficiently, consistently, and fairly, having regard to the positive public contribution that trees make throughout the county and to the policies within the tree strategy. The Council will avoid unnecessary tree works. Excessive/heavy tree pruning can weaken trees and make them more susceptible to decay and disease, particularly older trees. Trees often respond to excessive pruning by producing a flush of vigorous growth.

Each case will be judged individually on its merits:

Dead branches, dying or dangerous trees

Pruning acceptable where the tree(s) represents an immediate and unreasonable danger to public safety, which can be adequately addressed by reasonable and judicious pruning.

Trees causing obstruction

Pruning normally acceptable where the tree(s) is causing an obstruction to a public road, Right of Way, public path or cycleway, access to a property or a public open space. The following height clearance is considered appropriate where reasonably practicable without harming the health or tree form:

▶ pedestrian areas: 2.5m.

▶ collector roads and access roads: 3.5m.

▶ distributor roads: 4.5m.

Public lighting

Pruning is normally acceptable where a tree is within 5m of and obstructing or interfering with public lighting, although removal is the preferred long-term option. New trees should not be replanted in this location but should be a suitable distance from the light.

Legal nuisance

Pruning is normally acceptable where a tree is causing a legal nuisance, such as damage to private property.

4.5m
Distance at centre of road

3.5m

2.5m

Property boundary

Minimal clearance to be maintained. Branch pruning back to collar to minimise repeat pruning and to maintain a balanced tree canopy.

To maintain pedestrian access, a 2.5m height clearance will be provided where possible.
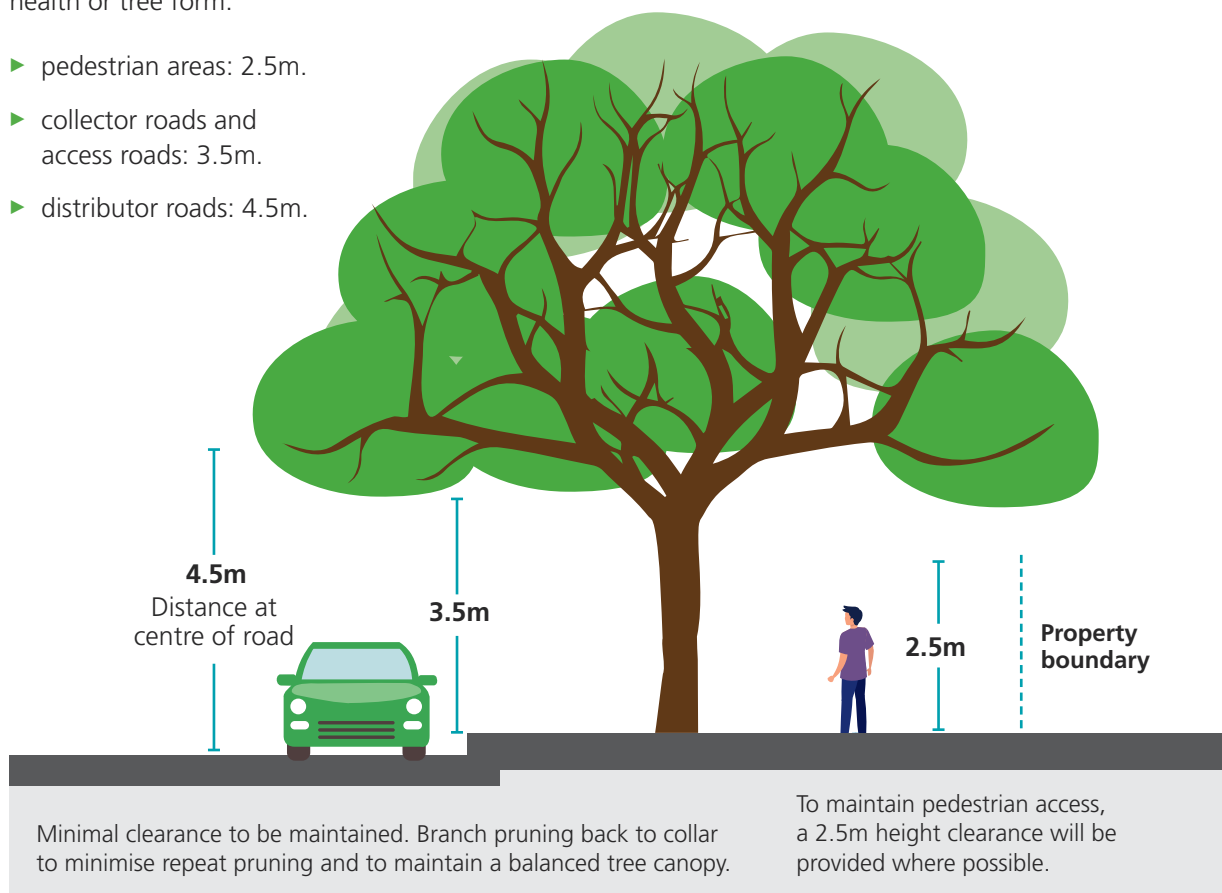
Severe problems

Pruning may be acceptable if trees are:

▶ preventing or restricting essential repair and maintenance of property or authorised construction work

▶ in physical contact with buildings

▶ physically encroaching over private property, e.g., gardens, to the extent that reasonable enjoyment is prevented.

▶ obstructing road signs and other public equipment.

▶ severely obscuring sight lines at road junctions and accesses

▶ obstructing essential public CCTV cameras

Light

There is currently no legal right to direct sunlight. However, situations where a tree is genuinely blocking daylight from habitable rooms to an exceptional, severe and unreasonable degree will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Minor pruning works may be acceptable in some situations. But any decision to undertake tree surgery will consider the health and significance of trees, contribution to public amenity, orientation of the building, and whether trees were already present prior to the occupation of the property.

Formative pruning (the process of shaping a tree when it is young)

Tree pruning may be acceptable where a young tree is in need of formative pruning to improve its form or shape.

Remedial pruning

Pruning may be acceptable where a tree needs pruning to improve health, longevity or shape, e.g. to remove deadwood or diseased material, remedy damage, make the tree safe, or shape the tree crown.

Woodland operations

Pruning may be acceptable where trees require coppicing, pollarding, brashing or similar works in the interests of good practice and in accordance with a woodland management plan.
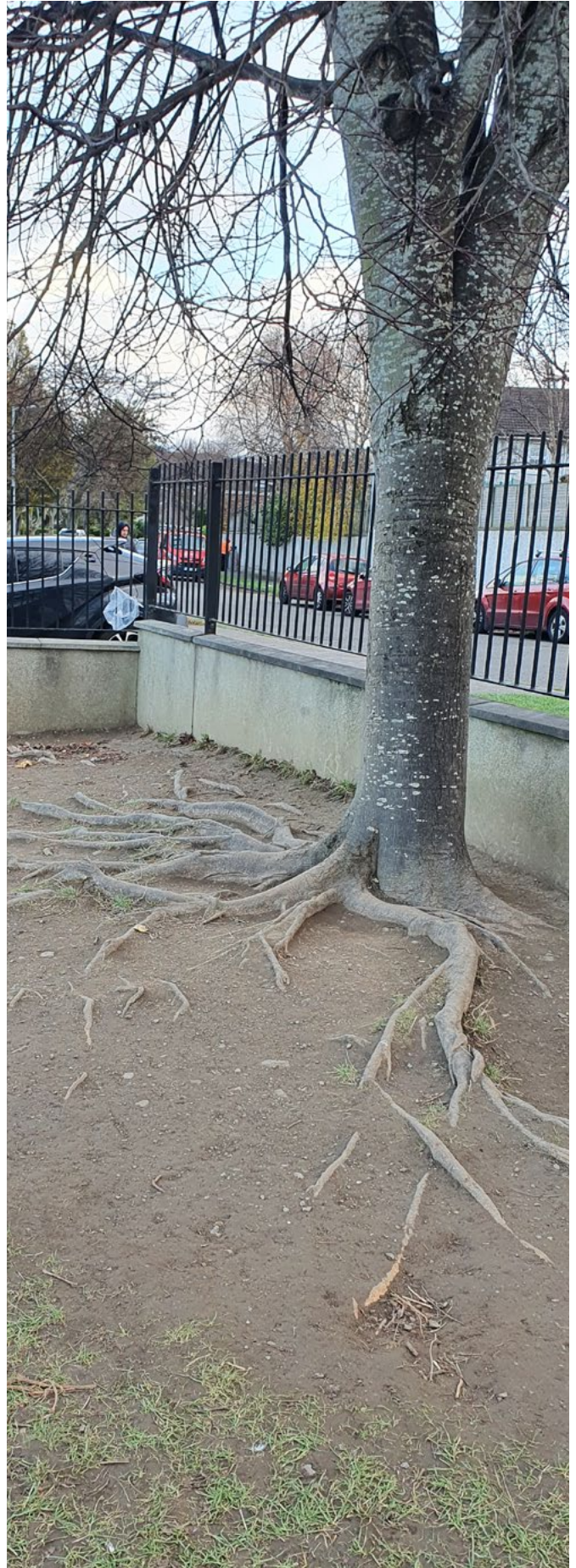
Utilities and trenching works

Trees in conflict with utilities will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. The relevant utility company must consult with dlr Parks prior to any intended tree work, trenching or other works that are likely to affect Council-owned trees. All such work shall be in accordance with dlr's Directions for Roadworks Control and with recommendations of the current NJUG (UK National Joint Utilities Group) Guidelines for The Planning, Installation and Maintenance of Utility Apparatus in Proximity to Trees.

The Council will ensure that all construction and development on its own land, including temporary installations and placement of movable equipment, near to trees follows BS:5837 (2012) "Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations" or an approved alternative standard.

Loss of a private view

Tree works will not normally be carried out to address loss of a private view. Trees grow and, over time, contribute to the county's distinctive character. It would be impracticable to prune every tree affecting a view, as this could have a major negative impact on amenity.

Roots in gardens

Roots in gardens are a natural occurrence and their presence is unlikely to be affected by pruning. Felling or branch pruning in response to root invasion in gardens would not be appropriate.

TV, broadband, mobile telephone and satellite reception

Most televisions allow for a degree of variation in reception, enabling a viewable image, whereas satellite-television dishes need a clear line of view to the satellite, which can be affected by obstructions such as a tree. Wireless broadband and mobile telephone reception can also be affected by these obstructions. Pruning may help improve reception in the short-term. However, the flush of extra growth associated with pruning will often make the problem worse, and the tree might not be the main cause of the problem. In most cases relocating the receiver or satellite dish, or using a booster, can resolve the situation and is far less destructive than felling or pruning a tree.

Solar panels

Whilst the Council appreciates that there is a need to provide renewable energy resources, trees have an important role in maintaining and improving local amenity, in addition to contributing to local and national targets in tackling climate change. The presence of trees must be fully appreciated when considering a suitable location for the placement of solar panels. The Council will not prune or remove trees to improve natural light to a solar panel.

Bird droppings, fallen leaves or other deposits

Tree works will not normally be carried out to address bird droppings, fallen leaves or other deposits. These are natural processes and cannot be avoided by pruning and not currently recognised as a legal nuisance. If a path is littered with leaves, fruit, or bird droppings, it is best to cleanse the path, as pruning will usually have a negligible impact. The maintenance of gardens and/or gutters is the responsibility of the landowner, and the Council is not obliged to remove leaves that may have fallen from Council owned trees. Where gutters are regularly blocked by fallen leaves gutter guards may be fitted to provide a low maintenance solution at the property owner's expense.

Tree too big/too tall

The Council will not prune or fell a tree simply it is considered to be 'too big' or 'too tall' A tree is not dangerous just because it may be considered too big for its surroundings. Other problems would need to be identified for the Council to consider it to be dangerous or to take remedial action with the tree.

Wildlife or insect pests

The council will not prune a tree to reduce or remove insect pests or birds or other wildlife associated with trees. Birds are protected during nesting season and require a licence to remove. Some birds, insects and wildlife are protected.

Honeydew/sap

Honeydew is caused by Aphids feeding on the tree, which excrete a sugary sap. Often the honeydew is colonised by a mould, which causes it to go black. Unfortunately, there is little that can be done to remove the aphid which causes the problem and pruning the tree may only offer temporary relief. Re-growth is often more likely to be colonised by Aphids and therefore may exacerbate the problem. Honeydew is a natural and seasonal problem. Some trees are more prone than others, e.g., Limes. Where honeydew affects cars, warm soapy water will remove the substance, particularly if you wash the car as soon as possible.

Other inconveniences and disservices: the following minor inconveniences are generally not responsive to pruning:

Roots causing minor lifting of driveways, which can often be repaired without the need for tree pruning or tree removal.

Departmental responsibilities

The Council will formalise departmental responsibilities in relation to trees and make this information public. For operations affecting existing trees and for capital works, the lead department will involve dlr Parks at an early stage. Examples of operations include the Annual Roads/Footpaths Improvements Programme, which provides opportunities for the incorporation of tree planting pits. Examples of capital works include mobility projects (e.g. new or improved public realm), new roads and new road alignments and water infrastructure (e.g. local reservoirs).

Protected species

Where tree works have potential to affect protected species or their habitat, the Council will have regard to legislative requirements and the procedures outlined in the Council's Biodiversity Plan. Essential tree works will be undertaken in a way that minimises adverse impact and ecological advice will be sought where necessary.

Common ivy (Hedera hibernica)

Ivy is a native plant of great importance to wildlife, providing important nesting sites for blackbirds, wrens and other birds; its nectar is of particular value to insects, particularly butterflies, and to bees which often depend on it for survival during winter and early spring. For these reasons, ivy is normally retained except where removal is necessary to aid visual tree health assessment or where ivy growth is excessive and adversely affecting tree health.

Vandalism

Community co-operation and collaboration achieves the best results in reducing vandalism. The Council will support residents in developing a greater sense of civic responsibility and ownership of neighbourhood trees. The Council will also work with Community Gardaí and resident groups to address serious acts of vandalism. Where necessary, the Council will pursue legal action against individuals who have damaged trees.

Tree stump treatment

When a street tree is felled, it is not always possible to replant at the same location or time. Therefore, on occasions a short tree stump may be left as a temporary measure. Unless converted for other purposes (e.g., tree art), stumps will be removed when sufficient numbers have aggregated to make allocation of resources efficient. Temporary stumps will be cut to c.1.3 metres (~4 feet) tall, with chamfered tops to remove rough edges. Only stumps greater than 150 mm (6 inches) diameter will be temporarily retained.

Driveways and new entrances

dlr Parks will consider the removal of Council owned trees to facilitate the construction of new entrances and driveways on a case-by-case basis. When felling is considered acceptable, dlr Parks will calculate the value of the removed tree(s) and the corresponding replacement costs, using a recognised evaluation system such as Helliwell or CAVAT. Payment of estimated costs shall then be made to dlr Parks, which will arrange for tree removal and replacement at an appropriate time of year.

Footpaths

A shared, cross-disciplinary approach to be applied. dlr Road Maintenance and dlr Traffic will consult with dlr Parks at an early stage when planning to undertake maintenance works near trees. dlr Parks will provide a reasonable level of advice and input to engineering colleagues. In some cases, it may be acceptable for trees to be removed and replaced. However, felling is generally considered as a last resort as it may be possible to address problems by other means, including special protection techniques.

Traffic Sight-lines

Balanced consideration must be given to the value of existing trees in the context of sightlines for new entrances or improvement of existing entrances. Should it be absolutely necessary to remove trees, the Council will undertake replacement planting in the nearest suitable space.

Approach to natural and built heritage

The Council will carefully consider natural and built heritage when planting and managing trees. Works will be carried out in accordance with the dlr Biodiversity Action Plan. In particular, dlr Parks shall have due regard to the following when dealing with tree management:

▶ Protected Species legislation and the principles of wildlife conservation.

▶ The presence and value of existing local, non-statutory habitats, including woodland, heathland, semi-natural grassland, scrub, hedgerows, natural watercourses, and marsh.

▶ The appearance, significance, and special qualities of recognised heritage features.

Regarding built heritage, when undertaking tree works and when preparing planting proposals, the Council will pay due regard to Protected Structures and to Architectural Conservation Areas, being careful to compliment the contextual and design aspects of buildings with suitable trees.

Aim 3

Education and awareness through partnership

It is important that our community and ourselves work together to care for the urban forest. Raising awareness of the benefits of trees brings to the forefront how important their role is in enhancing the character of our surroundings, the quality of our environment, and that trees are an asset rather than an issue. To do this we need to continue to inform through education with advice and partnership. The Parks Department and Council are advocates for trees and the benefits they provide especially in mitigating for climate change. Therefore, it is important that the council have Tree Officers whose specialist skills and knowledge can focus on the delivery of the tree strategies objectives. Together a Tree Officer and a Tree Team can promote trees within the county.

Policy 30

The Council will establish the role of the county's first Tree Officer to promote the benefits of trees and implement the tree strategy.

We have opportunities through our management approach to work with our partners and communities. Friends Groups, Community Groups and others want to play their part in planting and looking after our trees. We must design our projects, where appropriate, to incorporate as much community involvement as possible.

Partnerships

Two thirds of the county's trees are growing on private land- many having large numbers of mature trees. These sites are located in urban and rural landscapes with a variety of land uses, they include educational sites such as universities and schools, sports grounds, the Dublin mountains, farmers, businesses and private gardens.

With **farmers and private landowners** opportunity is open to encourage natural regeneration as well as tree planting in incidental or unproductive areas of land. **Educational institutions** may also have incidental areas where tree planting can occur, such as small orchards or forest gardens, where food education could co-exist. Partnerships will also be pursued with businesses to improve canopy cover on their grounds, and to promote best practice in terms of tree protection and climate mitigation.

During **National Tree Week**, an annual event organised by the **Tree Council of Ireland and Coillte**, the Council support tree planting events and awareness, providing schools and residential associations with trees, advice and running of events to raise awareness. During 2023 a number of small woodlands were planted throughout the county, the first was beside Meadow Park Ave, Rathfarnham where residents and the local **Mens Shed** planted almost 600 native trees, other small woodlands were planted in Cabinteely Park, The Gallops, Ballyogan and the largest one occurred over several days in Fernhill Park, Stepaside. Volunteers from schools, business and the community came together to celebrate and plant trees.

Policy 31

The Council will encourage and support all landowners to sustainably manage their trees by collaborating with Community Groups and Businesses through planting projects, advice and sponsorship.

Education

The Council provide various biodiversity and education awareness training days within their parks throughout the year, this will be expanded to provide more information and education material about trees via the Councils website **www.dlrcoco.ie**. Those with garden space can be encouraged to plant trees. Tree trails are valuable fun activities which can encourage visiting parks and woodlands and a healthier lifestyle. Active participation in helping to look after our county's trees could be a rewarding and educational pursuit.

The Tree Tag initiative, which provides valuable information regarding the benefits of trees in relation to climate mitigation, will be expanded and made available. We will also work with schools and others to provide Tree Tags for their own sites.

Policy 32

The Council will provide educational information via their website and the Tree Tag project. We will create Tree Trails and educational resources which are easily accessible and encourage participation in outdoor activities that promote the Urban Forest.

Active Citzenship

The Council recognises the enthusiasm and efforts of community groups and individuals in their ongoing initiatives increasing and improving the urban forest and we work collaboratively in a number of these projects. There are a number of amazing resident groups who monitor and assist with their local urban forest, there are inspiring individuals who are recording and mapping trees amongst many other features in open-source mapping.

Volunteers are an incredibly dedicated group of people who out of commitment to their community help in many ways throughout the county. Many people have a love of nature and trees and would find enjoyment in learning more about tree identification and the urban forest, in turn this could assist the council with collecting data and caring for the urban forest. Measuring the benefits of the urban forest is something the Council finds extremely valuable as a management tool and could be used to encourage volunteers to get involved in caring for the urban forest.

Policy 33

The Council will encourage the community to promote and maintain the urban forest through education.

Policy 34

The Council will seek to quantify the benefits of the urban forest while creating opportunities for community participation.

Small community woodland planted in Cabinteely Park

During February 2023 a small native woodland was planted by local community groups, park runners and, Tidy Towns. Parks staff prepared the ground the day before. 400 native whips including Oak, Hawthorn, Hazel and Birch amongst other species were planted in just over 1 hour. 40% of trees were large species trees and the remaining medium and small. These will take 2 years minimum to become independently established, 5 years for any strong visual impact, and greater than 10 years to positively impact canopy cover and ecosystem servcies. Starting now means that less trees will be required to provide the same service, than by starting in 10 years.

Policy 35

The Council will continue to identify sites to plant woodlands for engagement with the local community.

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Delivery and Next Steps

This strategy seeks to set a high-level strategic direction for our county. Key stakeholders and our communities have been involved in developing this strategy. There are so many great projects and initiatives already occurring throughout Dun Laoghaire Rathdown and we have a great base to build on. The next steps will be dependent on achieving funding to implement the actions identified which will enable the Council to implement its policies.

The Action Plan

The Action Plan translates the strategy's aims and policy statements into achievable, measurable, and targeted actions.

Aim 1
Protect and Value our Trees

Actions

1.1	Appoint full-time dlr Tree Officer who can oversee the implementation of this tree strategy.
1.2	Secure a dedicated annual tree management budget which can appropriately resource the aims of the tree strategy.
1.3	Develop a comprehensive database of trees and woodlands and recommence tree condition surveys of our urban forest.
1.4	Use the tree database to evaluate tree canopy cover and monitor progress in relation to reaching tree canopy targets, diversity of species and assessment of environmental benefits of trees.
1.5	The Council will prepare Woodland Management Plans for its largest woodlands, in Marlay Park, Cabinteely Park, Shanganagh Park, Fernhill, Ballawley, Deerpark, FitzSimons Wood, Killiney Hill, Carysfort Park.
1.6	Where beneficial, provide training to staff in software for the management of trees, GIS condition surveys, I-trees.
1.7	Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance for trees and woodland (biodiversity)
1.8	Carry out a desktop review of existing TPOs and review the TPO process.
1.9	Research available tree inventory programmes and adopt one which will allow for efficient proactive tree surveying and has compatibility with existing council reporting systems.
1.10	Following adoption of a tree inventory programme move to a system of works which will allow cyclical tree management based on health, condition and climate mitigation benefits for the community.
1.11	Develop guidance for development sites to assist in achieving canopy cover targets.
1.12	Promote the replacement tree planting guidance with collaboration from the planning department and other relevant dlr departments.
1.13	Develop a contribution levy for offsite development tree planting where necessary.
1.14	Promote and support Parks Planning monitoring and enforcement of conditions set out in successful planning permissions and create a permanent/full time post in this role. (Enforcement Officer or another Tree Officer position)

Aim 2

Manage and enhance the urban forest

Actions

2.1	Develop a checklist to promote 'The Right Tree in The Right Place' Guidelines.
2.2	Promote procurement and biosecurity standards throughout the organisation and with contractors and partners.
2.3	Provide staff workshops on new techniques and methods in tree planting including biodiversity friendly planting methods, woodland management, tree planting, natural regeneration and preparing trees to be more climate resilient.
2.4	Continue to review and work collaboratively with other departments where trees are part of a project site and may be impacted by development. This is always best done at an early stage to any design project.
2.5	Adhere to best practice and legal requirements to Protect sensitive and protected species that roost or nest within trees.
2.6	Increase actions to increase biodiversity, plant a diversity of trees, plant in groups where possible, encourage and enhance trees lines outside of parks and open spaces to improve links.

Aim 3

Education & Awareness through advice and partnership

Actions

3.1	Further develop our online Tree website with educational information and interactive programmes on trees.
3.2	Develop public involvement programmes with the trees planted in their locality, such as: a. Plant a tree in our verge request b. Plant a tree in your garden programme
3.3	Involve residents in establishing newly planted trees in front of their homes. Attach 'Water me when I'm thirsty' tags.
3.4	Engage in Community Citizen Science programmes - offering community engagement and involvement in gathering information on our urban forest.
3.5	Expand Dlr Environmental Benefits Tree Tags Project County wide. Explore the possibility of working with schools, community groups with this project.
3.6	Explore and if possible, develop an urban tree stewardship programme to promote our urban forest, learn about arboriculture, conservation, and tree management.
3.7	Recent tree planting projects were supported by Corporate Green Team volunteers, this was the first time that this occurred within Dlr Parks. Dlr Parks would like to explore the potential of these partnerships where further tree planting and parks projects arise.

I'M YOUR NEW TREE
Please water me when I'm thirsty

SCAN ME!

Or visit www.dlrcoco.ie/en/parks-out-doors/water-trees

Appendices

Appendix 1: **Summary of Tree Strategy Policies**

Aim 1
Protect and Value our Trees

Objective 1: Evaluate the urban forest

P1   The Council will look to develop Geographic Information System (GIS) database of the tree population recording species, size, location, condition, and maintenance. This will allow continuous audit of the urban forest and tree canopy.

P2   The Council propose to increase canopy cover within the urban area to 18%, an increase of 1.62%.

P3   Where applicable, develop tree and woodland management plans for publicly owned key parks and woodlands to demonstrate sustainable forest management and support the planning and implementation of work proposals and their long-term monitoring

P4   The Council will engage with research projects on the county's tree canopy cover when resources allow.

P5   The Council will seek to ensure the protection and enhancement of canopy cover in private lands, through education, outreach, partnership, and regulatory mechanisms where available.

P6   Together with our biodiversity officer Parks will explore links between ecosystems services provided by the county's trees. This work could identify woodlands and hedgerows throughout the county which will need cooperation to protect and inform decision-making for targeted interventions.

Objective 2: Retain and protect existing trees and expand the urban forest

P7   When consistent with planning objectives and conditions, the Council will use its powers, under the Planning and Development Act 2000, to ensure maximum and robust retention, conservation and management of trees, woodlands and hedgerows.

P8   Produce a supplementary planning publication on development and trees.

P9   An Arboricultural report is required for any planning application where there are trees, shrubs or hedges on site or outside the boundary within 20m of any construction works.

P10   The Council encourage new and replacement planting of trees on development sites and recommend that new plantings are in line with the table on page 32 or attempt to achieve a target of 18% canopy cover along with government and council canopy cover targets.

P11   Where a tree of category A, B or C is to be removed then replacement trees should be proposed, replacement trees should increase biodiversity, be an appropriate species for the location, and have a mature canopy spread equivalent to, or greater than, the tree(s) removed. The replacement tree should be no smaller than than dbh 6.5cm.

P12   Where a loss of trees occurs a contribution towards offsite planting may be considered where it is shown that the site cannot accommodate replanting. This is to be developed as part of the supplementary planning publication on planning and trees.

P13   Protection of County value hedgerows and the provision of native hedgerows as part of the landscaping plan should be included in a development proposal. The consideration of how the hedgerows link to the surrounding landscape and enhance the Ecological Network should also be included in any development proposal.

P14   Dlr Co. Co. encourage a review of legislation to strengthen protection of existing trees.

P15   The Council will allocate adequate and appropriate resources to monitor and enforce planning conditions in respect of permitted developments. When necessary, the Council will act urgently to affect full compliance with conditions to achieve tree protection and retention. Robust provision shall be made for the protection and retention of important trees in accordance with BS5837: 2012 prior to commencement of any site works, including site clearance and demolition of existing structures.

Aim 2
Manage and Enhance the Urban Forest

Objective 1: Create Resilience

P16   The Council will endeavour to plant 'The Right Tree in The Right Place'.

P17   The Council will encourage planting a diversity of tree species, sizes and ages to build resilience in the urban forest carefully selecting native tree species as appropriate to ensure we do not adversely impact on our ecosystems and biodiversity, and non-native trees as street trees or specimen trees in parks.

P18   The Council will adhere to government advice, best practice, and biosecurity guidelines when sourcing trees to reduce the risk of introducing pests and disease.

Objective 2: Protect and Enhance Biodiversity

P19   The Council will leave standing dead wood and felled trees in place where it is assessed that there is no risk to safety, log piles, decaying wood have good habitat potential.

P20   The Council will leave root balls or plates in place where risk assessed for public safety, for their habitat potential.

P21   The Council will leave ivy on trees as it is recognised as a valuable habitat and food source. Ivy will only be removed to aid tree inspections or prevent possible windthrow or if its damaging another valuable habitat.

P22   The Council will create native woodlands and riparian area for biodiversity where appropriate. It will also encourage natural regeneration on sites where possible.

P23   The Council will adhere to all legislation for the protection of wildlife during its tree management activities

P24   The Council will require that developers comply with protected species legislation when dealing with trees on development sites, in accordance with the Council's Biodiversity Action Plan.

Objective 3: Management of the urban forest

P25   The Council will aim to enhance biodiversity through native tree planting in appropriate locations

P26   The Council will as much as possible manage trees proactively. Where extensive works are being undertaken the council will consult with the resident's association where we have contacts.

P27   The Council will not remove trees without good reason and will endeavour to replant as close to its location if possible.

P28   The parks department works with the Roads or Active travel section to identify new planting opportunities, especially on new transport layout designs or realignments.

P29   Where a tree is causing an obstruction to transport routes, the council will take action to prune the tree and make that route safe.

NOTE: General Management Policy's are provided within this policy section and provide some guidance on the councils Tree management and Pruning policies. Refer to text.

Aim 3
Education & Awareness through advice and partnership

Objective 1: Raise Awareness & Educate

P30   The Council will establish the role of the county's first Tree officer to promote the benefits of trees and the tree strategy.

P31   The Council will encourage and support tree owners to sustainably manage the county's tree population by collaborating with the local community and businesses through planting projects, advice and sponsorship.

Objective 2: Collaborate & Support

P32   The Council will provide educational information on their website about trees, create tree trails and educational resources which are easily accessible and encourage participation in outdoor activities and maintaining the urban forest.
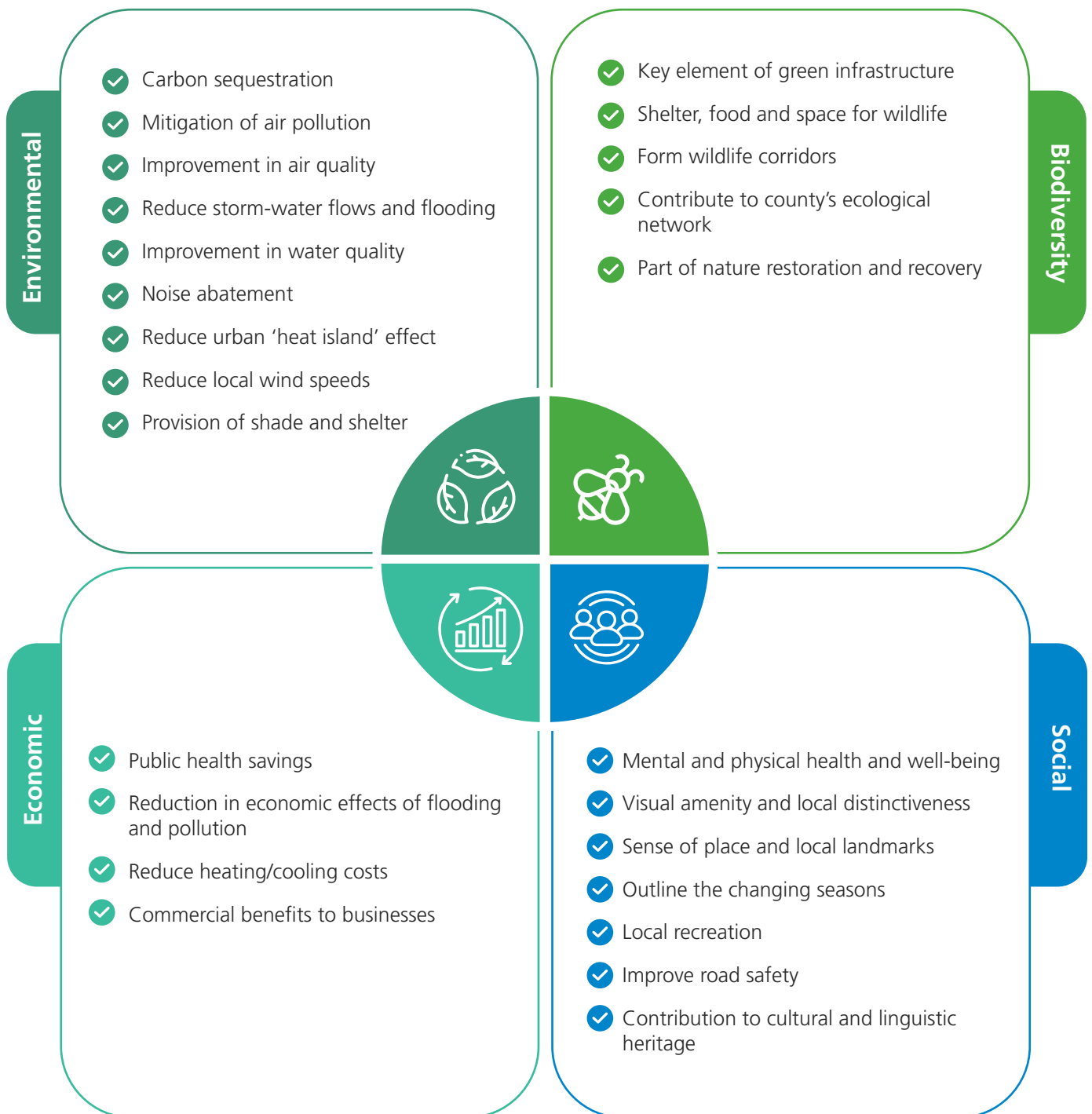
P33   The Council will encourage the community to promote and maintain the urban forest through education.

P34   The Council will seek to quantify the benefits of the urban forest while creating opportunities for community participation.

P35   The Council will continue to identify sites to plant woodlands for engagement with the local community.
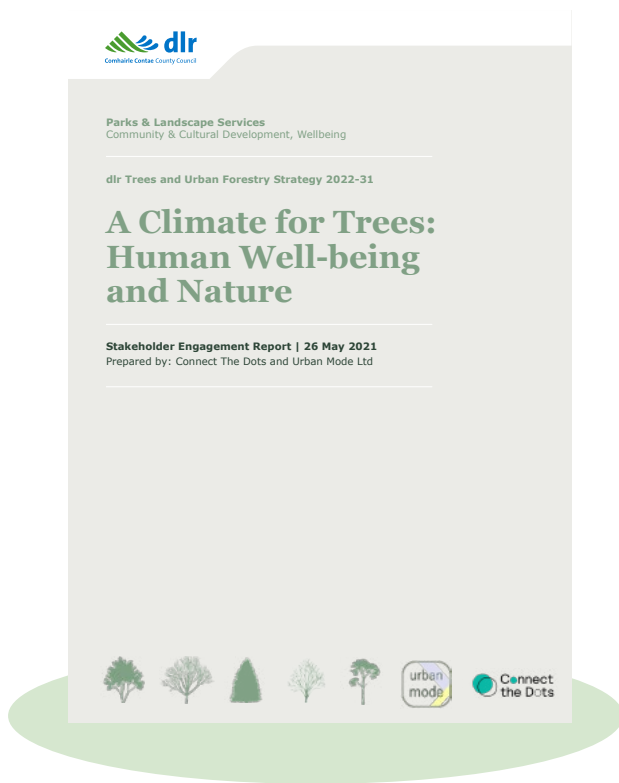
Appendix 2: **Summary of tree benefits in Dún Laoghaire Rathdown**

We plant trees because they are beautiful, but trees provide us with many more benefits. Trees can soothe and relax us; and provide a connection to nature and our surroundings. By planting and caring for trees, you help improve your surroundings, reduce pollution, lower energy costs, improve the appearance of your community and increase the value of your property.

Environmental

- Carbon sequestration
- Mitigation of air pollution
- Improvement in air quality
- Reduce storm-water flows and flooding
- Improvement in water quality
- Noise abatement
- Reduce urban 'heat island' effect
- Reduce local wind speeds
- Provision of shade and shelter

Biodiversity

- Key element of green infrastructure
- Shelter, food and space for wildlife
- Form wildlife corridors
- Contribute to county's ecological network
- Part of nature restoration and recovery

Economic

- Public health savings
- Reduction in economic effects of flooding and pollution
- Reduce heating/cooling costs
- Commercial benefits to businesses

Social

- Mental and physical health and well-being
- Visual amenity and local distinctiveness
- Sense of place and local landmarks
- Outline the changing seasons
- Local recreation
- Improve road safety
- Contribution to cultural and linguistic heritage

Appendix 3: **Stakeholder Engagement Report**

Parks & Landscape Services
Community & Cultural Development, Wellbeing

dlr Trees and Urban Forestry Strategy 2022-31

A Climate for Trees: Human Well-being and Nature

Stakeholder Engagement Report | 26 May 2021
Prepared by: Connect The Dots and Urban Mode Ltd

Stakeholder Engagment Report

The report provides a summary of community and stakeholder engagement feedback received during the process of creating the Tree Strategy and is available on the Dlr Co. Co. website in documents.

https://www.dlrcoco.ie/parks-outdoors/dlr-trees

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