Actions to provide **food, shelter & safety** for pollinators on Council land

[www.pollinators.ie/councils](http://www.pollinators.ie/councils)

Úna FitzPatrick
Project Co-ordinator
All-Ireland Pollinator Plan
The time for change is now!

88% of the public want the Government to do more to help bees (iReach Insights survey, Sept 2018)
Action 1:
Promote the management and restoration of semi-natural habitats and their native plants on council land
Action 2:
Identify and protect existing sources of food and shelter for pollinators on general council land

✓ Flowering hedgerows (food)
✓ Patches of wildflowers on waste ground (food)
✓ Small wild areas with bramble/ivy (food)
✓ Existing earth banks (shelter)
✓ Dry stone walls (shelter)

DON’T REPLACE SOMETHING GOOD WITH SOMETHING THAT IS ONLY OK...
Action 3:
At least 10 locations mown under a pollinator friendly regime (~5 cut & lifts per year)

Short-flowering meadow

B: Alter the frequency of mowing to allow more native plants to flower

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mowing Regime</th>
<th>Approximate costs per HA (2016)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22 Cuts per year, grass mulched back in</td>
<td>€2,464.00+vat Cost inclusive of equipment, labour and fuel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Cuts per year with cuttings lifted</td>
<td>€2,437.00+vat Cost inclusive of equipment, labour, fuel and waste disposal</td>
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Cost benefit analysis based on prices from a large landscaping company in ROI. Prices are based on flat ground accessible with ride on equipment and within a 40km radius of Dublin, rates would reduce for larger areas.
B: Alter the frequency of mowing to allow more native plants to flower

**Action 3:**
At least 10 locations mown under a pollinator friendly regime (~5 cut & lifts per year)

**Action 4:**
At least 5 meadows (one cut and lift per year)

**Action 5:**
10 flagship roadside verges that are managed to be pollinator friendly (one cut and lift per year)

**Action 6:**
Introduce a layered mowing approach to other roadside verges
**Don’t Mow Let it Grow** - not cutting grass so often is the best and cheapest way to provide more food for pollinators

- **Cut once a year – food and shelter**
- **Cut regularly**
- **Cut less frequently - food**

Liam Scott
Pollinator-friendly mowing
Long-flowering meadow management - cut once in September and remove the grass – it will gradually become more flower-rich on its own.

It will never look like this – but this is not a natural habitat and is not better for pollinators.
C: Pollinator-friendly planting

**Action 7:** Plant a native wildflower meadow.

*Source native seed from Ireland* and ensure that you plant pollinator-friendly species.

This is difficult and can be costly – requires management.

View annual mixes as equivalent to horticultural planting – other options are green manures.
**C: Pollinator-friendly planting**

**Action 8: Plant a native flowering hedgerow**

Native flowering hedgerow plants that are good for pollinators:

- Blackthorn (Mar-May)
- Wild Cherry (Mar-May)
- Elder (May-Jun)
- Spindle (May-Jul)
- Wala roses (Jun-Jul)
- Wala berries (Jun-Jul)
- Ivy (Sep-Nov)

*Spring*

*Autumn*
C: Pollinator-friendly planting

**Action 9:** Replace grass with a dense clover sward

**Action 10:** For future ornamental tree planting select from pollinator-friendly species

Big tree planting campaign:
- Biodiversity & Pollinator Plan
- Climate Change Action Plans
**C: Pollinator-friendly planting**

**Action 11:** For new works ensure 75% of ornamental planting is pollinator friendly

**Action 12:** In future ornamental maintenance planting select pollinator friendly species
### C: Pollinator-friendly planting

**Info box:** Pollinator friendly perennial planting versus annual bedding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Planting regime</th>
<th>Approximate costs per m² (2016)</th>
<th>Typical replacement</th>
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<tr>
<td>Pollinator friendly perennials</td>
<td>€10-13 (9 x 9cm pots)</td>
<td>Life span of 10-12 years if well planted and well maintained. Small amount of annual replacement may be required depending on the site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>€17-19 (6 x 2L pots)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual bedding</td>
<td>€10-29</td>
<td>Twice per year</td>
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Based on prices from a large Irish perennial plant nursery. Typical annual bedding costs were provided by a Council in ROI.
Action 13: Make some urban planters pollinator friendly

Very gaudy annuals like Geranium, Begonia, Busy Lizzy, Primula, Daffodil, Salvia splendens don’t provide food.

Consider mixing in perennials or annuals like Bidens or Bacopa that do provide food.

C: Pollinator-friendly planting
Action 14: Some roundabouts planted in a pollinator-friendly way with bulbs or pollinator-friendly perennials
D: Provide wild pollinator nesting habitat: hedgerows, earth banks and hotels

**Action 15:** Manage hedgerows for pollinators

**Action 16:** Bare earth banks for wild pollinator nesting

**Action 17:** Holes in wood or concrete for wild pollinator nesting

**Action 18:** Bee hotels for wild pollinators
Ideal size for a solitary bee nest box

They should be placed 1.5-2m off the ground in a south or east facing location.
New nesting ideas
E: Reduce the use of herbicides

**Action 19:** Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides

**Action 20:** Ensure best practice where they cannot be avoided

- Aim to eliminate in some locations
- Turf - spray only sports pitches, bowling greens, cricket squares
- Adopt a policy of not spraying paths until the 15th April
- Have spraying buffer zones around important pollinator habitat
- Adopt the pesticide best practice code
Herbicides should be used to treat invasive species
F: Raise public awareness of pollinators within the local area

**Action 21:** Build actions on pollinators into existing frameworks and initiatives

- City, County or Local Development Plans
- Green Infrastructure strategies
- Climate adaptation plans

**Action 22:** Fund pollinator projects on council land to demonstrate best practice to other sectors

**Action 23:** Put up signage to identify pollinator-friendly habitats on council land
F: Raise public awareness of pollinators within the local area

**Action 24:** Print & distribute pollinator-friendly guidelines to other sectors

**Action 25:** Promote & distribute the Junior Pollinator Plan to local schools

**Action 26:** Facilitate or deliver training on pollinators and how to take action to protect them
F: Raise public awareness of pollinators within the local area

**Action 27**: Fund pollinator award in the Tidy Towns or Ulster in Bloom competition

**Action 28**: Promote and get involved in other pollinator related initiatives

Kildare County Council & Wicklow County Council supported animation
**G: Tracking progress and recognition for efforts**

**Action 29:** Log your ‘Actions for Pollinators’ on the mapping system to ensure your efforts are recognised.

**Action 30:** Take part in the Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme

**More volunteers required!**
Contact project coordinator: Dr Tomás Murray
tmurray@biodiversityireland.ie
‘Actions for Pollinators’
Provides recognition and also facilitates local coordination
pollinators.biodiversityireland.ie
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<th>Site Details</th>
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<td><strong>Site Name</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Date</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Type</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Area</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>A. Protect existing pollinator habitats</strong></td>
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<td><strong>B. Reduce mowing</strong></td>
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<td><strong>D. Provide nesting habitats</strong></td>
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<td><strong>E. Reduce pesticide use</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Signage used (number) - 4</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>F. Raising awareness of pollinators</strong></td>
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### Edit site

#### Site Information

- **Site Name**: Maypark Garden
- **Type**: Gardens
- **Date**: 09/02/2017

#### A. Protect existing pollinator habitats

- Length of existing flowering hedgerow protected (m)
- Area of existing earth banks or bare soil protected (m²)
- Length of existing dry stone walls protected (m)
- Other pollinator friendly habitats protected

#### B. Reduce mowing

- Area where Dandelions are allowed to bloom - first grass cut delayed till mid-April (m²)
- Area mown every 6 weeks to allow Clover to bloom (m²)
- Area managed as long-fragment meadow - 1 grass cut & lift/year (m²)

#### C. Pollinator friendly planting

- SPRING-flowering pollinator friendly plants/trees/shrubs
- SUMMER-flowering pollinator friendly plants/trees/shrubs
- AUTUMN-flowering pollinator friendly plants/trees/shrubs

#### D. Provide nesting habitats

- Area of earth bank or bare soil created for mining bees (m²)
- Plant stems left standing (type)
- Number of holes drilled in wood
- Number of bee hotels installed

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**Gardens: actions to help pollinators**

*All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020*

[Link to website](http://www.biodiversityireland.org/pollinator-plan.aspx)
Site Details

Site Name: Amazing Grace Park
Date: 25/04/2017
Type: Councils-Actions
Area: 1872 m²

B. Reduce mowing: Area managed as long-flowering meadow - 1 cut & lift/year (m²) - 100m²

C. Pollinator friendly planting:
- Area planted with pollinator friendly perennials (m²) - Stachys byzantina, Verbena bonariensis, Rudbeckia Perovskia atriplicifolia, Dahlia Species
- Number of pollinator friendly bulbs planted - Allium species, Muscari.
Partnership Framework for Councils/Local Authorities

Most Local Authorities are already taking actions to support pollinators on public land.

**February 2019**: To better support these efforts and to better promote the work being undertaken, we have developed a framework for recognising Councils as partners of the Plan.
In becoming an All-Ireland Pollinator Plan Partner, your Council/Local Authority agrees:

• That your Council/Local Authority supports the ethos of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan and will consider the Plan in their policies, plans, and management decisions where possible.

• To consider the evidence-based actions in the guideline document Councils: Actions to help Pollinators, and to carry out one pollinator-friendly action in the first year of signing up and plan to carry out at least three more within the following five years. The guideline document lists 30 possible actions, many of which are low cost or cost-neutral.

• To update the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan Team (within the National Biodiversity Data Centre) on the positive pollinator actions you have planned, implemented or maintained at the end of each year, when contacted, to help us promote your work.
CALL TO ACTION

www.pollinators.ie

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ufitzpatrick@biodiversityireland.ie

Thank You