



In 2018 **DLR** trialled **Nature Wildlife Areas** areas throughout the county, these sampled many different kinds of grassed areas within the councils' management such as pollinator verges, natural habitat corridors through open spaces and park meadows. In 2019 we have expanded the uncut areas and changed the grass maintenance regime; this is a programme which has been brought in throughout the DLR County and in many public areas throughout Ireland. A full list of Nature wildlife areas can be found on DLR's biodiversity webpages: <https://www.dlrcoco.ie/en/heritage/biodiversity/nature-wildlife-areas>

The grass in these areas within open spaces will be cut twice a year, in June and again in September or October. However maintenance of the rest of the grass areas remains the same (generally cut every 2 weeks between Mar and Oct/Nov depending on weather). Litter picking is carried out every time grass maintenance occurs in all areas of the green.

Why so slow to mow!

We are starting to encourage native wildflowers back into the grass habitat. This takes time as they do not regenerate over one season but it may take several seasons. We would greatly encourage residents to get involved and track changes in different flora that you see in your 'Wild areas' this year and those that start to appear in the following years!



Wildlife and Pollinator Declines!



These approaches are being adopted, in support of our wildlife and also the All Ireland Pollinator Plan. By creating these places for our wildlife and creating connections and wildlife corridors to the wider landscape our wildlife creatures can move safely from place to place in the safety of cover and a source of food. Did you know that in Ireland more than 90 per cent of protected habitats are classified as “poor” or “inadequate” in their current condition (and that’s to say nothing of our unprotected habitats). Also, on average 20% of the species that have been assessed are considered to be at risk of extinction in Ireland.



Wildlife strip in Dargle Valley Rathfarnham, DLR.

Chemical Reductions!

DLR has already reduced chemical pesticides throughout 2018. We use alternative methods to reduce weeds wherever possible, to minimise the negative impact pesticides have on pollinators and wildlife. We still use some chemicals when necessary, for e.g. on invasive species, but in a sustainable way.

Plan of Actions!

Irish pollinators are in decline and this requires immediate attention to protect the health of the environment. This is a shared plan of action; where we can all work together to create a landscape where pollinators can flourish. This can occur through the plans 5 main objectives.

1. Making Ireland pollinator friendly: focusing on actions that can be taken on farmland, public land and private land to create flower-rich habitats.
2. Raising awareness of pollinators and how to protect them.
3. Supporting beekeepers and growers
4. Expanding our knowledge on pollinators and pollination services
5. Collecting evidence to track changes in pollinator populations and locations.

Where ever you see these signs you will know it’s a Nature Wildlife Area.



Limistéar Fiadhúlra
Ná bain, ná spraeáil



Nature Wildlife Area
Do not cut or spray

