



FINGAL
GROWING
PLACES



Fingal County Council's Parks Division owns and manages:

- 5,000 acres (2,000 Ha.) of open space
- 8 Regional Parks
- 40,000 street trees
- 175 sports pitches
- 2 golf courses
- 20 playgrounds
- 2 skateparks
- 46 tennis courts
- 600 allotments
- 1 city farm





Where did the idea of Growing Places come from?

- In 2008, Fingal County Council hosted the first 'Green Infrastructure Conference in Malahide. International experts spoke on the importance of building and creating urban areas around natural heritage, and incorporating it naturally into our urban landscape
- Our Biodiversity Plan, Tree Strategy and Growing Places Project are developing strands of Green Infrastructure
- Many European and UK Councils such as Cambridgeshire (www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk) have a Green Vision similar to our Growing Places.





What is going to happen?

- In 2010 we will start to change our larger public open spaces from traditional mowed open grass areas to wildflower meadow and woodland.
- This will take about 5 years
- Approximately 20% of open spaces will start to change in year 1
- Another 20% will change in year 2, and each year until all open spaces are changed over
- The areas to change are 'turf grass with low levels of active usage'
- Our new way of looking after open spaces ties in with our Green Infrastructure, Tree Strategy and Biodiversity Plans



What are the benefits?

- We will plan routine maintenance of the 40,000 street trees in Fingal and deal with existing tree problems.
- This will prevent the development of significant tree related problems in the future
- Civic decoration will be improved
- Outdoor sports facilities will be sustained and where possible improved.
- Improved biodiversity with more varied wildlife
- Tidy Towns gain points for biodiversity improvements





Managing the Sports Areas:

- All sports turf including golf courses will be maintained to the Institute of Groundsmanship Performance Quality Standard
- Open space edges and path edges will be kept mowed
- Informal kick-about areas will be kept mowed
- Selected areas will be managed as 'lawn' standard



Corballis Golf Links



Sports Pitch



Managing the areas which will change:

- In 2010, 20% of the open space will change to 'Growing Place'
- We will cut the hay crop in autumn. This will help start wildflower seeding
- In some areas we will plant wildflower seed to speed up the change over to meadow
- We will plant bulbs between the strip of mown edge and the meadow areas
- We will plant trees where appropriate.





Managing the areas which will not change in year 1:

- In 2010, 80% of the open space will not be changing to 'Growing Places' this year.
- Every year for the next 5 years, approximately 20% of open space will change over.
- In 2010, this 80% will be mown once per month.
- In 2011, this will be reduced to 60% of space, as the next 20% changes.
- In 2012, only 40% of open spaces will be mown monthly
- In 2013, the last 20% of open space will be managed this way.
- By 2014, all of the larger open spaces will be changed to wildflower meadow and woodland





Other areas:

- Certain areas such as Wetlands, Natural Areas and Coastal Walks will not change, and will be managed as they have been up to now

Motorways and Roadside Verges

- M1, N3 and R132 and verges are maintained by the Council.
- Motorways will be mown 1-2 times per year (a 1.5 to 2 metre strip along the median and verge)
- Other verges will be mown every month
- Selected verges will be planted with suitable flowers.





Trees:

- Where there are trees on open spaces in residential areas, all the lower branches will be removed and there will be clear views through the trees to a height of 2 metres
- There will be almost no shrubbery under the trees
- We will start to plant smaller, more suitable trees in urban areas.
- We will plant large canopy trees on public open spaces.

