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12/09/2022

## PRESS RELEASE

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### One hundred shades of green

**The 2022 Green Flag Awards were announced today by An Taisce Environmental Education, acknowledging Ireland's best public parks and gardens.**

**Ireland's success continued this year with four new Green Flag Award winners, three new Community Award winners and five new Green Heritage Site Accreditations - raising the total on the emerald isle to a record-breaking number of 104 awards. This includes three new Green Flag Award winners, three new Community Award winners and five new Green Heritage Site Accreditations. Of the 104 Green Flag sites Ireland was awarded today, 85 are formal public Green Flag Park sites and 19 are volunteer run Green Community Sites.**

This was the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the roll-out of Green Heritage Site Accreditation across Ireland. With the support of the **NPWS and the Department of Housing, Local Government, and Heritage**, 12 Irish Green Flag sites have now been accredited to Green Heritage Accreditation standard. This is an addition of five sites this year to last year's total of seven. Green Heritage



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Site Accreditation is awarded to public green spaces of historical and cultural significance.

Minister of State with responsibility for Heritage; Malcolm Noonan, commended the Green Heritage Accreditation and offered the following statement of support:

*“I am delighted that the National Parks and Wildlife Service of my Department supports and co-funds the Green Heritage Site Accreditation Programme. This scheme, now in its second year, is a welcome and important complement to the existing Green Flag Award.*

*The Green Heritage Accreditation enables a larger pool of sites to participate in the programme and highlights the multifaceted nature of our green spaces. The scheme brings together the human and natural aspect of a place. It celebrates best practice in engagement with multi-layered heritage and reminds us all of our responsibility to appreciate and preserve richness and diversity of the green spaces that surround us, now even more important than ever”.*

Only awarded for exceeding tough environmental standards in green space management, and excellence of visitor attractions – **the Green Flag Award Scheme** is the mark of a quality park or green space and is recognised throughout the world.

Once again more Green Flag Awards have been secured by Irish Parks and Gardens than by any country, other than the UK where the scheme originated in 1996. Out of 136 awarded in Europe today, 104 were in Ireland.



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This year participating European countries include Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, The Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Sweden

Emlyn Cullen - Programme Manager at the Environmental Education Unit of An Taisce, who run the Award in Ireland said:

*“The continued success of the Green Flag Award in Ireland is a great measure of how much the country values parks and green spaces - and how well managed many of them are. I’d like to say well done to everyone who works in the sector here for their ongoing commitment. You make a huge positive impact on your local communities and the natural environment”*

The **Green Flag Community Award** extends the Scheme to include community initiatives such as Community Gardens, Community Parks, and Tidy Towns Projects. By providing our community green spaces with access to Green Flag Award best practice we empower community groups to improve their local community and environment.

In Ireland the Green Flag Community Award Scheme is supported by the **Department of Rural and Community Development**.

The Minister of State for Community Development and Charities; Joe O’Brien stated that:

*“The Department of Rural and Community Development has supported An Taisce with the expansion of the Green Flag since 2018 into community run spaces. By doing this we have been able to leverage the Green Flag Award values and standards for the benefit of our communities and their voluntary work.*

*I want to thank all community volunteers, across the country for all the work they have done by maintaining the many parks, gardens, and greens across the country. It is a great credit that they have helped deliver this this Green Flag accreditation across Ireland.”*

Anne-Marie Toomey from Foulksmills Tidy Towns said:



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*“We are extremely proud to receive a Green Flag Community Award for our beautiful Foulksmills Park. It has been in the heart of our village for over 35 years and is a place for everyone to enjoy. The Award is a recognition of all the hard work and dedication the committee has put in over the years.”*

*“A huge thank you to the community and Wexford County Council who have been on the journey with us and have continued to support us over the years.”*

The Green Flag Awards are judged every year by a peer jury of green space experts, who volunteer their time to visit applicant sites and assess them against eight strict criteria, including horticultural standards, cleanliness, sustainability, and community involvement.

### **Pollinator Award**

Three of the 2022 applicants were given a special award for their work supporting pollinating insects. The Pollinator Award is jointly run by An Taisce Environmental Education and the National Biodiversity Data Centre, assessing pollinator-friendly management of parks and community spaces against the recommendations of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, which is implemented by the Data Centre.

This year, the Green Flag Pollinator Award was given to Malahide Demesne and Talbot Botanical Gardens, operated by Fingal County Council. South Dublin County Council’s Tymon Park won in the town park category, and Julianstown Community Gardens were given the top prize in the community category. Castletown House and Parkland, Oldbridge Estate, and Tralee Bay Wetlands were all highly commended for their work.

Kate Chandler, the Community and Engagement Officer for the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, said: “It is encouraging to see another year of strong applications to the Green Flag Pollinator Award. One third of our wild bees in Ireland are under threat due to a loss of food and shelter, and so we’re thrilled to see the range of activities taking place across the country to support them. We had a number of impressive new



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applications this year, and look forward to working with An Taisce again to encourage more applications in the years to come.”

For further information please make contact using the details below. If you are interested in finding out further information about the Green Flag Award or other programmes run by An Taisce Environmental Education please e-mail us at [ecullen@eeu.antaisce.org](mailto:ecullen@eeu.antaisce.org) or phone 085 7074573

**ENDS**

**Note to Editors:**

The Green Flag Award is an international benchmarking standard for parks and green spaces.

The Green Flag Award scheme operates across Australia, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Mexico, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, Republic of Ireland, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, and the United States of America.

The green Flag Award scheme aims to encourage the provision of good quality public parks and green spaces that are managed in environmentally sustainable ways.

The Green Flag Award Scheme encourages high environmental performance and good management. Parks and green spaces are judged against eight key criteria. Where certain criteria are not met, applicants can provide justifications that may be taken into account. What's more, if management practice changes are in progress but not yet fully implemented, transitional phases will be acknowledged and viewed positively.

The Green Flag Community Award extends the Green Flag Award Scheme to our volunteer run community green space projects.



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The Green Heritage Site Accreditation is awarded to public green spaces of historical importance, that actively understand, manage, and promote their heritage which makes them unique.

The judging criteria also considers the fact that each park/green space will offer different kinds of facilities and will be managed and developed to varying opportunities and constraints. Innovation and the way facilities offered are tailored to the needs of the community will also be taken into account.

In November 2021 the Central Statistics Office published a report indicating that “Three-quarters of urban households visit urban green spaces most weeks” and that “Almost €46 million was spent by households on their most recent visit to nature areas for recreational purposes”.

The full list of the 2022 Green Flag Award winning parks within the Republic of Ireland is as follows:



### 2022 Green Flag Awards:

Park	Managing organisation
Páirc Cois Féile / Abbeyfeale Town Park	Abbeyfeale Community Leisure Ltd
Cavan Burren Park	Cavan County Council
Shannon Town Park.	Clare County Council
John O’Sullivan Park	Clare County Council
Tim Smythe Park	Clare County Council
Vandeleur Walled Garden	Clare County Council
Ballincollig Regional Park	Cork City Council
Shalom Park	Cork City Council
Fitzgerald’s Park	Cork City Council





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Douglas Community Park  
Barrack Hill Town Park  
Bushy Park  
Herbert Park  
Poppintree Park  
Albert College Park  
Father Collins Park  
St. Anne's Park  
Blessington Street Park  
Saint Audoen's Park  
Saint Patrick's Park  
Weaver Park  
Markievicz Park  
Cabinteely Park  
Blackrock Park  
People's Park  
Deerpark  
Shanganagh Park  
Marlay Park  
Deansgrange Cemetery  
Millennium Park  
Santry Demesne  
Newbridge House and Farm  
St. Catherine's Park  
Children's Millennium Park  
Quincentennial Park  
O'Sullivan Park  
Tralee Bay Wetlands  
Tralee Town Park  
Childers Park & Woodlands  
Liffey Linear Park Newbridge  
Peoples Park Portarlinton  
Páirc an Phobail - Portlaoise  
The Peoples Park Limerick  
The Mall  
Blackrock Community Park

Cork City Council  
Donegal County Council  
Dublin City Council  
Dublin City Council  
Dublin City Council  
Dublin City Council  
Dublin City Council  
Dublin City Council  
Dublin City Council  
Dublin City Council  
Dublin City Council  
Dublin City Council  
Dublin City Council  
Dublin City Council  
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council  
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council  
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council  
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council  
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council  
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council  
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council  
Fingal County Council  
Fingal County Council  
Fingal County Council  
Fingal County Council  
Galway City Council  
Galway City Council  
Galway City Council  
Kerry County Council  
Kerry County Council  
Kerry County Council  
Kildare County Council  
Laois County Council  
Laois County Council  
Limerick City and County Council  
Longford County Council  
Louth County Council







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Connemara National Park  
Maynooth Campus  
Irish National War Memorial  
Gardens  
Battle of the Boyne Visitor Centre  
Derrynane Historic Park  
Castletown Demesne

National Parks and Wildlife Service  
Maynooth University  
  
Office of Public Works  
Office of Public Works  
Office of Public Works  
Office of Public Works



**2022 Green Heritage Site Accreditation:**

Malahide Demesne  
The Palace Grounds  
Lough Gur Lakeshore Park and  
Visitor Centre  
Turlough Park  
Enniscoe  
Connemara National Park  
Maynooth Campus  
Irish National War Memorial  
Gardens  
Battle of the Boyne Visitor  
Centre  
Derrynane Historic Park  
Castletown Demesne

Fingal County Council  
Galway County Council  
  
Limerick City and County Council  
Mayo County Council  
Mayo County Council  
National Parks and Wildlife Service  
Maynooth University  
  
Office of Public Works  
  
Office of Public Works  
Office of Public Works  
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## 2022 Green Flag Community Awards:

Bagenalstown Town Park

Cloontuskert Community Orchard

Dromiskin Heritage Park

The Rock Garden

Foulksmills Park

Ballyglunin Railway Restoration  
Project

The Headford Community Garden

Zero Waste Community Garden

Ballina Karen Community Garden

Ballyhaunis Community Garden

Our Ladys Island Community Park

Knockvicar Organic Garden

Ballagherreen Community  
Garden

Rosslare Harbour Memorial Park  
and Gardens

Headford Community Orchard

Balla Woodlands and Parks

The River Walk Dungloe

Santry Demesne Community  
Garden

Julianstown Community Garden

Carlow County Council

Cloontuskert Development & Tidy Towns  
Association

Dromiskin Tidy Towns

Fingal County Council

Foulksmills Tidy Towns

Galway County Council

Headford Development Association

Kildare County Council

Mayo County Council

Ballyhaunis Abbey Partnership

Our Ladys Island Community Development  
Company

Roscommon County Council

Roscommon County Council

Rosslare Harbour/Kilrane Environment  
Group

The Church of Ireland

Balla CRD

Donegal County Council

Fingal County Council

Meath County Council



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## **2022 Pollinator Plan Award:**

OVERALL WINNER:

Malahide Demesne & Talbot Botanical Gardens - Fingal Co. Co.

## **Category Winners**

### **Country Park/ Demesne:**

Malahide Demesne & Talbot Botanical Gardens – Fingal Co. Co.

### **Community Garden:**

Julianstown Community Garden

### **Town Park:**

Tymon Park – South Dublin County Council

### **Highly commended:**

Oldbridge Estate

Tralee Bay Wetlands – Kerry Co. Co.

Castletown House & Parklands - OPW



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