
Neasa Hourigan,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Delivered via online submission

15th September 2023

A Chara,

I would like to make the following points with respect to the Dublin City Parks and Landscape Strategy.

Fostering community

There is a great opportunity for the parks to be used as spaces for communities to gather. Activities such as music, occasional markets, art, sport and physical activity (e.g. yoga) should be facilitated.

We need to strike the right balance on commercial activities in our parks. The parks are one of the few places people can go and not expect to pay for something. Likewise the disruption caused by certain commercial activities (e.g. the need to run motors/generators, the use of speakers, etc.) should be factored into any licence to operate within the park.

Accessibility

We need to make the parks accessible for all:

- Serviced toilets are a must to make the parks accessible for all
- The newly upgraded playgrounds are excellent and those upgrades should be rolled out to all DCC parks.
- Dog runs for dog owners and the provision of dog waste bags for any dog owners that might not have brought their own bag
- Water bottle refill stations, ideally near playgrounds/exercise stations.
- Gates to the parks should not impede access for wheelchair users or buggies.

-
- Park pedestrians should be able to enjoy the park without worrying about scooters and bicycles, particularly at pinch points and crossings.

Biodiversity

There is a balance to be struck between public access and spaces (e.g. no-mow areas, ponds, wildflowers areas) that are set aside for nature to thrive.

We would ask that:

- There is a greater area of the parks left to nature in “no-mow” or wildflower planted areas.
- There is a stated goal to include more ponds in DCC parks given the massive biodiversity benefit ponds provide.
- Any planting done is based on invasive species advice from the National Biodiversity Data Centre (as opposed to the more limited legislative list of species)
- There is a plan to eliminate the glyphosate based weedkiller.

Croppies Acre

We ask that Dublin City Council review the current use of the Croppies Acre. Currently the space attracts significant anti-social behaviour and could provide more amenity to the local community. It could be both a better memorial site and a better community resource.

Some steps that we suggest:

- A review of the history of the site should be undertaken
- Making the space more accessible to the community would help improve passive surveillance of the site.
- Consideration should be given to removing the wall around the site

Is mise le meas,



Neasa Hourigan TD, Dublin Central



Cllr. Janet Horner, North Inner City



Feljin Jose, Area Rep., Cabra-Glasnevin