

Dublin Urban Rivers LIFE (DURL) Project

Door-to-Door Misconnection Assessments

12,000 door-to-door misconnection assessments will be carried out over three years across South Dublin County and Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County.

Integrated Constructed Wetlands (ICWs)

The project has identified five potential locations in public parks in South Dublin County where ICWs may be placed. ICWs are shallow (<50cm deep), appropriately planted, wetlands. Their main purpose is to improve water quality by capturing and treating storm water contaminated by domestic misconnections in advance of discharging the storm water to watercourses.

Other benefits of ICWs include slowing down flows to reduce flood risk, storing carbon to mitigate climate change, improvement in habitat conditions and biodiversity and add to the quality of public amenities.

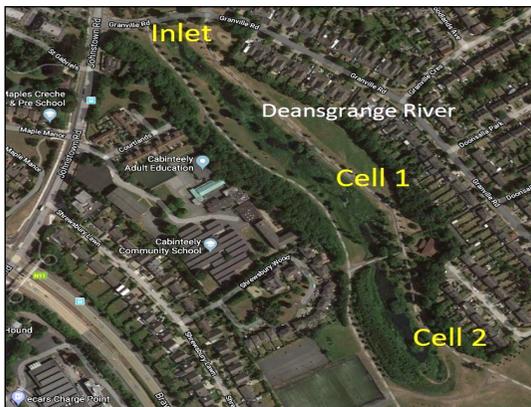


Fig. 4. An ICW in Kilbogget Park, Cabinteely, Co. Dublin

Public Engagement

The project will develop information for homeowners to understand what misconnections are and the pollution they cause and how they can be avoided.



Fig. 5. River and park biodiversity

Other Local Authorities

The project has also committed to involve other local authorities in Dublin and across Ireland to participate in the application of project elements in their areas.

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Dublin Urban Rivers LIFE (DURL) Project



An EU LIFE Funded Project by
South Dublin County Council
and Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown
County Council



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Background

Rivers in Co. Dublin are a great amenity source for its 1.3 million inhabitants. People interact with rivers and streams in a wide variety of leisure and recreational ways. Our rivers are frequently a center piece of our public parks and are a habitat rich in plant and animal biodiversity. Having clean water to international standards is important to human health and our countywide ecosystems.

European Context

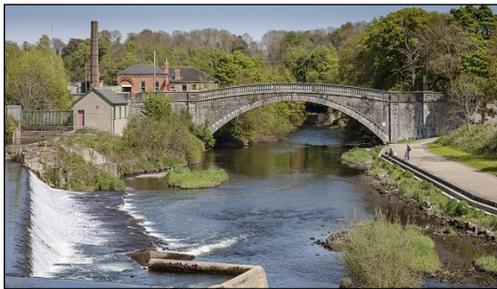


Fig. 1. Lucan Weir on River Liffey, Lucan, Co. Dublin

Over 205 million people live in EU coastal regions. More than half the population in these regions live less than 50km from the sea [Eurostat] mostly in urban centres and along watercourses. The result of such urbanisation on watercourses is two-fold:

- 1) Watercourses flowing through urban areas become polluted,
- 2) These watercourses become a pathway for this pollution to be carried to the sea, recreational beaches and coastal marine habitats.

The Project

The Project is a collaboration between South Dublin County Council (SDCC) and Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council (DLRCC) with 50% funding provided by the EU LIFE Programme. The total project cost is estimated at €2.54 million over a four year period. The project is managed by SDCC .

The project focus is on pollution of urban rivers caused by domestic misconnections to the rainwater drainage system. Most misconnections are washing machines, dishwashers and kitchen sinks incorrectly connected to the rainwater system which flows to the nearby river. Such misconnection causes pollution. These kitchen appliances should be connected to the sewer where treatment is provided.

Project Aim

The aim of the project is to improve river water quality in urban areas and to demonstrate a practical and viable solution to domestic misconnections that can be replicated throughout Europe. Rivers that have been identified for water quality improvement include:

- 1) The River Griffeen - SDCC
- 2) Carrickmines Stream - DLRCC

An output of the project is to restore these rivers to Good Water Status as per the Water Framework Directive and the River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 objectives for water quality.



Fig. 2. River Griffeen

Project Elements

The Project has six main actions:

- Find misconnections at houses,
- Build five Integrated Constructed Wetlands (ICW) in public parks/spaces (SDCC area only),
- Analyse development zones for ICW build potential,
- Prepare a suite of domestic misconnection awareness and prevention information,
- Model and improve domestic misconnection detection rates using computer mapping systems,
- Create a Decision Support Tool (DST) for the purpose of disseminating the objectives and outcomes of the project to a wider European audience.



Fig. 3. Carrickmines Stream in Cabinteely Park

Climate Change Action Plan

The Project will also contribute to the Climate Change Action Plan 2019-2024 targets set out for SDCC and DLRCC.