



HOW TO USE THE BIODIVERSITY TOOLKIT

This Biodiversity Toolkit provides a range of simple actions from which a club can choose to enhance biodiversity and encourage pollinator activity on club grounds.

There are a range of actions in the toolkit, such as reduced mowing of non-playing grass, hedgerow management, the greening of your club walkway, and the planting of native trees and pollinator-friendly shrubs and flowers.

The toolkit includes actions suitable for clubs of all sizes and for clubs from both rural and urban areas.

The Green Club Biodiversity Toolkit contains the following guidance sheets and resources:

ASSESS	Biodiversity Audit Template
IDENTIFY	Pollinator-friendly Management of Sports Clubs
	Managing off-pitch grass for pollinators
	Managing existing native hedgerows for biodiversity
	Planting biodiversity-friendly trees, shrubs and flowers
	Reducing use of herbicides
	Providing nesting places for wild bees
	Creating a biodiversity walking trail
	Planting in your club colours
	Neighbours in Nature
	Top Tips for Biodiversity
ACT	A Biodiversity Action Plan
COMMUNICATE	Resources to promote awareness of your biodiversity actions in your club





The Toolkit contains practical case studies from clubs and grounds across Ireland, including:

- **MULLINGAR SHAMROCKS, CO. WESTMEATH**, a club that has been engaging in biodiversity actions for many years and whose projects include native tree planting, a biodiversity walkway, a sensory garden, community partnerships, a herbicide elimination project and community partnerships for biodiversity.
- **CULLOVILLE BLUES, CO. ARMAGH**, who, when extending their club walkway, planted native hedging, pollinator-friendly plants and nearly 1000 native trees, as well as installing recycled benches and educational signage and stabilising a sloped bank naturally with wildflower hydroseeding.
- **BALLYCUMBER GAA, CO. OFFALY**, who replaced leylandii hedging with biodiversity-friendly native trees, saving on maintenance and reducing the number of footballs and sliotars lost to the thick leylandii while creating a new colourful biodiversity area in the club. The club also planted a Pocket Forest, dedicated to the memory of a valued club member, and developed areas of pollinator-friendly growth around their pitch.
- **LÁMH DHEARG, CO. ANTRIM**, who focussed their activities around the idea of 'Neighbours in Nature', partnering with local community organisations and encouraging club members to adopt areas of the club grounds to develop for biodiversity, in a colourful, lively club project where biodiversity goes hand in hand with health and well-being.

All Green Club case studies are also available at: <https://learning.gaa.ie/greenclub/casestudies>

TOP TIPS

Start Small The Green Club Toolkit contains a wide range of ideas for action and engagement. With your club Green Team, consider choosing one or two small actions from these to begin with. Actions that are easy to plan and implement, that are visible and that deliver quick wins will build morale and momentum.

Keep an eye on funding opportunities Green Teams in the 26 counties should sign up to their Public Participation Network (PPN) to receive updates on funding opportunities in their council area: <https://www.gov.ie/en/organisation-information/a58b8-community-groups-public-participation-networks/> Green Teams in the six counties should stay up-to-date with relevant funding opportunities communicated to their club secretary by Ulster GAA and follow council media channels.

