



IDENTIFY:

CREATE - SUSTAINABLE WATER MANAGEMENT CREATION PROJECTS

If your club has already undertaken many of 'Prevent & Protect' and 'Celebrate' water quality actions, your Green Team might be interested in a Creation project.

Rainwater falling on hard surfaces such as roof tops, paving, footpaths and roads can result in increased flooding and pollution. This 'Create' action sheet contains ideas of how your club can reduce the risk of flooding in your club grounds and lessen the impact on waterways and biodiversity.

CREATE A MINI-POND OR MICRO WETLAND

Ponds and wetlands can be really important biodiversity hotspots and can be used to reduce the impact of rainwater runoff on the local waterways

CREATE A BUFFER ZONE

If your club facilities are adjacent to a river or water course, consider planting or maintaining a biodiversity zone – e.g., a wildflower meadow or native hedgerow – between your facilities and the river to lessen flood risk, to protect against harmful runoff from the club and to enhance biodiversity

CREATE A RAIN GARDEN

A rain garden is a small area, slightly lower than the ground around it, where rainwater runoff can gather and that is planted with or managed for suitable native grasses, plants and flowers. Rain gardens can reduce flood risk, can help filter out pollutants from rainwater runoff, can create habitats and food for pollinators and can be an attractive and useful addition to club grounds.

INSTALL A HYDRATION STATION

The installation of a hydration station or filtered water font at your club, used along with the guidance on eliminating plastic bottles at: <https://learning.gaa.ie/gaagreenclub/waste>, can help reduce plastic waste.

CREATE A MINI-FOREST

Having native trees on club lands is hugely important for biodiversity and can have a positive impact on water management and waterways. Even small areas planted with native woodland are of benefit to wildlife. Trees are important along rivers as they provide shade and shelter for fish, help to stabilise riverbanks, help regulate floods and their leaves provide food for aquatic creatures. However, seek expert advice if planting a large number of trees by a river or waterway as too many trees along a riverbank can partially block sunlight, impacting fish numbers by affecting instream algae and the food chain.

CREATE A POROUS CARPARK

If your club is planning to pave an area of club ground, e.g., for car parking, consider porous paving, which allows rainwater runoff to penetrate through the surface into underlying soils. This reduces flood risk and can reduce the pollution risk to rivers and streams.

TOP TIPS

- See the 'Working with Water, Biodiversity and Climate' community guide at <https://lawaters.ie/publications/> for more ideas and project examples.
- See the 'Celebrate' action sheet at <https://learning.gaa.ie/greenclub/water> for information on funding opportunities
- If your Green Team is considering a water quality creation project in your club, contact your Local Authority Waters Programme Community Officer (<https://lawaters.ie/team/communities-team/>) or local authority point of contact (<https://learning.gaa.ie/greenclub>) for advice.



IDENTIFY:

COMMUNITY WATER PROJECTS

Communities coming together to protect and promote water quality can have a big impact on local rivers and waterways, drinking water quality, local biodiversity and ecosystems, and local livelihoods and amenities

- 1 Tree planting and riparian biodiversity work
- 2 Silt trapping or 'Slow the Flow' Natural Flood Retention Measures such as the addition of large woody debris to drains
- 3 Rain garden and SuDS
- 4 Innovative techniques for monitoring water quality and biodiversity
- 5 Rainwater harvesting on roof of buildings and use of recycled water
- 6 Coastal or lake nature safari and stewardship project by local fishermen and recreational users
- 7 Fish passage project
- 8 Planting of native wild flowers and vegetation in habitat restoration project



Graphic courtesy of the Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPro).
See <https://storiesfromthewaterside.ie/catchment-living/>

- 9 Citizen science project led by anglers
- 10 Bespoke breeding boxes for birds and mammals
- 11 Wetlands to promote wildlife and reduce pollution and flooding
- 12 Removal of invasive species and biosecurity planning
- 13 Putting a plan together; where it all begins. Feasibility studies and planning involving all of the community in the catchment.
- 14 Outdoor biodiversity classroom

TOP TIPS

If your club or community is planning a community river, waterway or water quality project, think about getting in touch with your local authority point of contact (all-island- details at <https://learning.gaa.ie/greenclub>) or your Community Water Officer (26-counties) at <https://lawaters.ie/team/communities-team/>