

Importance of incorporating clean water and SuDs ponds in Edenderry As highlighted in chapter 6 Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure, ponds are generally small water bodies with a high potential to be of significant biodiversity value. Ponds are therefore valuable landscape features that can aid in wildlife conservation- "Small ponds can also be crucial habitats for a range of wildlife from dragonflies and water hens to frogs and newts." Regarding climate change, clean water ponds can act as major carbon sinks with the potential to sequester up to 20- 30 times more carbon than other natural habitats such as woodlands and grassland etc., and therefore can play a significant role in local climate mitigation and adaptation efforts (Taylor et al., 2019). Why Ponds are important in Edenderry? The establishment of a pond network across Edenderry will provide ecological and landscape benefits, providing high-value wildlife refuges for biodiversity and amenity features. They are quick and viable low-resource investment actions that can be easily applied and utilised at local level, due to the small size of their catchment areas, compared to their impressively high ability to increase local biota in a relatively small amount of time. They provide a host of community benefits, including opportunities for recreation, education, improved health and wellbeing, and community participation. Ponds and Planning Permission Where pond depth exceeds more than 1 metre below ground level, planning permission will need to be sought. Local Authorities are advised to liaise with ecological consultants, specialised in wetland construction that maximise benefits for biodiversity, during the pond construction phase so that technical advice can be given for case-specific actions as they pertain to topography conditions i.e. land type, adjacent water features and climate etc. Edenderry Local Area Plan Pond Recommendations: -Incorporate the creation of new ponds, the resurrection of 'ghost ponds' (a 'ghost pond' is an old pond lost to in-filling) and the maintenance of existing ponds, including currently unmanaged ponds as an objective within the LAP. -Establish a minimum of one new freshwater pond in Edenderry (ponds can range between one metre squared up to five hectares in area and need to contain water for a minimum of four months of the year). -Incorporation of clean, freshwater ponds into public amenity and green space areas as biodiversity enhancement and climate change mitigation measures. -Promote community group engagement in pond creation/management and monitoring of local ponds on public land e.g. adopt a pond scheme, whereby local communities take responsibility for some of the management and monitoring of their local pond, under supervision from the local authority. Encourage the development of a strategy for the ongoing monitoring and management of ponds. References: Farmwildlife. Ghost Ponds: <https://farmwildlife.info/2022/03/10/restoring-ghost-ponds/> Taylor et al., (2019): <https://esajournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1002/fee.1988>