



Bees and Blooms

Love them or fear them, bees are awesome little creatures that play an indispensable part in our everyday lives.

So what is a bee? Well they are insects, which means they have **six** legs. They also like to feed on **flowers**. If you look really closely, they have **four wings!** We have **three types** in Ireland.

Honeybee



1 Irish species

Bumblebee



20 Irish species

Solitary Bee



80 Irish species

2,000,000

flowers need to be visited by a honeybee to fill one jar of honey.

2,000

flowers that a honeybee visits in a single day!

200

times a honeybee beats it's wings in ONE second!

101

species of bee in Ireland...

1 in 3

"Threatened"

71

number of the top 100 world food crops that are dependent on a visit by a bee for pollination!



Scan with your smartphone to learn more about the biodiversity of Monaghan.



In Focus: Irish Wildflowers

Due to our changing farming methods over the decades we have lost vast areas of wildflowers. Data is not readily available for Ireland, but in the UK this loss has amounted to about 97% of wildflower meadows since the 1930's.

This is clearly very bad news for the flower species, but also for the many pollinators, such as bees, who depend on them for food.



How you can help!

You can help by doing absolutely nothing! Isn't that nice to hear for a change?

Stop spending so much time cutting your lawn and leave some areas to grow wild. If you are feeling a little more proactive you can plant some Irish wildflower seeds. But make sure they are *Irish!*



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Birds & Bats

While walking the Greenway early in the morning or late in the evening, you just need to look up to discover the wonderful biodiversity above your head!



Cruideán *Kingfisher*

You will see many different species of bird along the Greenway. If you are lucky you might spot a **Kingfisher**! Although found across Ireland, this brightly coloured bird is often overlooked. Can you spot one?



Did you know that kingfishers dig tunnels into the riverbank! Can you see any?



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457
species of
bird found
in Ireland

People always forget that bats are mammals... just like us! They have hair, give birth to live young and feed their young on milk!

10
species of
bat in
Ireland

ialtóg *Bat*



3,000
number of
insects a tiny
bat, the size of
your thumb, will
eat every night!



How you can help!

If you live near mature trees and water, such as the Greenway, you may have bats close by. To attract them to your garden you just need to lure in more insects! Night-scented flowers are best such as Scented Night Stock. If you are feeling even more proactive why not try installing a bat box!



In Focus: Built Heritage

Our Built Heritage (eg. old stone buildings) goes hand-in-hand with our Natural Heritage (eg. wildlife).

For example, as the Greenway moves through Monaghan town it is crossed by many old bridges and lined with derelict buildings. These have all been investigated by a bat specialist and excitingly some are home to bat roosts!

A perfect mix of heritage in the heart of Monaghan town!



Trees & Hedgerows

Ireland was once covered in woodlands. Over the centuries these habitats have been cleared to make way for human development. This is why it is so important to look after what we have left...



In Focus: Invasive species

Native species are those which have always been in Ireland. Non-natives are those which have been introduced from other countries. Some of these are damaging and are called invasive species.

Japanese knotweed is one such example that voraciously outgrows other Irish plants, stealing light & nutrients & even breaking through tarmac and concrete! We're taking many steps to totally remove such invasive species along the Greenway.



12,845km

Length of hedgerows
in County Monaghan...

...enough to stretch
from here to the
very bottom of
South America!



37 Monaghan's hedgerows...

shrub & tree
species found in
hedgerows...

105 wildflower
species
and...

2/3 ...of Irish bird species nest in
hedgerows



Common trees of the Greenway...



Seiceamar
Sycamore



Sceach gheal
Hawthorn



Fúinseog
Ash



How you can help!

Whenever you plant a flower or tree it is a great idea to ensure it is a native Irish species.

For example, a native oak supports 284 species of insect, while a non-native sycamore only supports 43 species! Which supports your environment the best?



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Mammals

So what makes a mammal... a mammal? Well they have hair, give birth to live young (no eggs) and then feed them on milk. That makes us mammals too! But we're not the only mammals on the Greenway...



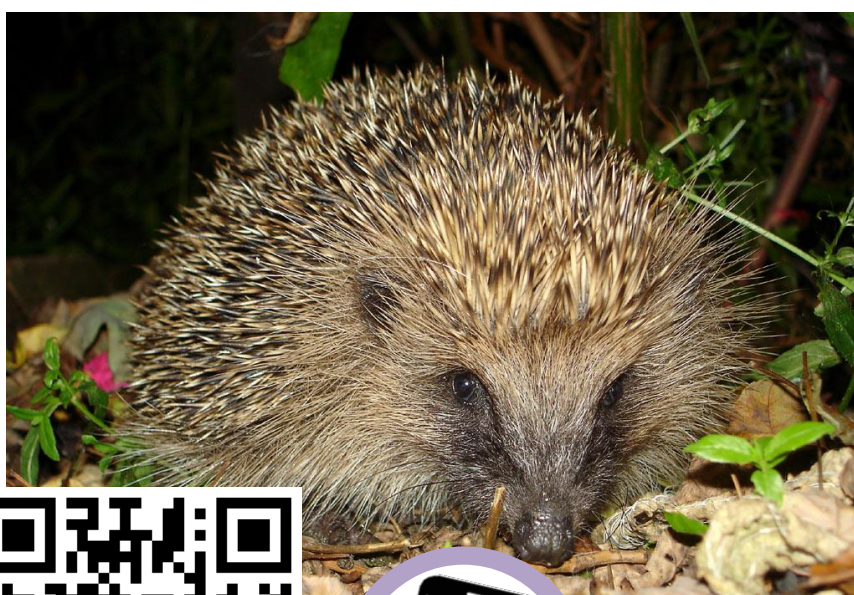
Broc Badger

Lives in a "Sett" and eats worms... up to 200 per night! There are around 250,000 in Ireland.



Madra Uisce Otter

Lives in a "Holt" and has favourite areas to rest on riverbanks called "couches". Only about 12,000 in Ireland.



Gráinneog Hedgehog

Covered with about 5,000 spines for protection. Their name in Irish means "ugly little one", which is a little mean!



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64

species of mammal in Ireland (land, sea & air)

Sionnach / Madra Rua Fox



How you can help!

Hedgehogs are fantastic visitors to encourage into your garden. They can eat up to 250 slugs every night and so are a perfect form of pest control instead of nasty slug pellets. You can build a hedgehog home in your garden very simply. See www.MonaghanTownBiodiversity.com for more information on your local wildlife.



In Focus: Wildlife Corridors

As well as our wildlife finding it hard to find suitable homes, they also find it difficult to move about.

Wildlife corridors solve this problem by connecting habitats.

The Ulster Canal is a perfect example as it is a 74km long "nature highway" linking Lough Neagh (Armagh) and Lough Erne (Fermanagh).



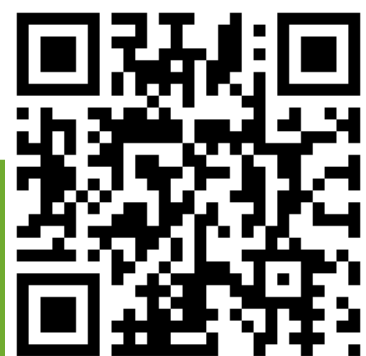
Water Worlds

Wetland?

A wetland is an area where there is a mix between water (terrestrial) and land (aquatic) habitats.

In Monaghan it includes:

- Bogs
- Marshes
- Rivers
- Lakes
- Springs
- Reed Swamps
- Wet Woodlands



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Wetlands are tremendously important habitats but unfortunately across Ireland they have suffered very severe abuse over the decades. That's why along the Greenway we want to celebrate and protect Monaghan's wetlands!

5.8%

percentage of County Monaghan covered in wetlands, equal to...

4,864 Croke Parks!



Frog *Common Frog*



Lus síoda
Ragged Robin



Snáthaid Mhór *Dragonfly*

€58,000

annual value of services provided free of charge to Monaghan by our larger wetlands.



How you can help!

Creating a pond in your garden is a fantastic idea for wildlife. You'll have visits from all sorts of surprises such as birds, bees and frogs. It doesn't matter how small it is. One in ten gardens in the UK have garden ponds, creating a network of over 2 million! Every little helps!



In Focus: Valuing Wetlands

For the benefits to wildlife alone, wetlands are great. But they have a range of other benefits too.

These include water filtration, flood protection, fisheries, soil fertility, transport, recreation and tourism.

If wetlands weren't providing this service free of charge to us, it would cost the Irish economy around €385 million every single year to substitute it. Think about that the next time you see a bog!



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