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Kingston Park and Millers Lane Public Park and Urban Realm Project

KINGSTON PARK LANDSCAPE
MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE
PLAN



Project Title	Kingston Park and Millers Lane Public Park and Urban Realm Project
Document Subject	Kingston Park Landscape Management and Maintenance Plan
Client	Galway City Council
Location	Knocknacarra and Ragoon, Galway
Document Number	P612-KIN-LD-MP-001



FOREWORD

Kingston Park is a civic asset designed to deliver inclusive everyday use, climate-resilient public realm, and high environmental performance. This Landscape Management Plan sets standards, responsibilities and review mechanisms for operation and maintenance from opening through long-term stewardship. It aligns with adopted policy, recognised technical standards and the Engineer's specifications, and establishes clear interfaces between the Recreation and Amenity Section, Engineering and Facilities Management. The document is concise at planning stage and will be expanded at tender and pre-handover.

DOCUMENT OWNERSHIP

Document owner: Recreation and Amenity Section, Galway City Council

Accountable officer: Parks Manager, Recreation and Amenity Section

Supporting teams: Engineering; Facilities Management; Roads and Active Travel; Ecology and Arboriculture

Contact for amendments: Parks Manager, Recreation and Amenity Section

CONTROLLED ISSUE AND VERSION CONTROL

Version	Issue date	Author	Technical review	Approval	Summary of changes
V1.0	DD/MM/YYYY	DRLA Landscape Architects	Planning, Design Team, Client	Client	Planning submission issue
V1.1	DD/MM/YYYY	Recreation and Amenity Section	Engineering; Facilities Management	Parks Manager	Post-planning clarifications
V2.0	DD/MM/YYYY	Recreation and Amenity Section	Engineering; Facilities Management; Procurement	Director of Services	Tender issue with detailed schedules

Change control: All amendments are recorded above. Revisions receive a new version and date. Superseded versions are withdrawn from circulation.



EXECUTIVE SIGN-OFF

Name: _____

Role: Director of Services, Galway City Council

Signature: _____

Date: ____ / ____ / ____

ANNUAL REVIEW AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

This plan is reviewed annually each September by the Parks Manager with Engineering, Facilities Management, Roads and Active Travel, and Ecology and Arboriculture. The review confirms performance against Key Performance Indicators, updates roles and schedules as required, and records changes in the version table. Interim updates may be issued when policy, safety or operational requirements change.



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DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Landscape Management Plan (LMP)

The management standard for Kingston Park covering roles, objectives, inspections and review.

Recreation and Amenity Section (RAS)

The Galway City Council section that leads day-to-day public-realm care, cleansing, and grounds maintenance.

Engineering team (ENG)

Holds responsibility for Sustainable Drainage Systems performance, below-ground assets and technical testing.

Facilities Management team (FM)

Operates building and roof systems, including plaza power points and green-roof drainage and safety systems.

Operations and Maintenance Manual (O&M Manual)

Engineer's post-handover manual that sets inspection actions, frequencies, safe methods and acceptance criteria.

Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)

Nature-based measures that slow, store, clean, use and safely release rainfall to mimic natural hydrology.

Rainwater Harvesting (RWH)

Capture and storage of roof runoff for approved non-potable uses and resilience during dry periods.

All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (AIPP)

National guidance for pollinator-friendly management, including short-flowering verges on a six-week cut-and-lift cycle.

Green Flag Award (GFA)

International benchmark for well-managed parks, operated in Ireland by An Taisce Environmental Education.

Portable Appliance Testing (PAT)

Inspection and electrical safety testing of portable equipment used during events before connection to plaza power.

Responsible–Accountable–Consulted–Informed (RACI)

Role-clarity model used to assign delivery, sign-off, consultation and notification for each task.

Public Realm Cleansing (PRC)

Litter collection, bin servicing, sweeping, spot-washing and graffiti response.

**Grounds Maintenance (GM)**

Grass, **mown verges**, shrubs, meadows, young-tree aftercare and path-edge control.

Active Travel Corridor (ATC)

The continuous, 24-hour, lit movement route for walking, wheeling and cycling.

Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA)

Fenced court for informal ball games with synthetic acrylic or polyurethane surfacing.

Event overlay

Temporary plan for safe operation during events, including barriers, cable routes, stewarding and clean-down.

Cues to care

Visible signs of stewardship—orderly edges, legible interfaces and clear information that explain seasonal change.

Short-flowering verge

AIPP grass regime: first cut after the spring dandelion peak, then cut-and-lift every six weeks.

Long-flowering meadow

Habitat grassland cut-and-lift once in early autumn; arisings removed to reduce fertility.

Bioretention raingarden

Planted SuDS feature that filters and attenuates runoff, with designed inlets, outlets and overflows.

Permeable paving / reinforced-grass parking

Load-bearing surfaces that admit water and contribute to source-control attenuation and treatment.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Auditable measures used in annual review, for example hazard make-safe times and mowing cadence compliance.

Sociopetal

A seating or space arrangement that draws people toward one another and supports face-to-face interaction. Typical layouts include inward-facing benches, curved or horseshoe forms, and clustered seats around a shared focus such as a step, planter, or low wall. Sociopetal configurations encourage small-group conversation, passive supervision, and a sense of safety by keeping users in view of each other and of surrounding routes.



Standards referenced

Table 1 Standards referenced in this LMP

Reference Code	Full Title
BS 7370	<i>British Standard 7370 – Grounds Maintenance: Recommendations for Maintenance of Soft Landscape (All Parts)</i>
BS 8545:2014	<i>Trees: From Nursery to Independence in the Landscape – Recommendations</i>
BS 3998:2010 (as amended)	<i>Tree Work – Recommendations</i>
EN 1176 (Series)	<i>European Standard EN 1176 – Playground Equipment and Surfacing</i>
EN 1177:2018	<i>Impact Attenuating Playground Surfacing – Determination of Critical Fall Height</i>
ISO 9001:2015	<i>Quality Management Systems – Requirements</i>
ISO 14001:2015	<i>Environmental Management Systems – Requirements with Guidance for Use</i>
ISO 45001:2018	<i>Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems – Requirements with Guidance for Use</i>
CIRIA C753	<i>The SuDS Manual (2015)</i>
GDSDS	<i>Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study – Technical Documents and Code of Practice (2005)</i>
NDA Universal Design Guidance	<i>National Disability Authority – Building for Everyone: A Universal Design Approach (2012)</i>



Part 1—Context and Objectives



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 DOCUMENT SCOPE AND PURPOSE

This Kingston Park Landscape Management and Maintenance Plan has been produced to describe the landscape management and maintenance plan for the proposed Kingston Park, a new park that is part of the *Kingston Park and Millers Lane Public Park and Urban Realm Project* in Knocknacarra and Ragoon, Galway.

This Landscape Management Plan (LMP) sets out how Kingston Park will be managed and maintained after handover to meet the park's vision for biodiversity, play and sport, active travel, learning, and inclusive community use. It is a practical reference for parks operations, ecology, arboriculture, play inspections, term-maintenance contractors, and partner groups. It is a live document to be reviewed annually and updated as assets and usage evolve.

1.2 HOW TO USE THIS DOCUMENT.

This LMP is broken into two sections, with end-user audiences in mind as follows:

- Part 1 establishes context, guiding policies, the intent and purpose of the park's design and high-level management objectives as well as breaking the park into management zones
- Part 2 describes the management operations and schedules, breaking the requirements out by zone.

1.3 RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER DOCUMENTS.

This document is to be read in conjunction with the following drawings and other documents that form the planning submission for Kingston Park:

Doc No.	Document Title	Sheet Size
P612-XXX-LD-DI-001	Document Issue Register	A3
P612-XXX-LD-SU-001	Kingston Park & Millers Lane - Site Location Map	A0
P612-KIN-LD-SU-001	Kingston Park - Site Location Map	A0
P612-MIL-LD-SU-001	Millers Lane - Site Location Map	A0
P613-KIN-LD-SU-002	Kingston Park - Existing Site Layout Plan	A0
P612-MIL-LD-SU-002	Millers Lane - Existing Site Layout Plan	A0
P612-KIN-LD-GA-101	Kingston Park - Proposed Site Layout Plan	A0
P612-KIN-LD-GA-102	Kingston Park - Proposed Site Sections	A0



P612-MIL-LD-GA-101	Millers Lane - Proposed Site Layout Plan	A0
P612-MIL-LD-GA-102	Millers Lane - Proposed Site Sections	A0
P612-KIN-LD-PL-201	Kingston Park - Planting Plan – Area A	A0
P612-KIN-LD-PL-202	Kingston Park - Planting Plan – Area B	A0
P612-KIN-LD-PL-203	Kingston Park - Planting Details	A0
P612-MIL-LD-PL-201	Millers Lane - Planting Plan – Area A	A0
P612-MIL-LD-PL-202	Millers Lane - Planting Plan – Area B	A0
P612-MIL-LD-PL-203	Millers Lane - Planting Details	A0
P612-KIN-LD-HL-301	Kingston Park - Surfaces & Soils Plan – Area A	A0
P612-KIN-LD-HL-302	Kingston Park - Surfaces & Soils Plan – Area B	A0
P612-KIN-LD-HL-303	Kingston Park - Hard Landscape Details	A0
P612-MIL-LD-HL-301	Millers Lane - Hard Landscape Plan – Area A	A0
P612-MIL-LD-HL-302	Millers Lane - Hard Landscape Plan – Area B	A0
P612-MIL-LD-HL-303	Millers Lane - Hard Landscape Details	A0
P612-KIN-LD-BD-401	Kingston Park - Boundaries & Site Furniture – Area A	A0
P612-KIN-LD-BD-402	Kingston Park - Boundaries & Site Furniture – Area B	A0
P612-KIN-LD-BD-403	Kingston Park - Boundary Details	A0
P612-MIL-LD-BD-401	Millers Lane - Boundaries & Gates – Area A	A0
P612-MIL-LD-BD-402	Millers Lane - Boundaries & Gates – Area B	A0
P612-MIL-LD-BD-403	Millers Lane - Boundary Details	A0
P612-KIN-LD-DS-001	Kingston Park Landscape Design Statement	A3
P612-MIL-LD-DS-001	Miller's Lane Landscape Design Statement	A3
P612-KIN-LD-MP-001	Kingston Park Landscape Management Plan	A4
P612-MIL-LD-MP-001	Miller's Lane Landscape Management Plan	A4
P612-KIN-LD-MP-501	Kingston Park Landscape Management Zones	A0
P612-MIL-LD-MP-501	Millers Lane Landscape Management Zones	A0
P613-XXX-LD-VI-001	Park Visualisations	A3

This LMP coordinates with the Landscape Design Statement and all design drawings and any planning conditions required on receipt of consent. Technical standards cited in this LMP govern *maintenance outcomes* rather than construction methods.

1.4 USERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

Primary users of this document are the Galway City Council Recreation and Amenity operations team and appointed contractors; secondary users include ecologists, arborists, play inspectors, the building facilities team, school/community partners, and event organisers where relevant. Interfaces with the adjoining school and with any future phases are acknowledged and mapped in the character-area plans.



2 SITE OVERVIEW

2.1 KINGSTON PARK - LMP SITE

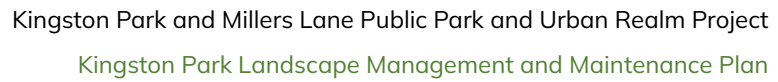
2.1.1 Site Location

Vehicular access to the site is provided via the Altan Road, off the Western Distributor Road at the roundabout with Bothar Stiofain.



 Kingston Park Site Boundary
Google Satellite imagery
© Google — captured various dates

FIGURE 1 KINGSTON PARK SITE LOCATION



The site layout is shown in Drawing P612-KIN-LD-GA-101 a detail of which is shown below.





3 POLICY AND STANDARDS

3.1 PLANNING CONDITIONS ATTACHED TO THIS SITE

(To be populated following receipt of statutory consent.)

3.2 ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE AT KINGSTON PARK

The Landscape Management Plan aligns day-to-day operations with the client's Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) commitments by making sustainability, equity and accountability tangible on the ground.

3.2.1 Environmental

Kingston Park aims to deliver measurable biodiversity gains (habitat-area and species-presence targets), climate resilience (Sustainable Drainage Systems—SuDS—function, rainwater harvesting use), resource efficiency (peat-free procurement, low-emission equipment, reduced potable water, circular material practices), and nature-positive presentation (mown verges as “cues to care,” limitations on pesticide use).

3.2.2 Social

Kingston Park management policies ensure inclusive access and safety (24-hour access to Active Travel Corridor, clear sightlines designed for passive surveillance, lighting to appropriate levels), health and wellbeing (clean, welcoming social spaces with diverse opportunities for active and passive recreation), and meaningful participation (volunteer protocols, citizen-science monitoring, clear event overlays).

3.2.3 Governance

Kingston Park is managed via transparent, auditable processes including a single defect-reporting pathway, role clarity across GCC sections including Leisure and Recreation, Facilities Management, Engineering and for contractors; documented inspections; annual KPIs and review with change control.

ESG performance is embedded in the zone tables (frequencies, triggers, acceptance criteria) and reported through concise dashboards so the client representative can evidence outcomes alongside compliance frameworks (for example, LEED v4 targets and green public-procurement aims).



3.3 A 'CUES TO CARE' ETHOS

A **Cues to Care** approach to landscape maintenance is prioritised at Kingston Park. “Cues to Care” are the small, legible signs that communicate to the viewer that a landscape is intentional and looked after—even when its vegetation is wilder or more seasonal. The idea, popularised by landscape scholar Joan Nassauer, is simple: pair ‘messy’ or dynamic ecology with orderly ‘frames’ that read as stewardship.

In Kingston Park this is implemented in crisp interfaces at paths and entrances, clear sightlines, tidy thresholds around seating and signs, and well-placed signage to explain ecological management practices (e.g. meadows before a hay cut or temporary ponding after storms). These cues shape perception: visitors read safety and competence, and are more accepting of long grass, seedheads, raingardens, or woody edges that don’t look like conventionally maintained landscapes.

Typical cues to care include: mown / short-flowering verges (1–2 m) along paths beside meadows or raingardens; string-line trims at path and kerb edges; low planting at path edges with taller planting set back; repeated drifts of key species for visual coherence; clean, working furniture and litter-free touchpoints. Signage and communication through digital channels is also important, with seasonal messaging that explains why and when change occurs. Defects require quick responses anywhere where visitors touch or pause. Used consistently, **cues to care** let us meet biodiversity and climate goals without losing legibility, helping communities understand that what they see is purposeful stewardship—not neglect.

3.4 ALL-IRELAND POLLINATOR PLAN

The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (AIPP) is a national, science-led framework that helps public bodies, communities and land managers reverse pollinator decline by changing how everyday places are managed. In parks and along transport routes, AIPP promotes flower-rich grassland through reduced cutting and cut-and-lift management, including the short-flowering verge approach (first cut after the spring dandelion peak, then roughly six-weekly), using seed mixes suited to low-input regimes and removing arisings to reduce soil fertility over time. It treats hedgerows as key habitat corridors, recommending buffered bases, rotational trimming outside the bird-nesting season, and avoidance of blanket herbicides. For routes and active travel infrastructure, AIPP sets out practical transport-corridor actions—timed mowing, layered verges to protect sightlines, and communication that explains seasonal change—so safety and biodiversity work together. Guidance also addresses night lighting, encouraging low-spill, warm-spectrum, and dimmable schemes to reduce impacts on nocturnal pollinators where feasible. In sports settings, AIPP proposes



outfield and perimeter opportunities (e.g., meadow margins, no-spray zones, flowering trees) that support biodiversity without compromising play.

Implementing AIPP in Kingston Park requires cutting regimes aligned to the short-flowering verge model; long-flowering meadows cut and lifted annually; no blanket pesticide use; seasonal messaging; and habitat features (hedge structure, nesting/roost boxes) maintained via routine schedules. These measures are measurable, low-cost, and compatible with public expectations when paired with clear “cues to care.”

3.5 SUDS POLICIES

Kingston Park’s Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) design and management follow Galway City Development Plan policy on Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems—particularly the requirement to manage runoff near source and deliver co-benefits in biodiversity, amenity and climate adaptation (Policy 9.4). The scheme applies the CIRIA C753: The SuDS Manual for treatment selection, interception design and the Simple Index Approach to water-quality risk. Hydraulic design parameters and runoff control adopt national practice from the Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study (GDSDS), including interception of first rainfall depths and discharge control checks. The project underwent a Stage 1 Surface Water Audit, which references local procedures and confirms alignment with Galway City Council standards, GDSDS and CIRIA C753. Post-construction care is governed by the Engineer’s Appendix F: SuDS Strategy and Maintenance Requirements, which sets inspection actions and frequencies for rainwater harvesting, green roofs, porous surfaces, bioretention and attenuation assets; this Landscape Management Plan cross-refers to these to avoid duplication.

3.6 GREEN FLAG PARK FRAMEWORK

The Green Flag Award is the international benchmark for well-managed parks and green spaces. It is managed under licence by the environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy and delivered internationally through national operators. In Ireland the scheme is operated by An Taisce Environmental Education. The framework assesses sites against eight criteria: A Welcoming Place; Healthy, Safe and Secure; Well Maintained and Clean; Environmental Management; Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage; Community Involvement; Marketing and Communication; and Management. These criteria inform the standards for Kingston Park. Arrival sequences, accessible routes and clear wayfinding support a welcoming place. Inspections, incident reporting and winter service uphold health, safety and security. Cleanliness standards are maintained through predictable cleansing and a consistent regime



of mown verges. Environmental management and biodiversity standards guide low-input planting, Sustainable Drainage Systems care, peat-free procurement and minimised pesticide use. Community involvement and marketing inform volunteer protocols, on-site information and event planning. The management criterion establishes roles, key performance indicators and annual review across Parks and Open Spaces, Engineering and Facilities Management.

3.7 LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT STANDARDS

Landscape operations adhere to recognised international standards commonly applied in Ireland to assure quality, safety and environmental performance. Grounds maintenance follows BS 7370, which defines service outcomes for soft and hard landscapes. Tree establishment and aftercare follow BS 8545; arboricultural works comply with BS 3998. Soils and growing media meet BS 3882 for topsoil and suitable companion standards for subsoil and mulches. Play equipment and impact-attenuating surfacing are inspected and maintained to EN 1176 and EN 1177. Contractors and Council services operate under certified management systems where in place, including ISO 9001 for quality, ISO 14001 for environmental management and ISO 45001 for occupational health and safety. Plant material is procured to a recognised national specification, supplied clean and true to type, and handled to prevent desiccation, waterlogging or mechanical damage. Biosecurity procedures minimise pest and disease transfer through clean tools, washed-down machinery and controlled movement of soils and arisings. All records, inspections and non-conformances are logged and actioned through the Council's reporting pathway.



4 GOVERNANCE, ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1 INTRODUCTION TO KINGSTON PARK MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES

Kingston Park is managed through a coordinated structure that separates policy, strategic oversight, and day-to-day operations. Galway City Council (GCC) provides client leadership and budget control, issuing the Landscape Management Plan (LMP) and approving annual updates.

GCC's Recreation and Amenity Section (RAS) leads Public Realm Cleansing (PRC) and Grounds Maintenance (GM) across all zones, coordinating daily hygiene and presentation standards and defect reporting. This team are responsible for litter-picks, cleansing, soft landscape care, mown verges and path edges.

GCC's Facilities Management (FM) team oversees building systems, roof access and drainage, Rainwater Harvesting (RWH) plant, and statutory compliance.

GCC's Roads and Drainage Engineering Section retains responsibility for hydraulic performance of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) assets and below-ground infrastructure per the Engineer's Technical Specification and Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Manual.

The GCC Active Travel unit sets standards for the active travel corridor and Safe Routes to School areas. Ecology and Arboriculture advisors provide seasonal services as required and quality assurance.

External sports clubs, occasional contractors, and volunteers operate under council permits and site inductions, with clear task limits and reporting lines. All parties log inspections and defects through a single reporting pathway to ensure traceability.

4.2 GALWAY CITY COUNCIL ROLES

Galway City Council acts as asset owner and client, setting policy, budgets and service levels, and approving the LMP and annual work programmes. The Council designates a **Kingston Park Manager** as single point of accountability for public-realm presentation, supported by a Parks Operations Supervisor who schedules PRC and GM crews and verifies completion.

The Facilities Management team manages building and roof-level systems, including green roof warranties and any RWH plant used inside the building. The Engineering team holds responsibility for SuDS performance, below-ground inspections, and specialist maintenance contractors governed by the Engineer's O&M Manual. The Roads/Active Travel unit is



consulted on lighting timings, winter service priorities, and interventions along the active travel corridor and Safe Routes to School areas.

GCC's Health and Safety section oversees the maintenance of risk assessments, permits-to-work and incident investigation by the operations teams. GCC's Parks Manager coordinates with other sections of the council for communications and events to coordinate messaging and plaza programming, ensuring pre/post-event checks are resourced. Council also maintains the complaints and Freedom of Information (FOI) channels, ensuring responses are documented and fed back into the plan review.

4.3 SPORTS CLUBS ROLES

Resident or permitted sports clubs are partners in stewardship with limited, clearly defined responsibilities. Clubs (or event organisers) must: book facilities, observe capacity and timing limits, and complete pre- and post-use checks for litter, glass, and obvious surface hazards in their permitted areas (e.g., spectator fronts, ends behind ball-stop netting). Clubs immediately report faults (fencing, goals, lighting heads, synthetic surfacing issues) through the council defect pathway; they do not attempt technical repairs. Where line-marking or ancillary equipment set-up is permitted, it follows approved products and locations, protecting drains, verges and tree roots. During fixtures or training, clubs manage crowd control within their envelope, keep desire lines off habitat edges, and cooperate with temporary cordons in wet conditions. Any storage is by separate agreement and inspected periodically. Clubs support communications—e.g., advising users when surfaces are frozen or saturated—and assist with post-event clean-downs when specified in the permit. Persistent breaches can suspend access pending review.

4.4 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Emergency management prioritises life safety, scene control, and rapid escalation. .

Following receipt of statutory consent, the operations and emergency plan for Kingston Park will be drawn up in collaboration with GCC and Emergency Services, to include drawing P612-KIN-LD-MP-901 Operations and Emergency Information Plan.

All staff and partners use a single incident telephone number (printed on P612-KIN-LD-MP-901 Operations and Emergency Information Plan and on-site entrance noticeboards). For access points and rendezvous locations, refer to P612-KIN-LD-OP-901 Operations and Emergency Information Plan.

Parks Operations make areas safe (temporary cordons, signage), gather initial details, and notify the Parks Manager. The Facilities Management (FM) team leads roof/building or



electrical incidents; the Engineering team leads flooding, major SuDS blockages, structural failures, or hazardous spills (including bypass/interceptor responses). For accidents in play or sport zones, the nearest trained staff initiate first response, call emergency services, and preserve the scene.

After severe weather (storm, flood, freeze), a priority inspection route covers Zone 4 (active travel corridor), Zone 6 (plaza/gateways), and Zone 5 (programmed sport) before lower-intensity areas. All incidents generate a record (time, location, photos, actions, witnesses) and—where required—incidents will be notified to the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) in accordance with the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Reporting of Accidents and Dangerous Occurrences) Regulations. Lessons learned feed the annual LMP review, winter service protocols, and risk registers.

4.5 CONTRACTORS

Contractors may deliver any maintenance activity at Kingston Park—either specialist tasks or core, recurring services. Before starting works, contractors must complete a site induction and submit method statements and risk assessments, provide insurance evidence, and agree working hours, access/haul routes, plant laydown, and environmental controls (noise, dust, runoff, spill prevention). The Recreation and Amenity Section (RAS) coordinates landscape-led tasks; the Engineering team supervises performance-critical Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) or below-ground works in line with the Engineer's Technical Specification and Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Manual; the Facilities Management (FM) team—Facilities Management—supervises roof and building-systems works.

While working, Contractors must protect trees, mown verges, drains, edges, play/sports surfacing and utilities; any temporary works, traffic management and reinstatement are included in their scope. No variation proceeds without written instruction. All defects identified are reported immediately through the Council defect pathway. On completion, contractors provide before/after photographs, waste transfer notes (where applicable), service certificates and as-maintained notes, ensuring warranty continuity and audit.

Where tasks interface with statutory inspections (e.g., play EN 1176/1177, electrical, lifting/access equipment), the contractor supplies the required certificates and updates the asset log held by the Council.



4.6 VOLUNTEER AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PROTOCOLS

Volunteering adds value when task boundaries, safety and quality are clear. Community groups can support litter picks, bulb planting, light weeding, mown verge edging in agreed spots, habitat monitoring (photo-points, pollinator counts), and event stewarding.

The Council provides a brief induction (site risks, biosecurity, lone-working rules), tools/PPE as appropriate, and a named Parks contact. Volunteers do not undertake chainsaw work, tree climbing, mechanised mowing, pesticide application, SuDS inlet clearance requiring confined-space precautions, or any task near live traffic or electrics.

Activities are scheduled to avoid nesting periods and sensitive habitats, using simple maps and task sheets. Supervisors record hours, locations, and observations (e.g., blocked drains, damaged signs) into the standard reporting pathway. Recognition is encouraged—thank-you messages on noticeboards or social media, and periodic feedback sessions—so community effort aligns with the LMP's biodiversity and presentation aims without creating parallel maintenance regimes.

4.7 ROLES SUMMARY AND RACI CHART

This section sets out the **Responsible–Accountable–Consulted–Informed (RACI)** chart for Kingston Park. It clarifies which party delivers each task, who signs off the outcome, who must be consulted before action, and who is kept informed. The chart aligns with the Landscape Management Plan's planning-stage scope, the Engineer's Technical Specification and Operations and Maintenance Manual, and the Facilities Management protocols, so that duties are unambiguous across all zones and activities.

4.7.1 Roles Abbreviation

- **RAS** = Recreation and Amenity Section
- **FM** = Facilities Management team
- **ENG** = Engineering team
- **R/AT** = Roads / Active Travel unit
- **ECO/ARB** = Ecology / Arboriculture advisors
- **EVENTS** = Events coordination (Local Authority)
- **SPORTS** = Sports clubs / operators (per permit)
- **CONTR** = Specialist / accredited contractors
- **CLIENT** = Asset owner / client representative (Local Authority)

4.7.2 Notes on RACI Table

Responsible (R): delivers the task. Accountable (A): owns the outcome and signs off.

Consulted (C): provides input before action. Informed (I): kept up to date.



Where CONTR is shown as C/R, the contractor delivers the technical task under the direction of the listed Accountable party.

SuDS performance maintenance (testing, hydraulics, below-ground assets) remains under the Engineering team; the Landscape plan covers only living and surface interfaces.

For play, the Parks and Open Spaces Section undertakes daily visual checks and cordons hazards; certified inspectors complete operational and annual inspections to European Standard EN 1176 and European Standard EN 1177.

Lighting operation sits with the Facilities Management team; the Parks and Open Spaces Section reports faults via the single pathway and supports access for repairs.



TABLE 2 - RACI CHART

Task / Zone scope	RAS	FM	ENG	R/AT	ECO/ARB	EVENTS	SPORTS	CONTR	CLIENT
Public Realm Cleansing (all zones)	R	I	I	I	I	C	C	C	A
Grounds Maintenance – mown verges (AIPP six-week cut-and-lift)	R	I	I	C	C	I	I	C	A
Meadows – long-flowering (annual cut-and-lift)	R	I	I	I	C	I	I	C	A
Shrub/perennial care and edits	R	I	I	I	C	I	I	C	A
Tree establishment, formative pruning, headroom on routes	R	I	I	C	C	I	I	C	A
Active Travel Corridor presentation (route legibility, seating, bins)	R	I	I	C	I	I	I	C	A
Lighting – routine operation and timers (24/7 routes, nodes)	I	R	C	C	I	I	I	C	A
Lighting – fault response and repairs	I	R	C	C	I	I	I	C/R (electrical)	A
Wayfinding upkeep (maps, fingerposts, noticeboards)	R	I	I	C	I	C	I	C	A



Task / Zone scope	RAS	FM	ENG	R/AT	ECO/ARB	EVENTS	SPORTS	CONTR	CLIENT
Plaza power points – safety checks and connection control	I	R	C	I	I	C	I	C/R (electrical)	A
Portable Appliance Testing (temporary event equipment)	I	R (verification)	I	I	I	C	C	R (tester)	A
Events – overlay planning (barriers, cable routes, stewarding)	C	C	C	C	I	R/A	C	C	I
Events – pre/post inspections and clean-down	R	C	C	C	I	A	C	C	I
Children’s play – routine/operational/annual inspections (EN 1176/1177)	R (daily visual, cordon)	I	I	I	I	I	I	R (cert. inspector)	A
MUGA – routine debris removal and visual checks	R	I	I	I	I	I	C	C	A
MUGA – deep clean / surfacing or fence repairs	C	I	I	I	I	I	C	R	A
Calisthenics – fixings and fall-zone checks	R	I	I	I	I	I	I	C	A
SuDS planting interfaces (bioretention, visible inlets/outlets, gravel mulch)	R	I	C	I	C	I	I	C	A



Task / Zone scope	RAS	FM	ENG	R/AT	ECO/ARB	EVENTS	SPORTS	CONTR	CLIENT
SuDS performance maintenance (hydraulics, below-ground, testing)	I	I	R	I	I	I	I	C/R (specialist)	A
Permeable / porous surfaces – performance cleaning (vacuum/jet-vac)	I	I	R	I	I	I	I	C/R	A
Green roof – vegetation observations	R (landscape only)	C	I	I	C	I	I	C	A
Green roof – membranes, outlets, roof safety systems	I	R	I	I	I	I	I	C	A
Winter service – priority routes	R	C	C	C	I	I	I	C	A
Incident management – make-safe, reporting	R (first response)	C	C	C	I	I	I	C	A
Dogs policy – signage and bins (leash policy)	R	I	I	C	I	I	I	C	A
Community volunteering – tasking and supervision	R	I	I	I	C	I	I	I	A
KPI reporting and annual LMP review	R	C	C	C	C				



5 VISION, DESIGN OBJECTIVES, SUCCESS CRITERIA

5.1 OVERVIEW

This section states the overarching vision for Kingston Park and the site-wide design objectives that guide management and maintenance. It explains the intended character, user experience, and environmental outcomes, and sets measurable success criteria against which performance will be reviewed. The objectives draw on adopted policy and recognised frameworks, including the Green Flag Award criteria, the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, Sustainable Drainage Systems guidance, and the client's Environmental, Social and Governance commitments. They address inclusive access, health and safety, public realm cleanliness, biodiversity and habitat quality, climate resilience and resource efficiency, and clear communication with users. Success criteria convert intent into outcomes that can be audited, for example compliance with inspection regimes, delivery of short-flowering verges on a six-week cycle, habitat condition targets, and timely incident response. Section 6 then describes the design objectives and intended outcomes for each Zone, so that day-to-day operations and future contract schedules can reference a consistent set of aims.

5.2 SUPPORT BIODIVERSITY

The landscape design aims to retain where possible areas of existing vegetation of value for biodiversity and to increase the extent and connectivity of habitats across the site. The planting palette is designed to support pollinators, taking guidance from the *All-Ireland Pollinator Plan*. Planting design for hedges is based on recommendations in *Irish Hedgerows: Networks for Nature and Conserving Hedgerows*. Woodland planting design is informed by *Management Guidelines for Ireland's Native Woodlands*.

5.2.1 Provide and Connect Diverse Habitats

The scheme aims to connect existing habitats as well as to provide new habitat types and increase habitat extents in the area. The site landscape design connects proposed habitat corridor planting to the planted areas within residential green open spaces at Gort Siar, Doire Gheal (White Oaks), Clybaun Court and to the residential zoned lands to the east of the site and to the open space-zoned lands to the south of the site. This habitat corridor is formed by a boundary of native hedgerow planting, with a band of woodland edge planting where space allows, followed by long-flowering meadow and short flowering verges to provide a layered gradient, or ecotone, of habitats that transition gradually into each other. These are



supplemented with semi-mature tree planting to provide a more diverse age profile in the newly planted areas.

5.2.2 Provide Nature Based Solutions

Soft landscape areas are utilised for Nature Based Solutions (NBS) for Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) such as reinforced grass parking bays, green roofs and bioretention rain gardens. Refer to the engineer's drainage proposals for further details on site strategy for SuDS.

5.2.3 General Planting Design

The planting selection has been designed to provide pleasant amenity space for park visitors as well as adding new planting to support biodiversity and to counter the loss of existing vegetation. The park is designed with a mix of native tree, native hedgerow, native woodland edge planting throughout the site as well as perennial and shrub planting to add visual interest and biodiversity value in smaller areas close to buildings and high-intensity activity/ . The emphasis in the plant selection is on using species that support biodiversity and on grouping them in plant communities that provide a diverse range of habitats on the site. The planting palette is designed to support pollinators, taking guidance from the *All-Ireland Pollinator Plan*. Planting design for hedges is based on recommendations in *Irish Hedgerows: Networks for Nature and Conserving Hedgerows*. Woodland planting design is informed by *Management Guidelines for Ireland's Native Woodlands*.

5.2.4 Trees and Woodlands

Across the site, 142 semi-mature standard and multi-stem trees are planted in soft landscape, in raingardens, in paved areas and within woodland planted areas. An area 1,525m² of native woodland edge planting is proposed as additional habitat provision. Feathered and multi-stem trees planted in the woodland areas will add diversity to the age profile in the surrounding habitat. Some of the clear-stem and multi-stem trees are native cultivars that are selected for their consistent form.

The proposed tree planting has been reviewed with anticipated vehicular traffic within the development and sight lines must be maintained to avoid impact on turning radii for vehicles. The selected trees should be relatively low maintenance, and we propose that in the long term a tree surgeon will assess their growth and health on a regular basis and lighten out crowns or clear stem accordingly.



5.2.5 Shrubs and Perennials

The proposed shrub and perennial planting palette has been selected in accordance with the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan plant list. Shrub and perennial planting will be supplied in 2-3 litre pots and planted at a density of 5no/ m². Planting beds in public facing areas will be finished with a 50mm layer of bark mulch. Plant species have been selected to enhance biodiversity and create habitat on the site.

5.3 PROVIDE FACILITIES TO ENCOURAGE ACTIVE TRAVEL AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT

The site design provides an Active Travel Corridor that connects local active travel routes (existing and proposed) through the park, including the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) segment that leads to the entrance to Knocknacarra National School. The purpose of this zone is to keep everyday mobility friction-free and welcoming, so that active travel is the default choice to and through the park—and to school—year-round. The same route provides safe and attractive route to connect to local bus transport stops – current and future. A 1-2m buffer of short flowering meadow is proposed along the footpath to provide good visibility along the route, while adding biodiversity-friendly planting. Cycle parking facilities including bays for long-term storage and for cargo and universal access cycles are provided and maintained to serve users of the active travel routes.

5.4 PROVIDE AN ATTRACTIVE PUBLIC REALM

5.4.1 Primary Circulation and Desire Lines

Primary circulation and access are designed to serve a diversity of visitors to and activities in Kingston Park and the public realm surrounding its associated multi-functional building. This public realm encompasses the wider pedestrian area linking the carpark and access from Altan Road to the building and the formal plaza outside the entrance to the multi-functional building and is designed with both human well-being and biodiversity in mind. The wider public realm is formed around predicted desire lines serving the carpark, footpath and crossings on Altan Road, access to the eastern park gates and to the externally accessed WC, showers, storage and services.

5.4.2 Meet and Gather Spot

Outside the externally accessed WC and showers the space allows for small groups (e.g. runners or cyclists clubs) to meet, gather and sit. This pedestrian area is punctuated by SuDS bioretention rain gardens with trees and pollinator-friendly planting to soften the scheme in the landscape.



5.4.3 Main Plaza

The formal plaza at the main building entrance is defined by two lines of pleached trees forming a south-facing trapezoidal space capable of hosting events such as live performances and markets. This space is designed to optimise natural surveillance. It is bordered on the east by the entrance façade of the multi-functional building, overlooked by the entrance lobby, stairwell and café area with outdoor seating. To the west of the plaza is the western gateway to the park, where pedestrian access from Doire Geal (White Oaks) intersects with the Safe Route to School active travel path at the entrance to Knocknacarra National School.

5.4.4 Western Gateway Oval

The intersection of the Safe Route to School with the park's western pedestrian entrance is designed to slow active travellers as they approach the school entrance and the gateway to the park. It is an ovoid space anchored by a raised tree planter with integrated bench seating and bounded by three access control arrangements to slow movement from the west and north before entering either the school to the south or the park to the east. Each access control is formed by a baffle of low walls with geometry that allows for cargo and universal access cycles to enter the park, while presenting a barrier to vehicular access and a cue to cyclists to slow down and dismount on approach. The baffle walls are softened by planting in the surrounding beds and the bench seating surrounding the central tree planter forms an anchor point around which movement slows but continues to flow.

5.5 PASSIVE SURVEILLANCE AND SPACE ACTIVATION

The park's design prioritised passive surveillance in the core area as a safety and security strategy by clustering activities along the north-south axis formed by the amphitheatre mound, the formal plaza and the main avenue. At its northern end an outdoor classroom and climate change lab generate activity during the day, with stepped seating and a mound providing an informal playscape. The plaza is activated by the gateway area to the west while it is overlooked from the east by the multi-functional building's lobby and café areas and from the south by the park attendants' kiosk. From the plaza, the main avenue runs south with the 4G pitch to its east. As the park opens up south of Knocknacarra National School, the main avenue is bordered by the calisthenics area, the Multi-use Games Area (MUGA), an informal kickabout and the playground. From the playground a secondary path running adjacent to the 4G pitch forms a looped route back to the public realm surrounding the building that is visible from the main access and from the pitch.



5.6 PROVIDE FACILITIES FOR ACTIVE RECREATION

Kingston Park provides spaces for a range of active recreations, both formal and informal. The new 4G synthetic turf rugby and rounders pitch with associated fencing forms the principle asset for formal active recreation. There is also a storage enclosure for a mobile cricket batting practice cage for use in the 4G pitch enclosure. Semi-formal active recreation is served by the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) with markings for a half-basketball court, badminton and pickle-ball. A further grassed area is available for active recreation as an informal kickabout area. There is an area dedicated to calisthenic equipment located on the active travel route to the west of the site.

5.7 PROVIDE FACILITIES FOR PASSIVE RECREATION

Passive recreation is provided for in a number of ways across Kingston Park. Circulation is designed to accommodate looped walking and wheeling routes for casual use with the main avenue providing an axis from which secondary footpaths and the active travel corridor are accessed. Seating to accommodate sitting for socialising, reading, contemplating or observing nature and surrounding activities is provided at intervals of 50m minimum and more frequently where space allows. A range of seating heights is provided to accommodate different seating needs.

5.8 CLIMATE CHANGE

Kingston Park is planned and managed to reduce climate risk and support adaptation and mitigation. Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) intercept, store and slowly release rainfall to limit flood peaks and protect infrastructure; green roof, bioretention areas and permeable surfaces manage intense storms and speed post-event recovery. Rainwater harvesting supplies appropriate non-potable uses to lessen demand on potable networks during dry spells. Planting and soils are selected for drought tolerance and rapid recovery after saturation. Planting maintenance allows for heat- and moisture-triggered responses rather than fixed watering schedules.

Surface finishes are light in colour and high-albedo to limit heat gain and lower urban heat-island risk, with texture and layout selected to control glare and maintain visual comfort. Shade and wind moderation are increased through a resilient tree canopy and carefully oriented structures, improving thermal comfort on key routes and gathering spaces. Operations reduce operational carbon through efficient scheduling and avoidance of unnecessary interventions.



Success is evidenced by compliant runoff attenuation and draw-down times, reduced potable-water demand through non-potable supply, stable surface conditions after storms, fewer weather-related closures, expanded shade on priority routes, acceptable pavement temperatures in hot periods, and timely response to extreme-weather hazards. The plan applies adaptive management so frequencies and triggers adjust in line with monitored climate impacts.

5.9 END-USER NEEDS AND INCLUSION

Kingston Park is planned and managed to be welcoming and usable for people of all ages, abilities and cultural backgrounds. The approach follows recognised universal design guidance and Irish accessibility policy so that movement, rest, socialising and informal activity are comfortable, predictable and safe. Lighting, seating, route design and operational practices work together to deliver inclusive everyday use.

5.9.1 Universal access and wayfinding.

Primary routes provide step-free access to all destinations. Gradients, crossfalls and camber support independent movement for wheelchair users, people pushing prams and those with limited mobility. Surfaces are even and slip-resistant with clear tonal contrast at edges and at any change in level. Tactile paving defines crossings and decision points. A consistent family of maps, fingerposts and noticeboards uses plain language and high-contrast lettering. These measures accord with National Disability Authority universal design guidance and accepted external-environment standards.

5.9.2 Seating and resting

Seating is provided from the project's detailed furniture suite. Benches include backs and arm supports to assist sitting and rising. Spacing on principal routes targets intervals of 50 metres or less, with closer placement on slopes, at nodes and near activity areas. On the amphitheatre mound and around the plaza edges, bench geometry is arranged as sociopetal groupings to support conversation, oversight and passive supervision. Locations and specifications follow the issued hard-works details.

5.9.3 Lighting and personal safety

Movement corridors and principal approaches are lit to provide uniform, glare-controlled illumination suitable for recognition and obstacle detection after dark. The strategy uses a warm spectrum of approximately 3000 kelvin. Lighting levels and uniformity targets are as set out in the Kingston Park Lighting Simulation Report; maintenance and timing profiles follow that report's route categories. Fore-edge planting remains low to maintain long



sightlines and natural surveillance, and emergency contact information is posted at entrances and principal nodes. Defect response: lighting faults on primary routes are made safe or cordoned same day, issued for repair within 24 hours, and closed out in line with the Facilities Management work order priority schedule.

5.9.4 Inclusive activity and gender-responsive layout.

The playground, multi-use games area and calisthenics zone are arranged for mixed-ability, inter-generational use. Approaches are step-free, fall zones are unobstructed, and passive surveillance is maintained from adjacent paths and benches. In line with recognised gender-inclusive park guidance, including Make Space for Girls and contemporary public-realm safety handbooks, activity is distributed across several smaller, clearly visible pockets rather than concentrated in a single dominant court. Each pocket provides more than one exit choice and nearby places to sit with friends. The amphitheatre mound and plaza edges employ sociopetal seating and open sightlines to encourage confident use by girls and by teens. Programming and site communications explicitly welcome these users and reinforce the intended culture of inclusive participation.

5.9.5 Quieter places and sensory comfort

Within this phase, calmer seating moments are provided along sections of the Main Avenue where benches sit within or beside the meadows and slightly away from the highest pedestrian flows. These locations are signed and maintained to the same access standard as primary routes, offering a lower-stimulus option without leaving the legible network. Where shelter from wind is feasible, seating is oriented to improve comfort; otherwise, benches are placed to maximise natural surveillance and ease of approach.

5.9.6 Cyclists

Cycle parking accommodates standard, cargo and adapted cycles at principal destinations. Entrances retain clear pedestrian space free of parked cycles. The active travel corridor remains legible, lit and unobstructed, and crossing geometry and surface transitions are designed to reduce conflict with people walking and wheeling.

5.9.7 Operations that sustain inclusion

Public Realm Cleansing and Grounds Maintenance maintain predictable cleanliness and route legibility. All mown verges operate on the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan short-flowering regime of cut-and-lift every six weeks; a single earlier cut occurs only where sightlines or safety require it. Vegetation on active routes remains below sightline envelopes. Defects affecting accessibility receive same-day make-safe action, and winter service prioritises the



active travel corridor and primary approaches. Periodic user walk-throughs with representative groups inform minor adjustments to seating placement, route marking, lighting fault response and event layout.

5.9.8 Dogs and Dog-Owners

Kingston Park is dog-friendly on a leash basis. Clear messaging sets expectations for control and fouling. Waste bins are positioned at logical entry and exit points. Planting and meadow management avoid concealed corners near primary paths so that shared use remains safe and predictable.

5.9.9 Children, Play and Education

Kingston Park delivers a coherent network of child-friendly spaces centred on a mixed-ability playground and supported by an outdoor classroom with climate and biodiversity learning features. The playground provides graduated challenge and inclusive opportunities, with sand pits and water tables for loose-materials and water play. Step-free routes link directly to principal paths and the plaza. Equipment and impact-attenuating surfacing are inspected and maintained to European Standard EN 1176 and European Standard EN 1177. Seating with backs and armrests is positioned for passive supervision; sociopetal bench arrangements on the amphitheatre mound and plaza edges encourage small-group interaction and oversight.

The outdoor classroom and climate lab enable hands-on interpretation of Sustainable Drainage Systems, meadows and woodlands through a bee post, thermometer, wind vanes, rain gauge and sun dial, supported by seasonal signage and simple citizen-science prompts. Wayfinding and interpretation include location maps, fingerposts, an information panel, blackboard, plant and tree identification plates, and a bug hotel, providing clear orientation and compact learning moments throughout the site.



6 MANAGEMENT ZONES

6.1 MANAGEMENT ZONES INTRODUCTION

Kingston Park is broken into 5 general management zones with different emphases and priorities guiding specific management activities.

6.2 CHARACTER AREAS (MAP KEY)

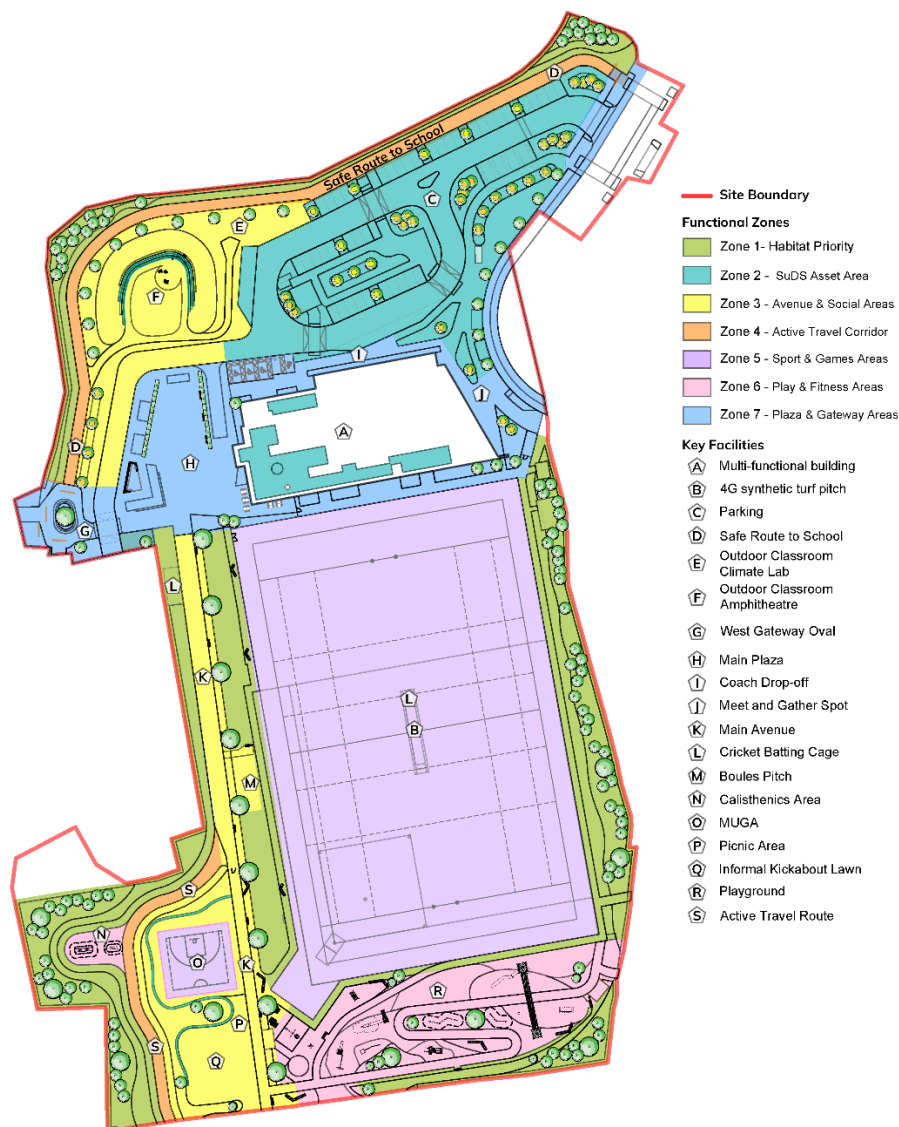


Figure 3 Management Zones Map



6.3 ZONE 1—HABITAT PRIORITY AND LOW ACTIVITY AREAS

6.3.1 Designed Purpose of Habitat Priority and Low Activity Areas

These zones prioritise biodiversity outcomes and ecological function over amenity finish, encompassing habitat corridors and quieter areas along the edges of more active zones of the park. Planting categories include native hedgerows, woodland edge planting and species-rich meadows. This zone also includes Bird and Bat Boxes within the planted areas to support biodiversity. Lastly, there is an educational aspect to this zone, with both permanent and temporary signage explaining the intent of the habitat plantings.

6.3.2 Management Objectives for Zone 1

Public lighting follows a dark-skies ethos to protect fauna and night sky, with timed operation inside restricted-access areas. Public access is encouraged on formal paths only; off-path disturbance is minimised through planting layout, desire-line management, and periodic messaging during establishment and sensitive seasons. Education on habitats and biodiversity is managed through signage and media channels to encourage a sense of stewardship and care.

Planting management focuses on ecologically timed cut-and-collect regimes, path legibility and invasive-species control. Following the cues-to-care ethos, pathways will have a 1-2m verge with a 6-week mowing regime to form 'frames' to wilder habitat areas. Particular attention is paid to maintenance at thresholds to busier areas and entrances. Seasonal interpretive signs will signal intentional stewardship while allowing a dynamic aesthetic. Monitoring is established to track habitat extent and condition, hedge continuity and woodland structure as well as to maintain bird and bat boxes.

6.4 ZONE 2 - SUDS ASSET AREA

6.4.1 Designed Purpose of SuDs Asset Area

Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) are an integrated, nature-based approach to managing rainfall at source—slowing, storing, cleaning, using, and safely releasing runoff to mimic natural hydrology. SuDS features (e.g., raingardens, swales, permeable paving, green roofs, detention areas, and rainwater harvesting) deliver multiple benefits: flood attenuation, water-quality treatment, biodiversity, amenity, and climate resilience—while fitting the public realm and everyday maintenance.

This zone includes infrastructure that is designed to manage water quality and attenuation at ground and roof level. Together these assets intercept, treat and attenuate runoff close to source, protect receiving waters in Galway City, support biodiversity and climate resilience,



and reduce potable-water demand where reuse is feasible—key aims set out in the engineering strategy and SuDS design for Kingston.

At ground level, SuDS shape the public realm at the car park, bus set-down and pedestrian plaza and include bioretention raingardens with trees and pollinator-friendly planting, surface inlets/outlets and overflows and permeable reinforced-grass parking bays. These SuDS assets manage quality and quantity while presenting a tidy, legible area from which to access the park. At roof level, the extensive green roof areas contribute to interception, storage and biodiversity, with their drainage tied into the rainwater strategy. Rainwater harvesting (RWH) tanks proposed for the development collect water sourced at roof level, providing a non-potable source for building needs and under specific conditions, watering of planting outdoors.

6.4.2 Management Roles and Objectives

The Engineer's SuDS Specification and Operations and Maintenance Manual (Oand M Manual) governs all hydraulic performance, below-ground structures, proprietary units, infiltration/ drawdown standards and testing—this LMP defers to those requirements and cross-references rather than repeats them.

Landscape operations focus on the living and surface interfaces: keeping visible inlets/outlets clear at grade, presenting clean, readable edges in high-footfall areas, sustaining planting cover and diversity and on maintaining the visual “cues to care” that help people understand temporary ponding and seasonal change. On the roof, the green-roof provider or Facilities Management (FM) team are responsible for maintenance of membranes, drains and safety systems; the landscape brief is to uphold the intended vegetation character and flag issues with the FM team.

Detailed media depths, freeboard, draw-down expectations, infiltration and performance tests, jet-vac regimes for porous surfaces, RWH tank and pump maintenance, and below-ground attenuation inspections remain under the Engineer's O&M Manual. The LMP records observations, keeps the planted and surface interfaces legible, and escalates when performance thresholds or safety triggers are exceeded.

6.5 ZONE 3—MAIN AVENUE AND SOCIAL AREAS

6.5.1 Designed Purpose of Main Avenue and Social Areas

This zone covers the Main Avenue, Amphitheatre Mound and Outdoor Classroom and the park's everyday social pockets—integrated benches and free-standing seating, picnic lawns, hang-out spots. The purpose of this zone is to provide a year-round welcoming, legible, usable core to the park. Management practices prioritise clean surfaces, clear sightlines and



appropriate lighting provision for natural surveillance, predictable edges and comfortable places to sit, pause and to learn.

6.5.2 Zone 3 Management Roles and Objectives

Operations emphasise frequent litter/cleansing rounds, prompt defect close-outs on pathway surfaces, and crisp edge definition (e.g. edge restraint maintenance and verge mowing) where paths meet lawns or planting. Furniture, bins and wayfinding are kept tidy and functional (tight fixings, readable maps, accessible clear zones). Lighting aligns with the Lighting Simulation Report route targets for average illuminance and uniformity. The Recreation and Amenity Section conducts routine evening checks where lit and reports faults via the single pathway. Defect response: make-safe or cordon same day; raise work order within 24 hours; repair to Facilities Management target times for the relevant priority. Winter path safety is prioritised on gradients and junctions. At interfaces with play or habitat areas, apply “cues to care”—tidy thresholds, low planting at interfaces, and seasonal messaging when adjacent meadows are in bloom or awaiting hay-cut. Maintain a character that is green but with visible evidence of maintenance and care.

6.6 ZONE 4—ACTIVE TRAVEL CORRIDOR

6.6.1 Designed Purpose of Active Travel Corridor

Zone 4 encompasses an Active Travel Corridor that connects local active travel routes (existing and proposed) through the park, including the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) segment that leads to the entrance to Knocknacarra National School. The purpose of this zone is to keep everyday mobility friction-free and welcoming, so that active travel is the default choice to and through the park—and to school—year-round.

Zone 4 forms a legible movement spine for people walking, wheeling and cycling and is open to the public 24 hours a day, 365 days a year outside the restricted-access boundary. It links the multi-functional building to the neighbourhood’s street network and key park destinations. The northern section, following the northern boundary of the park site, also forms part of the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) scheme, providing a direct, off-road route on approach to the school for pupils and carers.

6.6.2 Zone 4 Maintenance Objectives and Roles

The management objective in this zone is to keep everyday journeys safe, comfortable and predictable at all times. The route encompasses a shared-use path with intersections at the western school and park entrance and other junctions with the Main Avenue, Altan Road, crossing points and gateways.



Specific maintenance objectives include:

- Verge planting should be maintained to a maximum height of 600mm to aid forward visibility and surveillance
- Clear headroom of 2.5m to be maintained beneath tree canopies to accommodate cyclists
- Maintain wayfinding totems/maps to aid legibility and navigation
- Provide and service litter bins at logical pauses e.g. plaza / school intersection
- Provide and maintain cycle parking as per design

Day-to-day, the Parks Operations team leads on presentation (clean surfaces, readable edges, mown verges where the corridor meets naturalised areas, quick defect cordons.) The SRTS segment remains a public asset within the park grounds, and should be managed to the same Zone 4 standards during and outside school hours, with simple messaging at pinch points where school circulation overlaps general park use. The route maintains clear sightlines, intuitive wayfinding and lighting that meets the Lighting Simulation Report targets for the Active Travel Corridor. Roads/Active Travel and the Facilities Management team coordinate timing profiles and seasonal adjustments. Defect response: lighting faults on the corridor are made safe or cordoned same day, issued for repair within 24 hours, and tracked to closure against Facilities Management priority times.

6.7 ZONE 5 PROGRAMMED SPORT AND GAMING AREA

6.7.1 Zone 5 Design Purpose

Zone 5 is the 4G synthetic pitch and immediate environs only—playing surface, run-offs, spectator rail, coach/officials' access, and ball-stop netting at goal ends. Its purpose is to provide a bookable, competition-ready field with consistent footing, line visibility and safe approach routes, distinct from passive recreation. The zone is laid out to separate players, officials and spectators, guide crowd flows onto hard routes, and protect adjacent habitats. Edges facing paths are kept visually tidy with mown verges and clear sightlines so the facility reads as intentional and safe even on busy match days.

6.7.2 Zone 5 Management / Maintenance Objectives

Keep the surface playable and safe through routine debris removal, pre-/post-use checks, and scheduled specialist cleaning to manufacturer standards. Maintain spectator rail integrity and ball-stop netting tension; repair trip risks at thresholds immediately. The Recreation and Amenity Section (RAS) coordinates bookings, access, cleansing and crowd-control cordons;



sports users report defects via the council pathway. The Engineering team and Facilities Management (FM) team are consulted where lighting, fencing or structures are affected. Protect adjacent naturalised areas by directing spectators along hard paths and, in wet conditions, deploying temporary cordons. Keep interfaces legible—mown verges, wayfinding, and simple event messaging.

6.8 ZONE 6—PLAYGROUND AND INFORMAL ACTIVE RECREATION AREAS

6.8.1 Zone 6 Design Purpose

Zone 6 comprises the outdoor play and informal active recreation areas, bringing together the children's playground, the calisthenics/fitness zone, and the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) each with surfacing specific to requirements. The intent is a series of welcoming, everyday activity spaces that support self-directed play, casual games, and body-weight fitness without bookings. Layout prioritises clear sightlines, short desire-line connections to the Main Avenue, and mown verges where these spaces meet meadows or planting so they read as intentional and safe. The playground's impact-attenuating surfacing, edges, and equipment zones are arranged for age-appropriate challenge; the MUGA encloses ball play and rebounds to minimise conflicts with the active travel route to the west, while remaining open to casual use along its avenue edge; calisthenics apparatus is located for supervision and accessible approaches along the active travel route. Wayfinding, nearby seating, bins and drinking water complete a compact, legible cluster that feels lively on busy days and comfortable for passive recreation at quieter times.

6.8.2 Zone 6 Management / Maintenance Objectives

Keep Zone 6 safe, clean and legible. For the playground, inspections follow European Standard EN 1176 (Playground Equipment) and EN 1177 (Impact Attenuating Surfacing)—then referred to as EN 1176/1177—with timely cordons and repairs where hazards appear. The MUGA receives routine debris removal, surfacing integrity checks and line-mark upkeep, while goals/fences are kept secure. The calisthenics zone is checked for fixings, foundations, clear fall zones and non-slip surfacing condition.

Across the zone, maintain mown verges and crisp path interfaces as “cues to care,” keep furniture and signage in good condition, and manage litter and glass proactively. The Recreation and Amenity Section (RAS) leads daily cleansing and grounds care; specialist play inspectors and accredited sport-surface contractors undertake formal inspections and deep cleans; the Facilities Management (FM) team is consulted where lighting, power or adjacent building systems are affected.



6.9 ZONE 7—PLAZA AND GATEWAY AREAS

6.9.1 Design Purpose

Zone 7 comprises the plaza and gateways at Kingston Park: a hard-landscaped forecourt designed for live performances, small markets and civic gatherings. It includes under-ground power and data points (lockable service bollards/ports), a smoking shelter, cycle parking (including accessible/cargo stands), pleached trees with integrated seating, large planters and outdoor café seating with moveable tables and chairs. The space is laid out for clear pedestrian desire lines, intuitive queuing, and uncluttered cable routes on event days. Edges read crisp against the Main Avenue and building thresholds; wayfinding and noticeboards make the plaza the park's "front door," performing as a lively social node on busy days and a comfortable, legible place to pause at all other times.

6.9.2 Management / Maintenance Objectives

Keep the plaza clean, safe, and event-ready. The Recreation and Amenity Section (RAS) is responsible for daily Public Realm Cleansing (litter, bin servicing, spot-washing, rapid graffiti removal) and Grounds Maintenance (planter upkeep, pleached-tree care, tidy planter-bench interfaces). Facilities Management (FM) team oversees electrical and building interfaces: testing lockable power points, Portable Appliance Testing (PAT) coordination for performers/market traders, and lighting operation. Event overlays (temporary space plans for events) are agreed in advance: pre-event safety walk, controlled cable routing and matting, spill containment for catering, and post-event clean-down with waste segregation. Maintain cycle parking (fixings, alignment), the smoking shelter (fire-safe disposal, ventilation/cleanliness), and slip-resistance of surfaces, with winter service a priority during freeze events. Use simple crowd and queue signage on programmed days; protect adjacent planting and any naturalised areas by guiding footfall along hard routes. Where irrigation is required for planters/pleached trees in heatwaves or establishment, use rainwater harvesting supply where available, operated on triggers and logged for audit.



Part 2—Landscape Operations

6.10 ROLES AND BOUNDARIES

The Recreation and Amenity Section (RAS) leads day-to-day public-realm care. Within RAS, Public Realm Cleansing (PRC) covers litter picking, bin servicing, sweeping, spot-washing and graffiti response; Grounds Maintenance (GM) covers grass cutting, mown verges, path-edge trims, shrub and perennial care, meadow management and routine tree aftercare. The Facilities Management (FM) team looks after building and roof systems, plaza power outlets, green-roof membranes and drainage, and operates the public-realm lighting to the Lighting Simulation Report route targets and timing profiles, including fault response and close-out. The Engineering team owns performance maintenance for Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and below-ground assets, governed by the Engineer's Technical Specification and the Engineer's Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Manual. Where specialist inspections are required—such as Portable Appliance Testing (PAT) for event kit, or formal play inspections to European Standard EN 1176 (Playground Equipment) and EN 1177 (Impact Attenuating Surfacing)—accredited providers carry them out and report into the Council's defect pathway.

6.11 ASSET AND DATA MANAGEMENT

An asset register is maintained for Kingston Park covering all managed items: trees and hedgerows; shrub and perennial beds; meadows; playground equipment and impact-attenuating surfacing; Multi-Use Games Area and calisthenics equipment; benches, bins and wayfinding; lighting columns and controls; plaza power points and distribution; Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) features including bioretention areas, inlets, outlets, overflows, permeable and reinforced-grass parking, and green roofs.

Each asset is recorded using Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping. Each asset has a unique identifier, location coordinates, installation data, warranties, inspection cadence, and maintenance history.

Inspection and service records use standard forms aligned to this Landscape Management Plan along with relevant standards (for example, European Standard EN 1176 and European Standard EN 1177 for play). Forms capture date, inspector, findings, photographs, risk rating, actions raised, and closure confirmation. Certificates and test reports (for example, electrical safety and Portable Appliance Testing for event connections) are filed against the relevant asset ID.



All defects and service requests flow through a single reporting pathway operated by the Recreation and Amenity Section via the Council's Computerised Maintenance Management System (CMMS). Reports are logged to the correct asset, assigned a priority, and tracked to closure. Data retention follows corporate policy (minimum ten years for safety-critical records). Monthly Key Performance Indicator reporting and the annual review draw directly from the CMMS and the asset register to evidence performance and inform continuous improvement.

6.12 INSPECTIONS AND REPORTING

RAS completes routine patrols on a predictable rhythm: every day in Zone 4 (Active Travel Corridor), Zone 6 (Plaza and Gateways) and Zone 7 (Play and Informal Active Recreation), three to five times per week in Zone 3 (Main Avenue and Social Areas) and Zone 5 (Programmed Sport), and twice per week in Zone 1 (Habitat Priority) and Zone 2 (SuDS Assets). A monthly operational sweep checks all zones, collates photographs, and raises work orders. An annual review with Ecology and Arboriculture confirms Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and updates to this plan. All defects flow through a single reporting route, with same-day make-safe for hazards.

6.13 KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (KPIS)

Key Performance Indicators are the small set of measurable service outcomes used to verify that operations meet the intended standards. Each KPI states the target, the evidence to be recorded, the escalation threshold, and the accountable owner. Supervisors record results at inspection, file evidence in the asset register, and report monthly as Green / Amber / Red with corrective actions where required.



TABLE 3 - KPI TARGETS AND PROCEDURES

KPI	Target standard	Evidence / record	Escalation threshold	Accountable owner
Hazard make-safe time	Cordon and make-safe on discovery; close call the same day	Incident log with photos and time stamp	Unresolved at end of shift → Parks Manager; persisting 24 h → Director of Services	Recreation and Amenity Section
Lighting fault response (primary routes and nodes)	Make-safe or cordon same day; work order within 24 h; repair to Facilities Management priority	Fault ticket; work order; closure confirmation	Any dark section after 24 h on Active Travel Corridor → Facilities Management duty manager and Roads/Active Travel	Facilities Management
Graffiti removal	Remove/obscure within 24 h in plaza and primary approaches; within 48 h elsewhere	Photo before/after; work order	Offensive content → immediate response and Garda notification as required	Recreation and Amenity Section
Litter and bin service	No overflowing bins; daily rounds on principal routes; post-event clean-down same day	Daily route sheets; post-event checklists	Repeated overflow at a location within one week → increase frequency and review bin siting	Recreation and Amenity Section
Mown verge cadence (All-Ireland Pollinator Plan)	Six-week cut-and-lift; first cut after spring dandelion peak; arisings removed within 48 h	Mowing log; arisings disposal record	Missed cycle by >7 days or arisings left >48 h → duty supervisor and Parks Manager	Recreation and Amenity Section
Accessibility defects	Make-safe same day; permanent repair scheduled within 10 working days	Defect log; repair order and date	Not repaired within 10 working days → Parks Manager and Engineering	Recreation and Amenity Section



KPI	Target standard	Evidence / record	Escalation threshold	Accountable owner
Incident reporting completeness	100% of incidents logged with time, location, photos, actions and closure; monthly audit	Incident register; audit checklist	Any missing record → returned to originator; repeat omission → supervisor review	Recreation and Amenity Section
Public information currency	Noticeboards, maps and messages current and legible; event overlays posted/removed to schedule	Photo check; event plan and de-rig record	Out-of-date/damaged item at audit → replacement within 5 working days	Recreation and Amenity Section



6.13.1 Monthly Reporting Requirement

On a monthly basis, Section Supervisors compile KPI results and zone triggers into a one-page dashboard with Green / Amber / Red status and short corrective actions. The Parks Manager tables this at the monthly review and at the annual plan review.

6.14 PLAY, MUGA AND CALISTHENICS AREAS—INSPECTION PRECEDURES

This summary consolidates inspection types, standards, responsibilities and evidence outputs for children's play, the Multi-Use Games Area and the calisthenics zone. It follows European Standard EN 1176 (playground equipment) and European Standard EN 1177 (impact-attenuating surfacing) and aligns with the RACI chart. All findings are logged and filed in the Council's asset register and digital records system.



TABLE 4 - PLAY, MUGA & CALISTHENICS INSPECTIONS

Asset	Inspection type	Typical cadence	Conducted by	Scope (examples)	Evidence outputs	Escalation / close-out
Playground (equipment + surfacing)	Routine visual	Daily (open days)	Recreation and Amenity Section	Litter/glass, obvious defects, entrapment hazards, surfacing holes/lifting, fencing/gates	Dated checklist; photos for defects; make-safe record	Hazard cordon same day ; repair order raised; reopen on competent sign-off
	Operational	Monthly or bi-monthly	Accredited play inspector (contractor)	Function, stability, wear, fixings, bearings, chains, surfacing Critical Fall Height coverage	Signed report; defect list with priorities; work orders	Red-risk defect: immediate closure; completion certificate filed
	Annual main	Annually	Independent, certified inspector	Full conformity to EN 1176/EN 1177; overall risk rating; lifecycle advice	Annual certificate; risk register update; photos	Action plan agreed within 10 working days; Director sign-off for deferred items
MUGA (synthetic court, goals, fence)	Routine visual	Daily during season	Recreation and Amenity Section	Litter/glass, line visibility, surface damage, loose panels, gate closers, trip points	Dated checklist; photos	Hazard cordon same day ; contractor call-out if structural
	Operational	Quarterly (min.)	Accredited sport-surface contractor	Surface integrity, texture, drainage, fixings; fence/goal condition; gates/locks	Service report; ppm checklist; work orders	Defects closed to contractor's certificate; records filed
	Annual main	Annually	Accredited sport-surface contractor	Deep condition review; refurbishment needs; warranty checks	Annual service certificate; lifecycle note	Action plan and budget note agreed at annual review
Calisthenics zone	Routine visual	Daily (open days)	Recreation and Amenity Section	Fixings, posts, bars, foundations, fall-zones, surfacing traction	Dated checklist; photos	Hazard cordon same day ; repair order
	Operational	Quarterly (min.)	Competent contractor	Structural fixings torque-check; footing movement; surfacing integrity	Signed report; torque records; work orders	Re-inspection after repair; note in asset register



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Asset	Inspection type	Typical cadence	Conducted by	Scope (examples)	Evidence outputs	Escalation / close-out
	Annual main	Annually	Independent competent person	Overall safety review; wear, corrosion; standards compliance	Annual certificate; risk update	Close-out signed by Parks Manager; next year's actions logged



6.15 PUBLIC REALM CLEANSING (PRC)

PRC keeps the park usable and welcoming. Staff collect litter and service bins on every daily-patrol zone, with additional rounds at commuter peaks on the Active Travel Corridor and before and after events in the plaza. Spot-washing removes stains and spills; graffiti receives rapid response, especially in gateways. Winter service prioritises the Active Travel Corridor and the plaza during freeze events. Cleanliness targets are simple and visible: no overflowing bins, clear walking surfaces, and tidy seating areas.

6.16 SHORT-FLOWERING VERGE CUTTING

All mown verges in Kingston Park are managed as short-flowering verges in accordance with the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (AIPP) guidance. The management standard is a six-week cut-and-lift cycle through the growing season, with the first cut scheduled after the spring dandelion peak. This timing sustains sequential flowering (for example, Dandelion, Clover, Bird's-foot-trefoil, Selfheal) while maintaining a tidy edge to paths and hard landscape. No interim edge-trimming or strimming is undertaken between programmed cycles. Grass arisings are removed after each cut to limit nutrient build-up and support increasing floral diversity over time. This approach implements AIPP's recommended "6-week meadow" for transport and walking routes and is adopted here for park verges.

Cues to care are communicated by the consistency of this verge regime rather than by additional cutting: clean path lines achieved on the programmed cycle, clear junction geometry, and explanatory seasonal signage where helpful. The only permitted deviation from the six-week cycle is a documented early cut at specific locations where sightlines or safety are demonstrably compromised (for example, at bends, crossings, or car-park exits); in such cases the earlier cut replaces, it does not add to, the cycle.

6.17 MEADOWS AND GRASSLAND STRUCTURE

Grassland is delivered as two complementary regimes. First, the **short-flowering verge** regime described in Section 2.4 provides legible, pollinator-supportive edges along paths and nodes under a **six-week cut-and-lift** schedule; seed mixes are selected to hold the **sward below c. 600 mm** under this management. Second, **long-flowering meadows** in habitat areas are managed to **one cut-and-lift in early autumn**, with flexibility for an additional mid-summer knock-back only during early establishment years on fertile soils. Arisings are removed to reduce fertility and promote floral richness, as set out in AIPP's meadow guidance. Where route safety requires greater visibility, local adjustments are



limited to **widening the short-flowering verge** or applying the **single early cut** described above; routine frequency is not otherwise increased.

6.18 TREES (ESTABLISHMENT AND SAFETY)

Tree care focuses on establishment to independence and safe headroom over routes. RAS waters new trees in response to soil-moisture and heat triggers, preferably using harvested rainwater from the site system. Stakes and guards are checked regularly and removed once the tree is stable. Formative pruning concentrates on years two to five under an arboricultural brief. The Active Travel Corridor maintains clear headroom of approximately 2.5 metres, with selective crown lifting at path edges where needed.

6.19 PLAY, MULTI-USE GAMES AREA (MUGA) AND CALISTHENICS

Zone 6 remains safe, clean and clearly presented. RAS undertakes daily visual checks and litter removal, keeps mown verges and path interfaces tidy, and maintains readable edges on impact-attenuating surfacing. Formal playground inspections follow EN 1176/EN 1177 by a certified inspector. The MUGA receives regular debris removal, checks on surfacing integrity and line visibility, and prompt reporting of any fencing or goal faults. The calisthenics area is checked for fixings, foundations, clear fall zones and non-slip surfacing. Structural repairs and deep cleans are delivered by specialist contractors.

6.20 PLAZA AND EVENT READINESS

The plaza in Zone 7 is kept event-ready while functioning as an everyday forecourt. RAS leads PRC daily and after events, and provides grounds care for planters, pleached trees and bench interfaces. The Facilities Management team manages electrical outlets, Portable Appliance Testing verification for temporary equipment, and lighting operation. For programmed events, a simple “event overlay” plan defines cable routes, temporary barriers, matting, stewarding and waste points, with a pre-event safety walk and a post-event clean-down. Cycle parking and the smoking shelter are checked with the regular PRC route.

6.21 SUDS PLANTING AND INTERFACES (LANDSCAPE-ONLY SCOPE)

Landscape tasks in Zone 2 focus on the living and surface interfaces. RAS keeps visible inlets and outlets free of litter and early sediment, maintains planting cover across wet and dry bands, renews gravel mulch where specified, and repairs minor scour. Permeable and reinforced-grass parking remains tidy and vegetated, with debris removed so surfaces stay



pervious. Green-roof vegetation receives light seasonal care and observation only; roof membranes, drainage outlets and safety systems remain under Facilities Management. All hydraulic performance, below-ground structures, proprietary units, infiltration testing and jet-vac regimes remain under the Engineer's Technical Specification and the Engineer's Operations and Maintenance Manual, with RAS escalating any persistent ponding, settlement or repeated blockage.