

The Local Authority Waters Programme works with Local Authorities, public bodies and local communities to protect, maintain and improve water quality in our natural waters.

**UPDATE FOR THE MIDLANDS AND EASTERN REGION COUNTIES: DUBLIN, WICKLOW, MEATH, WESTMEATH, LONGFORD, OFFALY, KILDARE.**

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**Further information web-sites:**

watersandcommunities.ie

catchments.ie

Sign up to our seasonal  
newsletter at  
www.catchments.ie

# Catchment Catch-up Midlands and Eastern Region

Issue 2

June 2019

## Water Heritage Day Sunday 25th August 2019

Water Heritage Day occurs on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2019, the last day of National Heritage Week. It is a collaboration between The Heritage Council and the Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO). This year's Pastimes | Past times theme provides an opportunity for young and old alike to get out and discover our water heritage and the magic and wonder of our rivers, lakes, canals and coasts.

Community groups are encouraged to organise local events that can include; a guided nature walk along a river or lake, a trip to discover a holy well, a walk and talk about the built and cultural heritage of a local waterway, boating trips and much more. Contact your local Community Water Officer for more information.

The Local Authority Waters Programme works with local authorities, public bodies, stakeholders and local communities to protect, maintain and improve water quality. A healthy water environment benefits health, wildlife and the economy.

For more information on Water Heritage Day visit <https://www.heritageweek.ie>



## Community Water Development Fund 2019

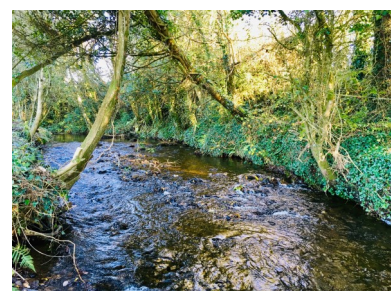
The Community Water Development Fund helps local communities deliver projects and initiatives related to water and nature. These projects deliver local benefits by enhancing the water environment and wider benefits by helping to meet water quality objectives of the national River Basin Management Plan. The fund is open to all community and voluntary groups interested in the protection and restoration of local streams, rivers, lakes and coasts. Community lead initiatives deliver improvements locally and in turn benefit the wider catchment.

There was massive interest in the fund in 2019 with a total of 151 applications, exceeding €750,000 total project costs. The amount of funding available for 2019 is €180,000. Allocation of this fund required a rigorous internal assessment followed by review and sign off by an External Evaluation Committee. A total of 105 grants were offered for 2019. Here is a link to an interactive map showing project locations and details for 2019:

[https://drive.google.com/open?id=1LAe35U3U3WieAJFI-TPPIv8K\\_IFbteH2&usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1LAe35U3U3WieAJFI-TPPIv8K_IFbteH2&usp=sharing)



Tree planting along a river bank.



Tunnelling removal from river bank.

**EVERY PERSON HAS A ROLE TO PLAY IN PROTECTING WATER QUALITY**

**WHAT**

**Conserve:**  
Fix leaky taps to conserve water

Use water butts to capture rainwater for use in the garden

Install hippo bags in toilet cisterns (a red brick would do)  
1/3 of water used in our households goes down the toilet

**Protect:**  
NO grease, oil or fats go down the drain (brown waste bag)

Only 3 Ps down go down the toilet (pee, poo, paper)

Check the septic tank regularly and desludge when necessary

Minimise your use of garden chemicals

Buy local foods and do fewer car journeys where possible

**WHY:**

*Water is precious*  
It takes 140 litres of water to make a cup of coffee (to grow the beans, transport and process them, prepare and make your coffee)

Every day each person in Ireland uses between 80 and 150 litres of water

It takes 1500 litres of water to make 1 kg of beef (that is four fat hamburgers). That is for the animal to grow, process, transport and package the meat

528,000 disposable coffee cups are discarded in Ireland every day.

*“We do not own this land, we borrow it from our grandchildren”, Ancient Native American saying*

**Ongoing activities**

As forestry is a significant pressure in a number of Priority Areas for Action (PAAs), a forestry field day was hosted by the Forest Service and the Midlands and Eastern team of the Local Authorities Waters Programme in the Ow PAA in Wicklow. The day was attended by members of the EPA, Blue Dot Programme, Coillte and Wicklow County Council. The purpose of the field day was to introduce the work of the LA Waters Programme and to gain an understanding of the different stages of forestry development and how they can impact of water quality. It was a very informative day and good discussion was had on how the various stakeholders could work together to assure protection of the watercourses in PAAs where forestry is a significant pressure.



**Community Water Development Fund—East/Midlands Update**

Community Water Development Fund projects approved for 2019 for the Midlands and Eastern Region include:

County	Applicant	Project Description	Grant
Dublin	Dodder Action	Develop an App enabling Water Quality monitoring, biodiversity, litter, river obstacles etc. along the River Dodder.	€2,500
Kildare	Ballymore Eustace Anglers	To deliver a two day, citizen science-based course for volunteers to learn how to monitor the current status of their local small streams.	€2,800
Longford	Legan Dev. Association	To create accessible pathways (including wheelchairs access) for people to enjoy the River.	€1,000
Meath	Kilberry Amenity and	Commission an ecological survey to enhance a small watercourse in our village.	€300
Offaly	BirdWatch Ireland	A citizen science River-Bird Survey to highlight the importance of key river bird species as important indicators of water quality.	€2,000
Westmeath	Multyfarnham Tidy Towns	River clean-up with signage and benches.	€1,718

For a full list of projects, please visit <http://watersandcommunities.ie/>

**Upcoming events**

Date	Meeting / Event	Venue	Time
6th June	Community Information Meeting Morell Priority Area for Action, Co. Kildare	Rathmore Community Centre, Rathmore, Co. Kildare	8:00pm
11th June	Community Information Meeting Boycetown, Priority Area for Action, Co. Meath	Trim Castle Hotel, Trim, Co. Meath	7:30pm
21st June	Rathcoffey Zero Waste Community Garden Mid-Summer Festival—official launch of the garden	Mooretown Drive, Rathcoffey, Co. Kildare	7.30pm
27th June	ASSAP Farmers Meeting Boycetown Co. Meath	Invitations to be issued by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	-
1st July	ASSAP Farmers Meeting Boycetown Co. Westmeath	Invitations to be issued by the DAFM	-
18th July	ASSAP Farmers Meeting Morell, Co. Kildare	Invitations to be issued by the DAFM	-