

This map is interactive. Click on an icon below to learn more – or scan the QR code on the information sheet.

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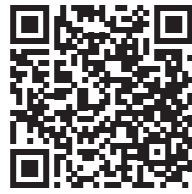
Wild Walks





Atlantic Pond / Marina Walk Trail length: 750m – 6km

The Marina Walk is a beautiful pedestrian walkway that follows the River Lee, starting from Cork harbour towards Blackrock Village. There are several different habitats along this route, such as the rocky shore by Blackrock Castle Observatory, coastal woodlands surrounding Blackrock, marshy wetlands and native woodland near Marina Walk, and the freshwater pond at Atlantic Pond. This unique area is home to a diversity of species and is an excellent hotspot for birdwatching in the city.



Ballincollig Regional Park Trail length: 1 – 5km

This 135 acre park is located on the south bank, 9km west of Cork City centre. It has a range of semi-natural and natural habitats and is home to a number of bird, butterfly and bat species as well as moths, damselflies, and dragon flies. Several mammals call the park home – the badger, red fox, hedgehog, stoat, pygmy shrew, and otter. The extensive stone wall on site provides a unique habitat, where small plants and ferns can flourish. There is an impressive pollinator trail created by Ballincollig Tidy Towns.



Ballybrack Wood / Mangala Trail length: 1.2km

Ballybrack Woods, locally known as the Mangala is located opposite the Douglas Community Park. The area covers approximately 75,000m² of semi-urban woodland, wet willow woodland, meadow, wet grassland, scrub and has the Douglas river running through it. This area of the river is the last remaining section where the public can see it in its more natural state and is home to brown trout and otters and provides a food resource (insects) to leister's bat, common pipistrelle and soprano pipistrelle.



Beaumont Quarry Trail length: 1.2km

Beaumont Quarry, in Ballintemple, is a disused limestone quarry. The site has a cave network and is characterised by calcareous grassland which is a rare habitat in Ireland. Rare flowers such as the little robin, pal flax and common toadflax flourish amongst the grass and limestone cracks. There are also patches of broad-leaved woodland, wet willow wood, scrub and hedgerow. On a sunny day, you are likely to spot butterflies, like the tortoiseshell butterfly, as well as a plenty of busy bumblebees, amongst the flowers.



Blarney River – Waterloo Trail Trail length: 2.4 – 5.6km

The trail is situated between Station and Waterloo Roads. The site was acquired by Cork City Council in 2020 with the aim of improving the walkway and creating an amenity park. Points of interest along the trail include the mill pond, which used to power the Blarney Woollen Mills. The grassland's most common species are Yorkshire-fog, meadow foxtail and sweet vernal grass. The woodland and grassland support a variety of songbirds and insects, such as the blue tit, great tit, large white butterfly, and orange-tip butterfly.



Clogenmilcon Sanctuary Trail length: 6.4km

Clogenmilcon Woods is situated on the eastern edge of Blarney, south of the R617. Also known as 'Blarney bog', this site consists of over 100 acres of wildlife sanctuary (designated National Heritage Area), with a mixture of wet grassland, peatland, and broad-leaved woodland. Vegetation is typical of the habitat types. The woods contain an abundance of Willow, Oak and Beech. Silver birch, field horsetail and black medick are also present in the area.



Cork Lough Trail length: 1 km

Cork Lough is a shallow, spring-fed lake located in the south-west of the city. It has been a designated a wildlife sanctuary due to the presence of important waterfowl. A large island in the centre of the lake acts as a refuge, roosting and breeding area for residential and migratory birds. Commonly recorded birds include many different species of gulls, coot, mute swan, mallard, moorhen and greylag goose. Below the water line, carp populations thrive. Trees line the walkway, providing an ideal habitat for bats and songbirds.



Curraheen Walkway Trail length: 5km

This walkway has long been established as an excellent resource for wildlife and people. In 2021 it underwent extensive civil work to install street lighting and a cycle path along its entire route. The trail connects Curraheen Road, Bishopstown, all the way to River Lee field, Cork City. This trail consists of many different habitats, from mature and young native woodland, ponds, and grassland to high-quality native riparian vegetation along the river, as noted at Murphy's Farm, Bishopstown.



Doman's Wood, Grange Trail length: 1.5km

Doman's Woods is located along a tributary of the Douglas river in Donnybrook and Grange. Also sometimes known locally as Shelly's Woods. Trees found in the woods include, sycamore, ash, horse chestnut, hawthorn, oak, alder, and yew. Shade in the woods and the tributary running through it, mean there are plenty of fungi, lichens, and ferns growing at the forest floor. This includes male fern, soft shield fern, haircap moss, fly agaric mushroom and sulphur tuft.



Hazelwood Trail Trail length: 188m

This pocket-sized site is only 188m long, but shouldn't be overshadowed by the larger woodlands located just over 300m to its left and right. It may look unassuming at first but in fact, the site acts as an important urban wildlife corridor. Open grass, dense vegetation and woodland create structured habitats that provide food and shelter for butterfly species including Small tortoiseshell, red admiral, and speckled wood, and insects such as the shield bug, Dock bug.



John O'Callaghan Park Trail length: 850m

John O'Callaghan Park is a medium sized park bordered by the River Glashaboy and Butlerstown River and situated in an otherwise highly urbanised area. The park and adjacent woodland contain a wide diversity of habitats and wildlife. John O'Callaghan park has a playground and outdoor gym area and walking trail that is just under 1 km in length – not including trails through the woodland located at the centre of the park.



Otter Trail Cork Trail length: 2.6km

This trail follows the River Lee from Christ Ring Bridge, on the banks of the Lee walkway down to Fitzgerald Park. Otters can be spotted along this route at dawn and dusk. Cork Nature Network have a series of signs describing the diet, habitat and life of otters along the route. Find out more about the Otter project here: <https://corknaturenetwork.ie/otters-cork/>



Parkowen Trail length: 156m

Parkowen, formally St. John's cemetery, is located just off of Quaker Road on the south side of Douglas Street. Also known as St. John's Park, this grassland habitat is afforded protection as a heritage site and has since been repurposed as a public amenity. Once neglected, this park has since been rewilded to its natural state as part of the Green Spaces for Health project, carried out by Cork City Council with advice from Cork Nature Network. The space is now rich in wildflowers, native trees and shrub species.



The Bog, Vernon Mount Trail length: 1 – 2km

Vernon Mount is a wooded valley in the Grange-Frankfield region, just south of the South Ring Road (N40). Vernon Mount is only 140 metres south of Tramore Valley park and in fact, used to be an extension of Carroll's Bog before being separated by the N40. This site covers approximately 160,000m² and is the demesne of the original Vernon Mount house built in the 1700s. This area consists of a broad-leaved wooded valley to the east and some sparsely vegetated grassland to the west.



The Glen River Amenity Park Trail length: 1 – 3.5km

The Glen River Park is situated in a deep steep-sided glacial valley on the north side of the City, just off the North Ring Road. Once the place of Goulding's factory in the 1850s, the site was donated to the people of Cork in the late 1960s and has since been repurposed, in part, as the Glen River Amenity Park. Here you will find an amazing display of habitats, wildlife and walking paths, as well as an open-access sports field. Glen Park provides a connection between Blackpool, the Glen, and Ballvolane.



Tramore Valley Park Trail length: 2.5km

Located just 3 kilometres from the city centre, this is Cork city's largest park at 150 acres and boasts an impressive array of walks, such as the 2.5 km Robert Hernan walk. At the centre of the park is a unique dome feature that allows for stunning views of Cork city. There are 3 entrances to the park, including the Douglas to Tramore walk and cycle path. The walkway from South Douglas Road acts as a nature corridor, connecting wild habitats across cork city and suburbs.

