Mainstreaming Nature-based Solutions

The Rivers Trust

Intercepting urban runoff

Dublin Rainscapes

Webinar Recording

NbS Intervention Excel Sheet

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During heavy rainfall, water flows quickly from impermeable surfaces through drains into watercourses. This urban runoff increases flood risk and carries pollutants. If it goes into combined sewers, it can cause sewage overflows. SuDS slow, clean and allow water to infiltrate before it reaches watercourses.

Design and delivery

Matching a **problem** (polluted watercourse) with an **opportunity** (Council-owned sites)

2021/2022 Catchment assessment ➜ site selection ➜ tendering ➜ initial site analysis and concept design.

2022/2023 Early stakeholder engagement. Designed SuDS retrofit for people first with a provision for improved biodiversity and to deliver water treatment and attenuation to maximum available opportunity.

2024/2025 Construction

2025/2026 Monitoring and reporting

Open areas were formalised, making space for SuDS without loss of car parking for residents.

At a glance

2.6 ha **impermeable area collected by the SuDS**
2 green spaces + 5 cul-de-sacs

0.4 ha **of SuDS features**
swales + basins + rain gardens + tree trenches + permeable paving

400,000 L **storage**
in 1:100 year storm events

Average 76% ↓
in flow to Santry River from each feature

McAuley Park, Ribh Road and Lein Road near the Santry River, Dublin, ROI

Client: Dublin City Council
Co-Funder: Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage.
Design: McCloy Consulting, supported by Robert Bray Associates
Construction: Redlough Landscapes

© McCloy Consulting

Composite plastic weirs and vegetation in the swales allow water to infiltrate, be taken up by plants, and discharge slowly to the Santry River.

Plants tolerant of both drought and inundation, from accredited nurseries.

*The Rivers Trust compiled this case study but was not involved in its delivery.