

5.1 Quantity Assessment

5.1.1 For the purposes of the study a sample of 400 open spaces was used, based on a size threshold greater than and equal to 0.2 hectares (2,000 m²). This sample amounts to 766.61 hectares (1,894.3 acres) of land, equivalent to 3.95 hectares (9.76 acres) per 1,000 population (see Table 5.1).

5.1.2 Applying the two category types set out in the DLR Typology, the study identified 63 Park sites on 551.60 hectares (1,363 acres) of land. This equates to a provision of 2.84 hectares (7.02 acres) per 1,000 people. In the Open Space type, there are 337 sites on 215.01 hectares (531.3 acres). This equates to a provision of 1.11 hectares (2.69 acres) per 1,000 people.

Overall, these figures are in compliance with the Department of Environment’s guidelines on the provision of parks and open space (Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas, Dec. 2008, p. 29).

5.1.3 The average size of Parks sites is 8.76 hectares (21.6 acres) and the average size of Open Space sites is 0.64 hectares (1.58 acres).

5.1.4 The Open Space sites tend to be smaller than the Parks sites and are located in dense urban areas mainly in residential estates.

5.1.5 The audit found that the provision of Parks, Open Spaces and Outdoor Recreational Facilities is unevenly distributed across the county. There are variations within the provision of Parks and Open Spaces according to type at the electoral area, which are described and analysed below. The spatial distribution of all open spaces, according to typology is shown in Map 1 (see also Appendix A: Maps 1.1 to 1.6).

Table 5.1 Existing countywide provision per 1,000 population

Typology	Hierarchy	Total Hectares	Number of sites	Provision per 1,000
Parks (Class 1)	Flagship Parks	181.31	6*	0.93
	Major Local Parks	153.34	7	0.79
	Local Parks	217.95	50	1.12
TOTAL Parks		551.60	63	2.84
Open Space (Class 2)	Amenity Open Space	205.04	333	1.06
	Civic Open Space	9.97	4	0.05
TOTAL Open Space		215.01	337	1.11
GRAND TOTAL		766.61	400	3.95

* People’s Park and Newtownsmith sites comprise one of 5 Flagship Parks

Parks (Class 1 Open Space)

5.1.6 Glencullen electoral area has the greatest provision at 175.49 hectares (433.64 acres), while Stillorgan electoral area has the lowest provision at 59.91 hectares (148.08 acres).




The data for each of the 6 electoral areas is summarised, as follows:

- 1. Ballybrack** electoral area has 16 sites or 25% of the total number classified as Parks, these sites occupy 26% of the total land provided as Parks (143.84 ha). The quantitative provision in Ballybrack 3.48 ha/1,000, – the second highest level of provision.
- 2. Blackrock** electoral area has 6 sites or 9.5% of the total parks in the county. This equates to just 5.6% (32.7 ha.) of the total hectares of Parks, making it the area with the second lowest level of total quantitative provision, just above Dundrum in terms of hectares/1,000 (1.11 ha./1,000).




DLRCC Open Space Strategy

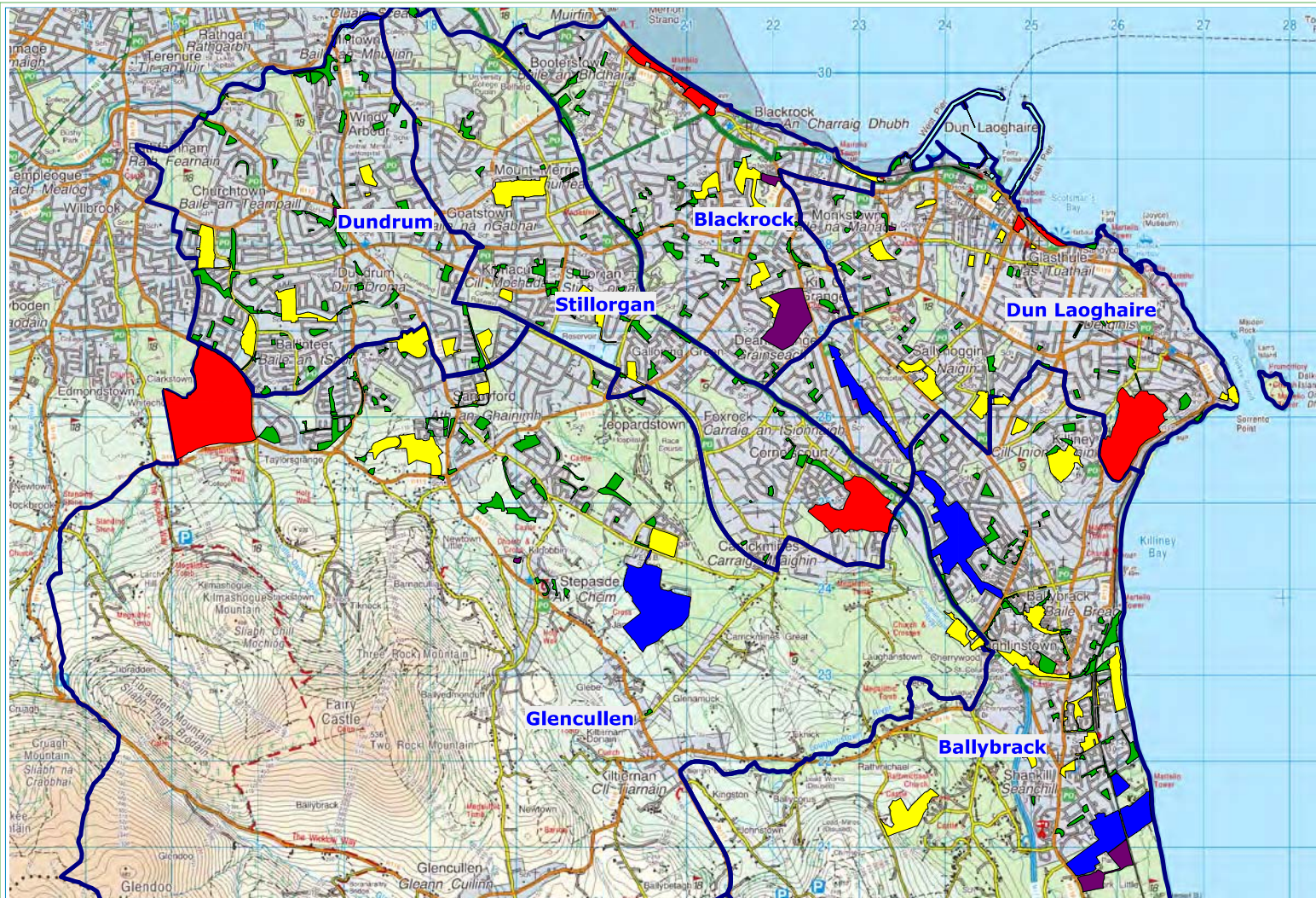
 Electoral Area Boundaries

Parks

-  Flagship Park
-  Major Local Park
-  Local Parks

Open Space

-  Amenity Open Space
-  Civic Open Space
-  Cemeteries and Burial Grounds



Map 1

Open space by typology

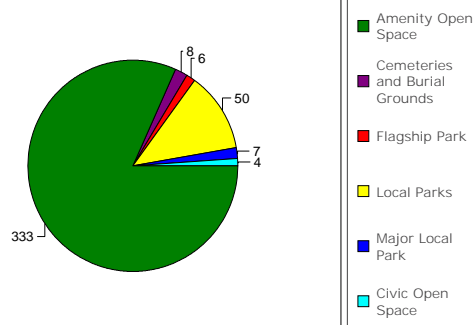
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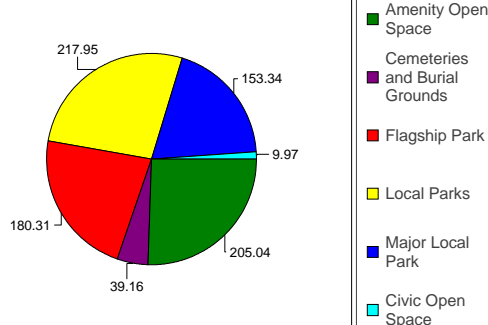


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Number of parks and open spaces by typology



Hectares of parks and open space by typology



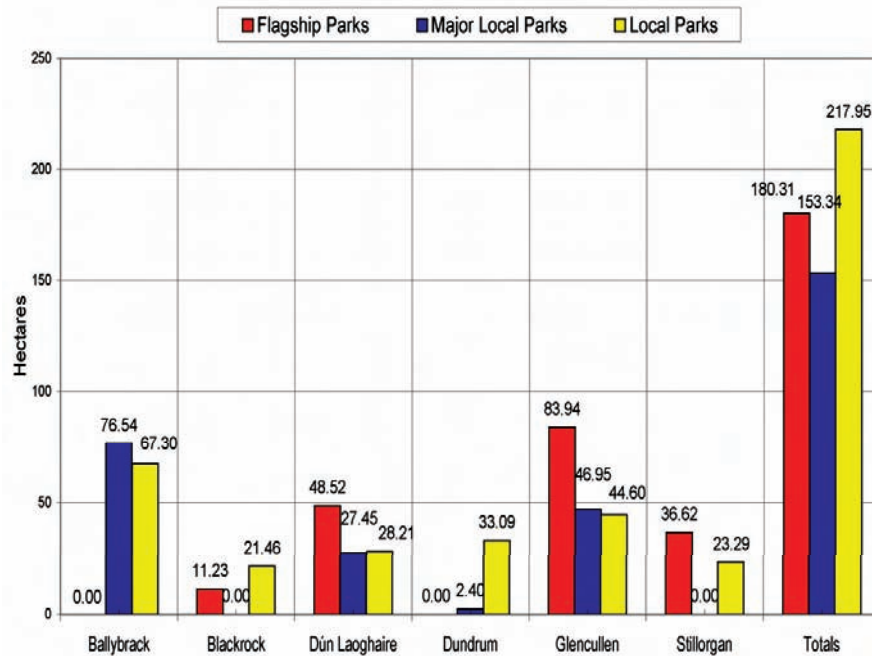
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Figure 5.1- Distribution of Parks by Hierarchy and Electoral Area



3. Dún Laoghaire electoral area has the largest number of Parks sites with 18 sites or 29% of all Parks in the county. However, due to their comparatively small size, the total land area is 104.18 hectares - 19% of all Parks in the county. The quantity provision is 2.59 ha./1,000 for this area.

4. Dundrum electoral area has 8 sites: a total area of 35.49 hectares, representing 12.6% of the total number of Parks sites (6.4% of total land area. The provision is 0.95 hectares /1,000 – the lowest of all electoral areas.

5. Glencullen electoral area has 15.9% of the total number of Parks sites (10 in total) but the substantial size of these (particularly the 83.94 hectare Marlay Park) means that 31.8% of all parks, in terms of land area, are in the

Glencullen electoral area. The localised level of provision is therefore very high – at 6.8 ha/1,000.

6. Stillorgan electoral area has the smallest number of sites overall (5), at 7.9% of all Parks. In terms of their size, with a total area of 59.91ha, this is equivalent to 3.02ha./1,000.

5.1.8 The provision may be summarised as follows, using the hierarchy classification in the typology:

1. Flagship Parks

The county's 5 Flagship Parks occupy 181.31 hectares. The provision of Flagship Parks is equivalent to 0.93 hectares per 1,000 population. The greatest level of provision in terms of Flagship Parks is found in Glencullen (83.94 hectares); with Dún Laoghaire (48.52ha), and Stillorgan (36.62ha) also providing sizable spaces of this classification.

2. Major Local Parks

The county has 7 sites and provision of 153.34 hectares designated as major Local Parks. Many of these sites are linked, acting as important linear elements within the county's open space network.

The provision of major Local Parks equates to 0.79 ha per 1,000 population. Ballybrack has the largest amount of provision of this type (76.54 ha.), with 39.85 hectares provided on a single site (Kilbogget Park). Dundrum has one Major Local Park (2.4 ha.), Dún Laoghaire has one site (Clonkeen Park: 27.45 ha.) and Glencullen also has one, at Jamestown Park (46.95 ha.).

3. Local Parks

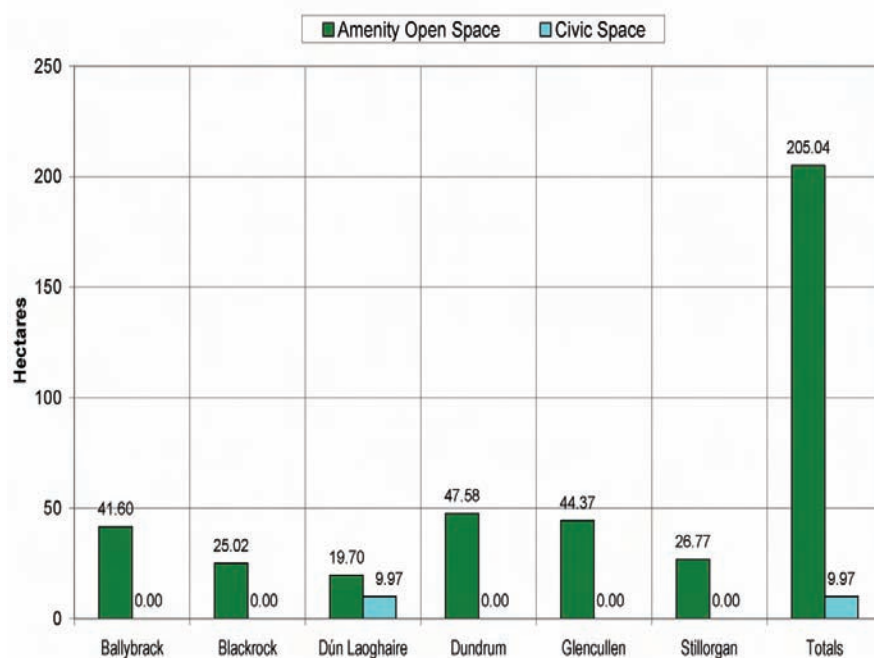
The county has 50 sites classified as Local Parks, which occupy 217.95 hectares – the largest amount of land (39.5%) within the Parks typology.

- The provision of Local Parks equates to 1.12 hectares per 1,000
- The number of Local Parks account for 79.4% of all Parks sites
- The lowest total level of provision is in Blackrock (21.46 ha.)

Open Space (Class 2 Open Space)

5.1.9 The county has 337 Open Space sites that are classified as either Amenity Open Space (333 no.) or Civic Open Space (4 no.). Altogether, these sites occupy 215.04 hectares and provide the county with 1.11 hectares per 1,000 population.

Figure 5.2- Distribution of Open Space by electoral area



5.1.10 The Amenity Open Spaces are predominantly informal spaces mainly located in residential areas. This provision enables local people to

take part in active and passive recreation, including play, in close proximity to their homes.

5.1.11 The spatial distribution of Open Space, relative to the electoral areas, is shown in Figure 5.2.

5.1.12 Amenity Open Spaces occupy 205.01 hectares, equal to 26.7% of the total land provided as Parks and Open Space and make up 83% of the total number of sites within the 400 total sample size.

5.1.13 The audit has identified 4 major Civic Spaces, all on the Dún Laoghaire seafront, as follows:-

1. East Pier promenades (3.80 hectares)
2. West Pier promenades and Breakwater (5.28 hectares)
3. Ferry Terminal Plaza (0.38 hectares)
4. Marina Breakwater (0.51 hectares)

These 4 sites are significant recreational elements in the town. The East Pier, and Ferry Terminal Plaza in particular provide important venues for cultural activities and events.

5.1.14 The privately-owned plaza at Dundrum shopping centre was not included in the quantity audit. However, DLR recognises its importance as a local communal and cultural place in the public life of Dundrum village.

5.1.15 There are 8 Cemeteries and Burial Grounds providing 39.32 hectares of open space, a provision of 0.20 ha. per 1,000 population. These are excluded from the overall provision for Open Space, as quantity standards have not been developed for burial grounds and cemeteries; and since their primary use is for burying and commemorating the dead, rather than for recreation. The provision per 1,000 is shown merely to illustrate the current level of provision and the contribution cemeteries and burial grounds make to a broader view of open space provision across the county.

5.2 Quality Assessment

5.2.1 The purpose of the quality audit was to establish a baseline indication of the variation in the quality of parks and open space provision, not only by the type of open space, but also the variation in quality by geographical areas across the county. The audit has provided the baseline assessment and an indication of where things need to be improved.

5.2.2 The quality audit has assessed sites from a visitor’s perspective and against factors that are recognised quality criteria in relation to parks and open spaces (for more details see Appendix C), including the attractiveness of entrances (how welcoming they are), the degree of cleanliness and the standard of maintenance of hard and soft landscape elements. Small elements can have an adverse effect on the perception of personal safety in open spaces. Broken or damaged furniture and vandalism leave a negative impression on visitors. The lack of information, signage and seating also dissuade people from entering and/or staying in an open space.

5.2.3 Based on the above criteria, sites were assessed on a scale from 'Very Poor to 'Excellent', using the quality line below. This reflects the score for each site and represents a 'snapshot' in time. The audit was carried out during the summer of 2009.

0 -15%	16 -30%	31 - 45%	46 - 60%	61 - 75%	76 -100%
Very Poor	Poor	Below Average	Average	Good	Excellent

5.2.4 Table 5.2 below illustrates the variation in quality scores for 'Good' and 'Excellent' for parks and open space by electoral area - see Map 2 (also Appendix A: Maps 2.1 to 2.6).

Table 5.2 Summary of Quality across all open spaces in DLR

Typology	Hierarchy	Quality Range	Average Quality Score	Average Quality Rating
Parks	Flagship Park	58%-83%	71%	Good
	Major Local	34%-80%	57%	Average
	Local Parks	22%-71%	46%	Average
Parks Total		22%-83%	50%	Average
Open Space	Amenity O.S.	17%-78%	47%	Average
	Civic O.S.	not audited	n/a	n/a
Amenity Total		17%-78%	47%	Average
Overall Quality		17%-83%	48%	Average

5.2.4 The audit scores for the different hierarchy types reflect their relative position in the hierarchy with Flagship Parks consistently scoring the highest across all electoral areas.

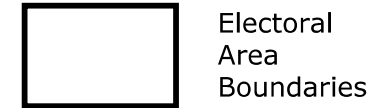
Table 5.2 illustrates a consistent 'Average' quality across the different hierarchy categories, resulting in an overall countywide rating of 48%. Factors that affect the quality are the lack of basic infrastructure such as benches, signage and in some cases, litter bins.

Parks

5.2.5 The overall findings of the audit are highlighted below. The audit found that the overall average score for Parks was 'Average' (Table 5.2). In terms of the relevant hierarchy:

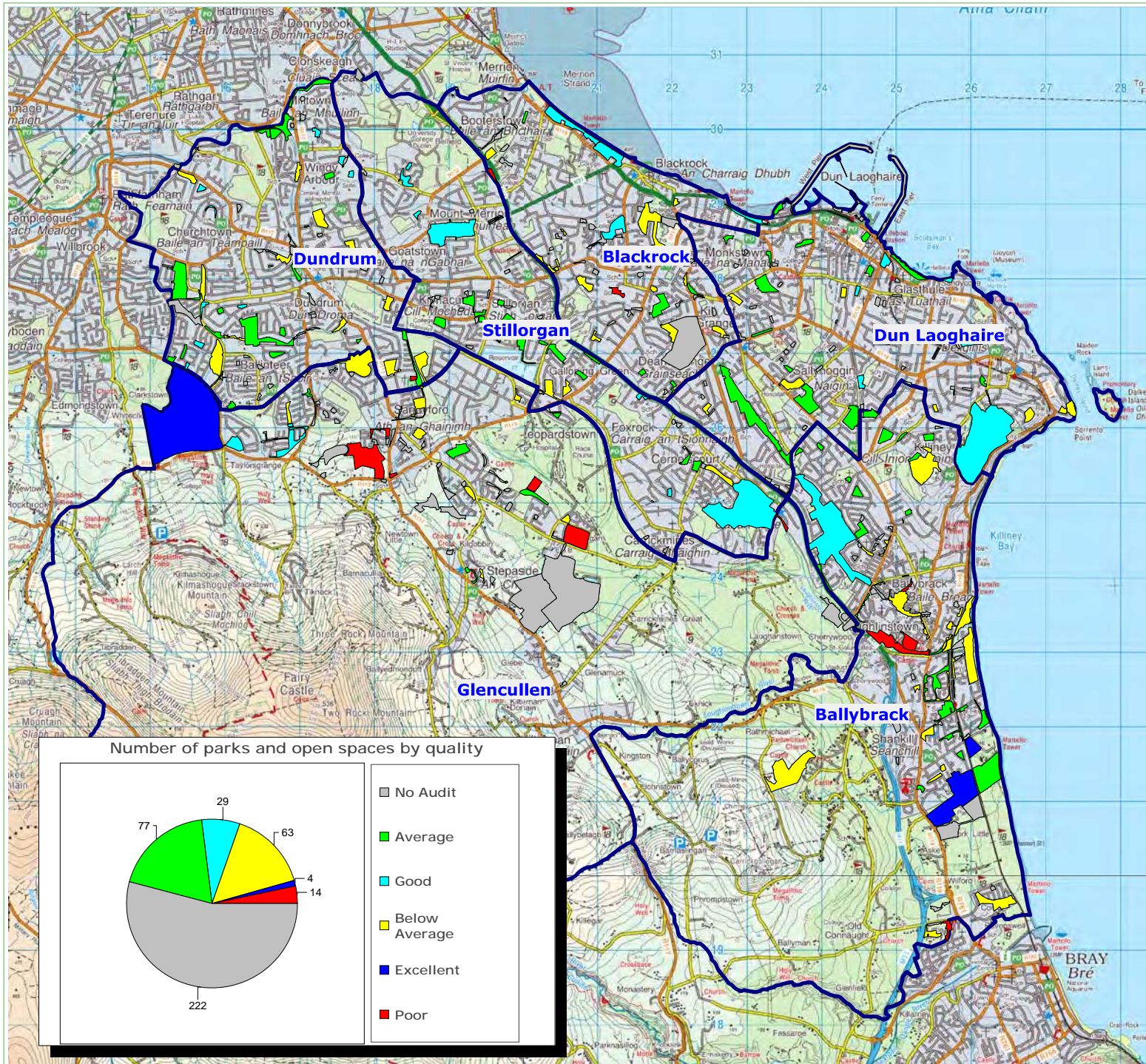
- Flagship Parks were well within the 'Good' score range.
- Major Local Parks were well within the 'Average' range
- Local Parks rated at just above 'Average'

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Quality Range

■ Excellent	(4)
■ Good	(29)
■ Average	(77)
■ Below Average	(63)
■ Poor	(14)
■ No Audit	(222)



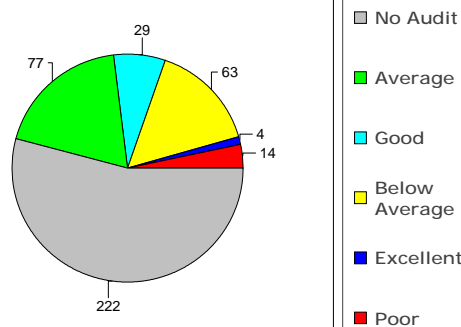
Map 2

Open space by quality

Scale : 1 : 75,000

Date : November 2010

Number of parks and open spaces by quality



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5.2.6 The audit found that 61 % of sites categorised as Parks had no benches or notice boards that would inform users of site ownership and DLR's management approach. For sites categorised as Open Space the lack of seating was far greater with 90%+ of sites having none. However, this apparently high level of non-provision needs to be seen in the context that seating may be inappropriate in certain sites, for example in small residential amenity sites, whose primary use is informal play, passive recreation.

5.2.7 Since the quality audit was carried out, DLR Parks Service has made a substantial investment in large, new high quality notice boards. In all, 36 notice boards were installed at 11 Flagship and Major Local Parks in late 2009 and early 2010 (see Appendix C). These significant new pieces of infrastructure would be likely to improve quality scores, if the 2009 audit were now updated.



New composite notice boards at Marlay Park, Rathfarnham

Table 5.3 Summary of quality of parks and open space by electoral area

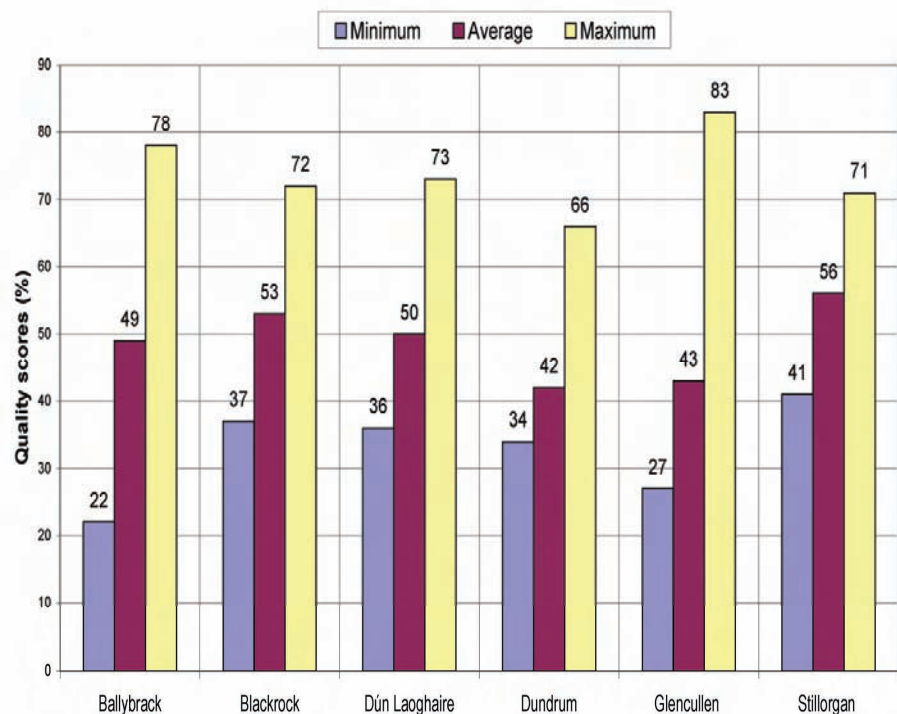
Electoral Area	Total audited sites	No. of sites 'Good' - 'Excellent'	% of sites 'Good' - 'Excellent'
Ballybrack	50	4	8%
Blackrock	22	3	2%
Dún Laoghaire	29	8	25%
Dundrum	40	9	22%
Glencullen	23	4	17%
Stillorgan	23	7	30%
Countywide totals	187	37	19.8%

5.2.8 The audit also noted that quality varied within the electoral areas (Fig.5.3The audit revealed that a significant variation in the quality of sites within Parks with the quality varying from 'Poor' for Loughlinstown Linear Park to 'Excellent' for Marlay Park.).

5.2.9 Of the Park sites rated in Stillorgan electoral area, 30% were 'Good' to 'Excellent', while in Dún Laoghaire electoral area the figure was 25%. In Dundrum electoral area 22% of sites audited achieved these standards. The lowest score was for sites in the Ballybrack and Blackrock electoral areas.

5.2.10 It is important to note that Ballybrack, Dundrum and Glencullen electoral areas fall below the county average quality score for Parks (50%). Figure 5.2 show the highest overall average score is in the Stillorgan electoral area (56%) with Dundrum as the lowest (42%). The greatest variation is seen in Ballybrack, within a range of 56% from lowest to highest scoring sites. Dundrum has the least variation in quality (21%).

Fig. 5.3 Parks - range of quality scores by electoral area



5.2.11 Generally, sites are of an 'Average' or 'Below Average' quality. Table 5.3 shows that 16% of the Amenity Open Spaces in the sample are of 'Good' to 'Excellent' quality. The figure is low because Ballybrack and Blackrock did not have any sites within this quality standard.

5.2.12 In total, 58 amenity sites rated above 'Average' (43% of the total 133 sample size) and 20 sites of these sites (16% of the total sample) rated above 61% and therefore reached a 'Good' to 'Excellent' standard.

5.2.13 The audit found a significant variation in the quality of sites, ranging from 17 to 78%. Quality also varied within the county's six electoral areas, as shown in Figure 5.4 and Table 5.5. Glencullen electoral area has the greatest variation in quality within a range of 49% from the lowest score to the highest.

5.2.14 The lowest overall average quality scores were found in Blackrock. The range of scores was 28% with the best site scoring only 56%, resulting in a low overall average of 39% for this electoral area.

Figure 5.4 Amenity Open Space - range of quality scores by electoral area

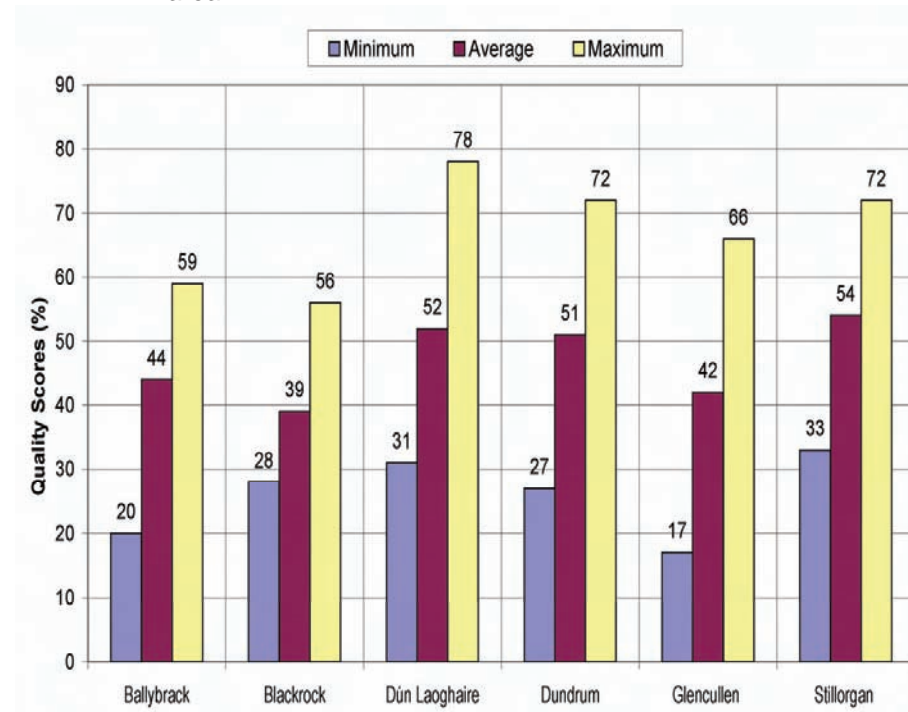


Table 5.5 Amenity Open Space Quality scores by electoral area

Electoral Area	Range	Average	Average Rating
Ballybrack	20-59%	44%	Below Average
Blackrock	28-56%	39%	Below Average
Dún Laoghaire	31-78%	52%	Average
Dundrum	27-72%	51%	Average
Glencullen	17-66%	42%	Below Average
Stillorgan	33-72%	54%	Average
County totals	17-78%	50%	Average

Stillorgan electoral area scored consistently higher standards for individual sites resulted in it returning the highest average overall score for all electoral areas (54%).

5.2.15 The Audit was a useful means of identifying the following significant parks and open spaces which require improvement.

The nature of improvements will depend on the character of the space, for example Fitzsimons Wood will require very different treatment to the playing fields in Rosemount Park. In some of the sites identified improvements have already been carried out. However, reports will be prepared for each of the Council's Area Committees that analyse requirements and set out plans to achieve the required improvements.

5.2.16 The results point to the need for capital investment. The improvements required are not significant nor cost-prohibitive, if a phased approach were adopted. It is proposed to bring each type to a minimum standard over a 4-year period (see Chapter 7, Setting the Standards).

Table 5.6 List of sites requiring improvement

No.	Site Name	Electoral Area	Quality Rating
1	Loughlinstown Woods open space	Ballybrack	Poor
2	Galloping Green / Belmont	Blackrock	Below Average
3	Tobernea Park	Blackrock	Poor
4	Dillon's Park, Dalkey	Dun Laoghaire	Below Average
5	Royal Terrace, Dún Laoghaire	Dun Laoghaire	Below Average
6	Sorrento Park, Dalkey	Dun Laoghaire	Below Average
7	Sallynoggin Park (North)	Dun Laoghaire	Below Average
8	Moreen, Sandyford	Glencullen	Below Average
9	Ballawley Park	Glencullen	Below Average
10	Sandyford Hall Park	Glencullen	Below Average
11	Roche's Hill, Killiney	Ballybrack	Below Average
12	Loughlinstown Linear Park	Ballybrack	Poor
13	Woodbrook Glen/ Corke Abbey, Bray	Ballybrack	Below Average
14	Rosemount Park	Dundrum	Below Average
15	Farranboley	Dundrum	Below Average
16	Badgers Glen	Dundrum	Below Average
17	Taney Avenue	Dundrum	Below Average
18	Blackthorn Park	Dundrum	Below Average
19	Ballyogan Road	Glencullen	Poor
20	Bearna Park	Glencullen	Below Average
21	Fitzsimons Wood	Glencullen	Poor

5.3 Outcome of Accessibility Assessment

5.3.1 An assessment of accessibility was undertaken, using the public consultation feedback and the customised GIS dataset that has been developed as part of this Strategy. The aim was to identify the extent to which local residents are able to access the differing forms of open space provision across the county. The assessment is based on the distance local people are prepared to travel to parks and open spaces.

5.3.2 The travel times (walking) have been translated into distances, to arrive at accessibility thresholds (catchments) for each of the two types of open space in the typology. The threshold for Parks is 600 metres (8 minutes) and that for Open Space is 400 metres (6 minutes).

5.3.3 The thresholds are based on straight line ('as-the-crow-flies') distances and do not take into account geographic considerations such as severance lines caused by roads, rivers, and railways. These thresholds have been digitally mapped relative to the county's District Electoral Divisions (Map 3) to show their catchments in relation to the spatial distribution of all open space sites. The mapped catchment areas were then analysed using the Geo-directory for the county.

5.3.4 There is no appropriate accessibility standard for cemeteries. As they are important elements in the open space network however, careful consideration should be given to needs of the elderly and more infirm visitors by improving existing access arrangements.

Parks

5.3.5 Table 5.7 shows the number of households on an electoral area basis relative to the 600m threshold for Parks.

Table 5.7 Parks - Access Catchment: 600m

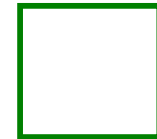
Electoral Area	No. of households within catchment	% of households <u>outside</u> catchment area	% of households <u>within</u> catchment area
Ballybrack	10,438	7%	93%
Blackrock	6,862	29%	71%
Dún Laoghaire	13,318	5%	95%
Dundrum	10,364	24%	76%
Glencullen	4,785	43%	57%
Stillorgan	6,791	23%	77%
Total	52,558	20%	80%

- 80% of all households in the county are within 600m of a park.
- Only 5% of households in the Dún Laoghaire electoral area are outside the catchment
- The main access deficiency is in Glencullen where 43% of households fall outside the catchment. It is worth bearing in mind that, due to its rural character other types of open space in the rural landscapes may meet the local communities' needs.

Amenity Open Space

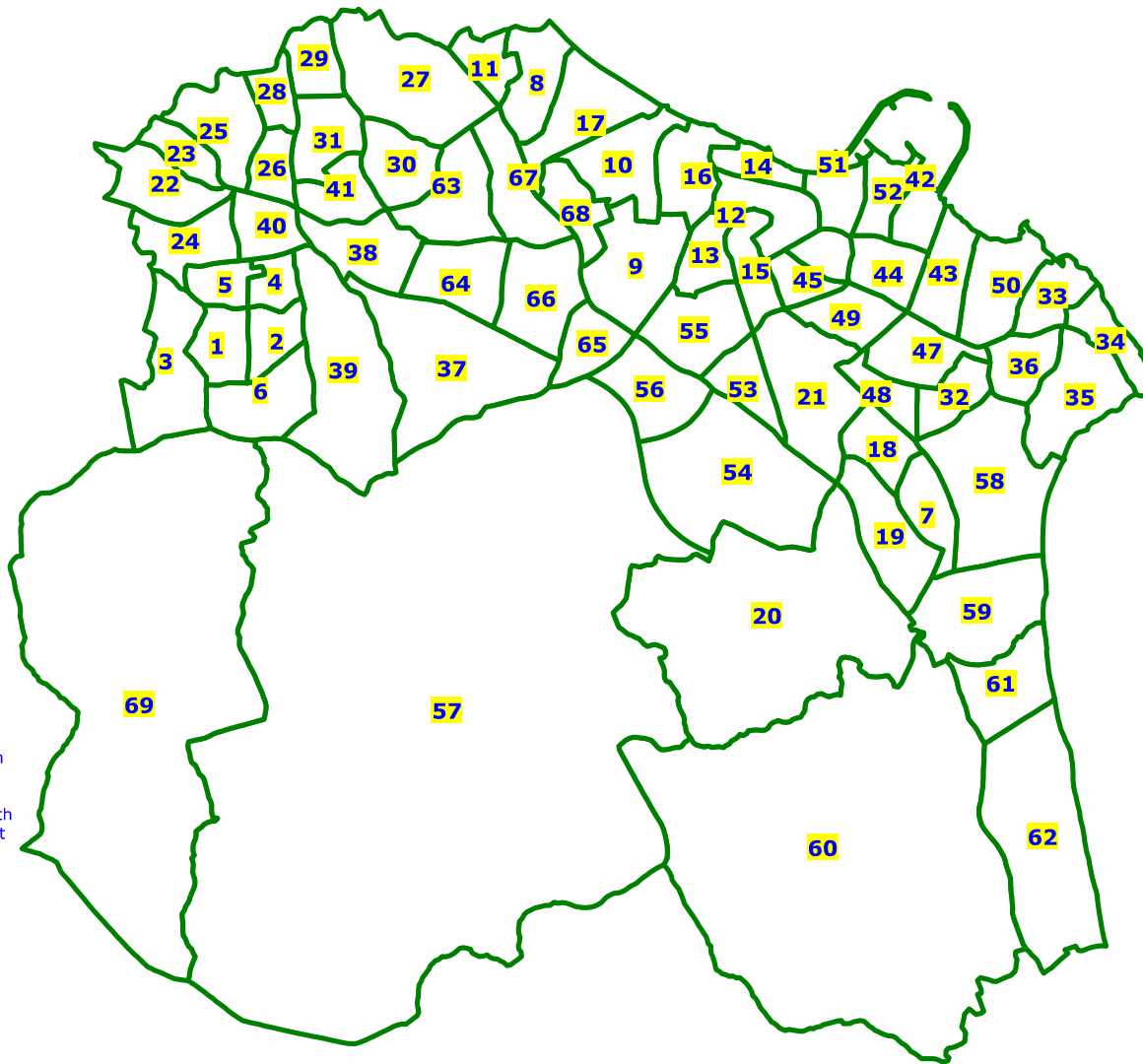
5.3.6 Table 5.8 shows the number of households relative to the 400m threshold for Amenity Open space.

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District
Electoral
Divisions

- 001 Ballinteer-Broadford
- 002 Ballinteer-Ludford
- 003 Ballinteer-Marley
- 004 Ballinteer-Meadowbroads
- 005 Ballinteer-Meadowmount
- 006 Ballinteer-Woodpark
- 007 Ballybrack
- 008 Blackrock-Boosterstown
- 009 Blackrock-Carysfort
- 010 Blackrock-Central
- 011 Blackrock-Glenomena
- 012 Blackrock-Monkstown
- 013 Blackrock-Newpark
- 014 Blackrock-Seapoint
- 015 Blackrock-Stradbrock
- 016 Blackrock-Templehill
- 017 Blackrock-Williamstown
- 018 Cabinteely-Granitefield
- 019 Cabinteely-Kilboqget
- 020 Cabinteely-Loughlinstown
- 021 Cabinteely-Pottery
- 022 Churchtown-Castle
- 023 Churchtown-Landscape
- 024 Churchtown-Nutgrove
- 025 Churchtown-Orwell
- 026 Churchtown-Woodlawn
- 027 Clonskeagh-Belfield
- 028 Clonskeagh-Farranboley
- 029 Clonskeagh-Milltown
- 030 Clonskeagh-Roebuck
- 031 Clonskeagh-Windy Arbour
- 032 Dalkey-Avondale
- 033 Dalkey-Bullock
- 034 Dalkey-Coliemore
- 035 Dalkey Hill
- 036 Dalkey Upper
- 037 Dundrum-Balally
- 038 Dundrum-Kilmacud
- 039 Dundrum-Sandyford
- 040 Dundrum-Sweetmount
- 041 Dundrum-Taney
- 042 Dún Laoghaire-East Central
- 043 Dún Laoghaire-Glasthule
- 044 Dún Laoghaire-Glenageary
- 045 Dún Laoghaire-Monkstown Farm
- 046 Dún Laoghaire-Mount Town
- 047 Dún Laoghaire-Sallynoggin East
- 048 Dún Laoghaire-Sallynoggin South
- 049 Dún Laoghaire-Sallynoggin West
- 050 Dún Laoghaire-Sandycove
- 051 Dún Laoghaire-Salthill
- 052 Dún Laoghaire-West Central
- 053 Foxrock-Beechpark
- 054 Foxrock-Carrickmines
- 055 Foxrock-Deans Grange
- 056 Foxrock-Torquay
- 057 Glencullen
- 058 Killiney North
- 059 Killiney South
- 060 Shankill-Rathmichael
- 061 Shankill-Rathsallagh
- 062 Shankill-Shanqanaah
- 063 Stillorgan-Deerpark
- 064 Stillorgan-Kilmacud
- 065 Stillorgan-Leopardstown
- 066 Stillorgan-Merville
- 067 Stillorgan-Mount Merrion
- 068 Stillorgan-Priory
- 069 Tibbradden



Map 3

District Electoral Divisions

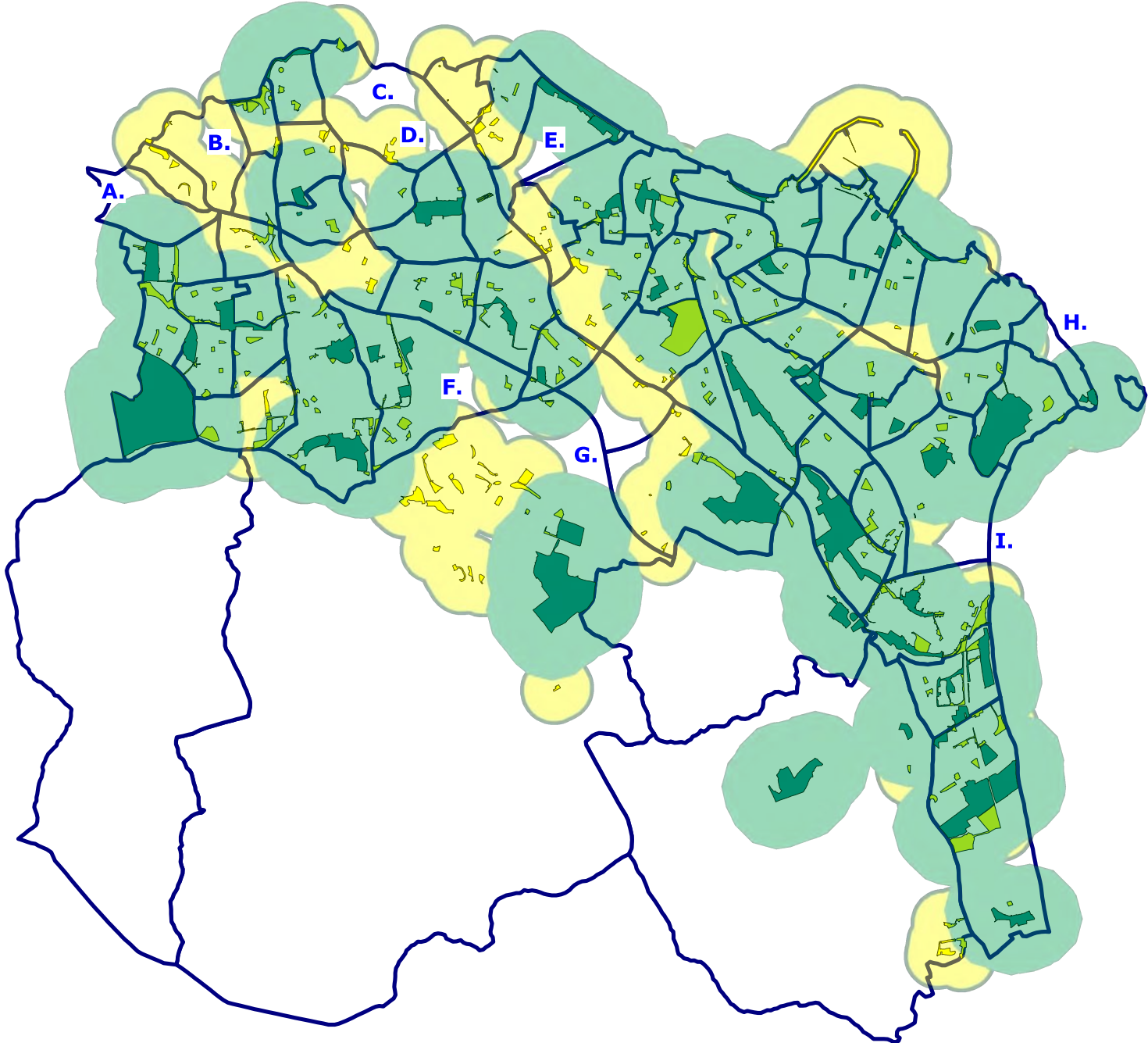
Scale : N/A

Date : November 2010





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 District Electoral Divisions

 Parks:
600 m accessibility buffer

 Open spaces:
400 m accessibility buffer

Map 4
Parks & Amenity Open Space:
Accessibility

Scale : 1 : 75,000

Date : November 2010



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Table 5.8 Amenity Open Space - Access Catchment: 400m

Electoral Area	No. of households within catchment	% of households <u>outside</u> catchment area	% of households <u>within</u> catchment area
Ballybrack	10,987	7%	93%
Blackrock	9573	7%	93%
Dún Laoghaire	14,116	12%	88%
Dundrum	13,632	1%	99%
Glencullen	8,021	13%	87%
Stillorgan	8,615	12%	88%
Total	64,944	8%	92%

- 92% of households in the county are within 400m. of an open space.
- 99% of households in the electoral area of Dundrum are within 400m of open space; while Ballybrack and Blackrock only fall short by 7%
- Countywide, for Amenity Open Space the deficiency is much less than for Parks, with only 8% of the area being outside the 400m. accessibility threshold compared to 20% for Parks outside the 600m. threshold.

5.3.7 Map 4 shows the spatial distribution and accessibility of all Parks and Open Spaces with their respective 600m. and 400m. catchment areas.

There are a number of apparent gaps in accessibility which are identified on Map 4 and summarised as follows:

Area A: this is a non-residential area occupied by Castle Golf Course, Rathfarnham; adjoining residential areas are within easy reach of local open spaces and Loreto Park.

Area B: this is a low-density residential area with large private gardens and which is proximate to the Dodder Linear Park (Dublin City Council).

Area C and D: these two areas are within the University College Dublin. campus which is well-provided with large, publicly accessible open spaces.

Area E: this is a high-density residential development with communal open space for use by the residents.

Area F: parts of this area are within DLR's emerging Sandyford Urban Framework Plan which has identified opportunities for new parks.

Area G: this area comprises Foxrock Village and Leopardstown Racecourse which is publicly accessible for informal recreation such as walking.

Area H: this area comprises the outdoor playing pitches at Loreto School, Dalkey, which is in private ownership.

Area I: this residential area is comprised of large private gardens and public car parks with public access to Killiney Beach.

Opportunities to provide Parks will be considered for areas outside the 600m. catchments in the context of any future development proposals.

5.4 Outdoor Recreational Facilities

Quantity

5.4.1 In quantifying the hectareage of outdoor recreational facilities, it is important to recognise that many of the public facilities are located on sites classified within the two open space typologies. There is an element of double-counting as the footprint of these sites is included in the estimation of typology hectareage. However, it is important that the facilities be presented as provision per 1,000 population in their own right, as they require evidence-based justification for capital investment.