

5.4.2 The audit has identified 344 outdoor sports facilities, 46.1% of which are in public ownership, 33.3% in educational ownership (schools, colleges) and 20.6% in private clubs. These facilities occupy a total of 164.62 hectares - a countywide provision of 0.85 hectares per 1,000 population.



Swinging in new playground at Shanganagh Park (summer 2008)

5.4.3 Table 5.9 (next page) gives a breakdown of all 344 outdoor recreational facilities by quantity and hectareage for each electoral area.

5.4.4 In terms of provision per 1,000, Glencullen (2.7ha. per 1,000) and Stillorgan (1.41 ha per 1,000) are significantly higher than the countywide figure. In Glencullen this is due to the golf courses at Marlay Park and Stepside, while in Stillorgan the high provision arises from the relatively large area of land provided for GAA and soccer pitches.

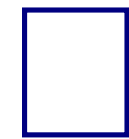
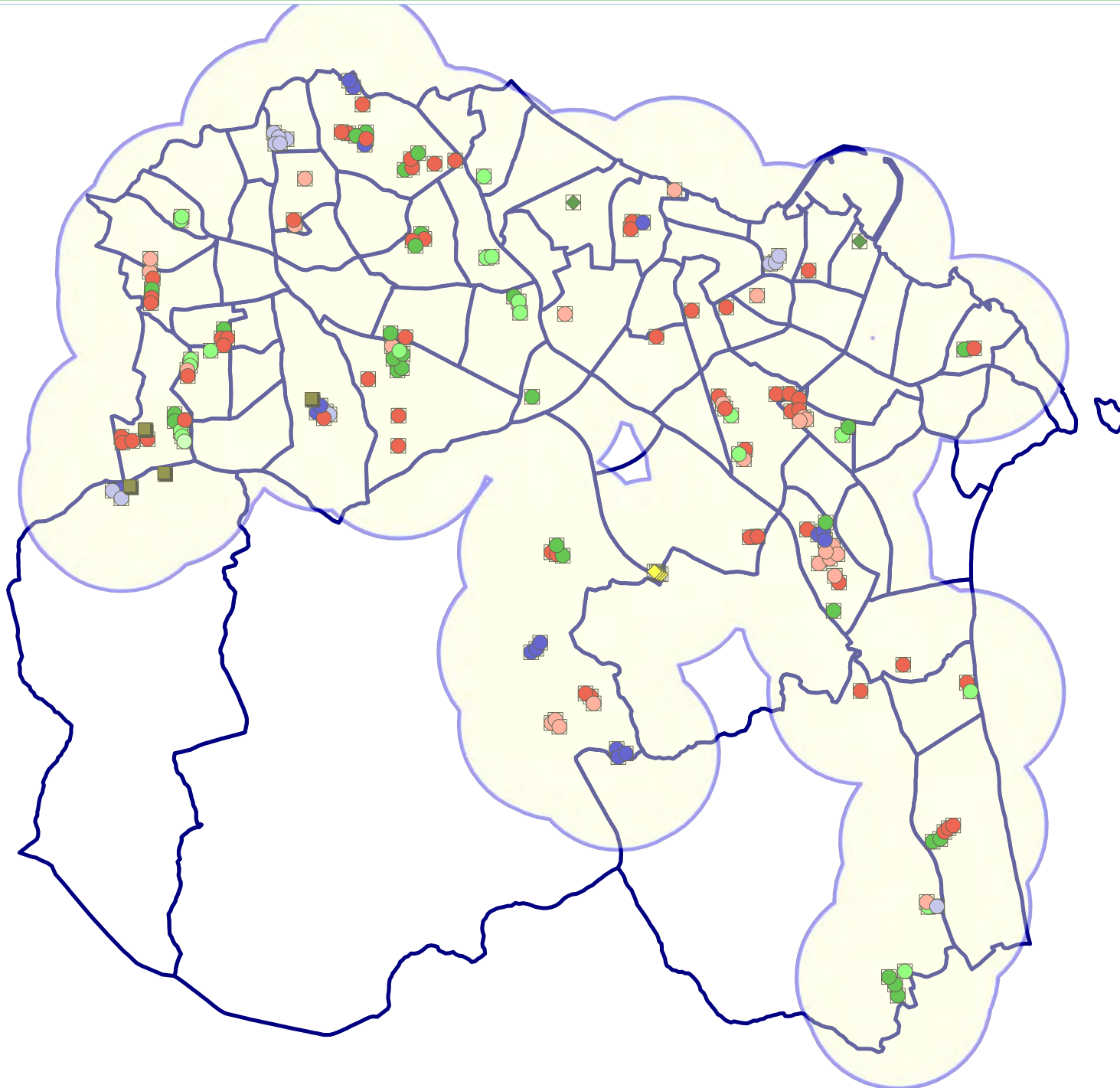
5.4.5 The distribution of playing pitches is shown relative to District Electoral Divisions (D.E.D's) in Map 5 (grass pitches) and in Map 6 (synthetic pitches) The catchment areas using mapping are based on the Fields in Trust's recommended benchmark accessibility standard of 1.2 kilometres (0.75miles). Mapping indicates that generally there is a good proximity of playing pitches to population throughout the county. However, the extent to which pitches on educational and private lands are available for community use requires further analysis. This will be undertaken as part of an Outdoor Sports Strategy.

5.4.6 The quantity distribution of facilities varies significantly across the county. The electoral areas of Dún Laoghaire (22.4%), Glencullen (20.6%) and Stillorgan (23%) and are best served with facilities, mainly due to the large number of tennis courts. Blackrock (8.4%) and Dundrum (12.2%) have the least number of facilities.

Table 5.9 Schedule of Outdoor Sports Facilities by Quantity and Land Area

Facility Use	Quantity of Facilities							Land Area of Facilities (hectares)						
	TOTALS	Ballybrack	Blackrock	Dún Laoghaire	Dundrum	Glencullen	Stillorgan	TOTALS	Ballybrack	Blackrock	Dún Laoghaire	Dundrum	Glencullen	Stillorgan
Athletic Track Grit	1	1						0.47	0.47					
Athletic Track Synthetic	1						1	1.46						1.46
Bowling Green Grass	2		1	1				0.31		0.16	0.15			
Bowling Green Synthetic	1	1						0.13	0.13					
Camogie Grass	1					1		0.57					0.57	
Cricket Grass	4					4		3.05					3.05	
Croquet	4						4	0.32						0.32
Gaelic Junior Grass	19	3	1	3	6	2	4	11.05	2.18	0.60	2.12	2.56	1.53	2.06
Gaelic Senior Grass	28	7		2	6	4	9	25.8	7.39		2.09	4.77	4.25	7.30
Golf Course	2					2		36.41					36.41	
Hockey Grit	4		1	1		2		2.16		0.53	0.53		1.10	
Hockey Synthetic	14	1	3	1	1	4	4	8.24	0.50	1.80	0.61	0.41	2.45	2.47
Rugby Junior Grass	13	1		3	5	4		6.35	0.40		1.25	2.68	2.02	
Rugby Senior Grass	16	3	1			9	3	12.66	2.18	0.69			7.31	2.48
Soccer Junior Grass	25	7	2	6	6	4		11.12	3.73	0.62	1.99	2.82	1.96	
Soccer Senior Grass	57	8	4	11	9	12	13	34.28	4.90	2.14	6.46	5.31	7.38	8.09
Synthetic Pitch Double	2				1		1	2.0				0.96		1.04
Synthetic Pitch Mini	26	4		5	5	1	11	3.2	0.70		0.52	0.64	0.26	1.08
Synthetic Pitch Standard	2			1			1	1.38			0.64			0.74
Tennis Court Synthetic	86	7	9	31	3	12	24	2.56	0.21	0.22	0.93	0.12	0.36	0.72
Tennis Court Tarmacadam	36	3	7	12		10	4	1.10	0.11	0.21	0.36		0.30	0.12
Totals	344	46	29	77	42	71	79	164.62	22.90	6.97	17.65	20.27	68.95	27.88

**Dun Laoghaire Rathdown
County Council:
Open Space Strategy.**



District
Electoral
Divisions



Accessibility
Threshold
at 1.2 kilometres

Type of use

● Gaelic Senior Grass	(28)
● Gaelic Junior Grass	(19)
● Camogie Grass	(1)
● Soccer Senior Grass	(57)
● Soccer Junior Grass	(25)
● Rugby Senior Grass	(16)
● Rugby Junior Grass	(13)
◆ Bowling Green Grass	(2)
■ Cricket Grass	(4)
◆ Crouquet	(4)

Map 5

Grass playing pitches:
Accessibility

Scale : 1 : 75,000

Date : November 2010



Comhairle Contae County Council

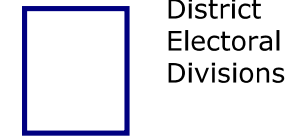
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Open Space Strategy.



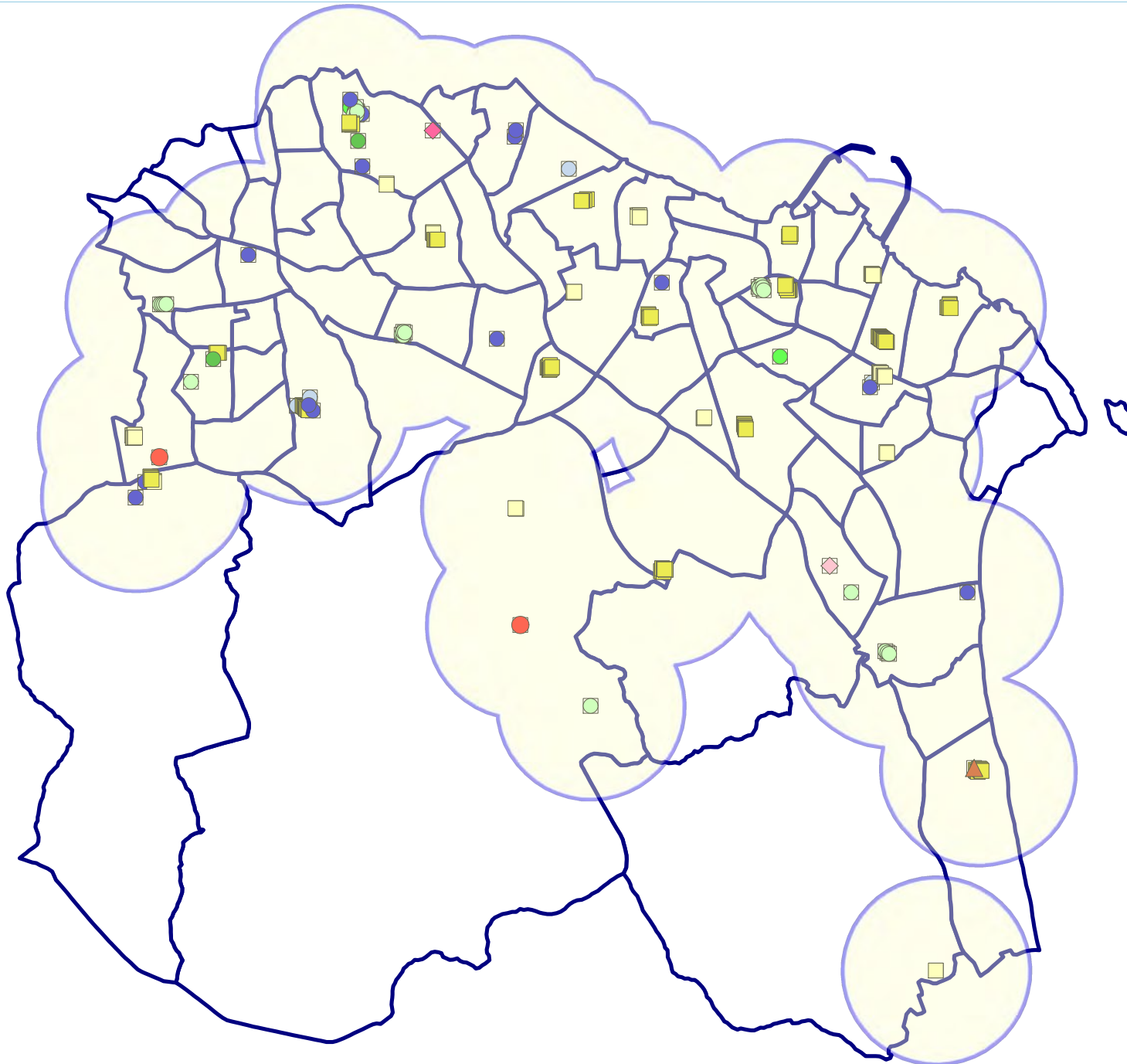
District Electoral Divisions



Accessibility Threshold at 1.2 kilometres

Type of use

- Golf Course (2)
- Synthetic Pitch Double (2)
- Synthetic Pitch Standard (2)
- Synthetic Pitch Mini (26)
- Hockey Synthetic (14)
- Hockey Grit (4)
- Tennis Court Synthetic (86)
- Tennis Court Tarmacadam (36)
- ◆ Athletic Track Synthetic (1)
- ◇ Athletic Track Grit (1)
- ▲ Bowling Green Synthetic (1)



Map 6
Synthetic playing pitches
and Golf Courses:
Accessibility

Scale : 1 : 75,000

Date : November 2010



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Grass Playing Pitches - All Sports

5.4.7 Table 5.10 shows the provision of all public, private and educational grass pitches in the county. These occupy a total land area of 123.23 hectares, giving a provision of 0.64 hectares per 1,000 population. This is considerably below the Fields in Trusts' benchmark standard of 1.15 hectares per 1,000 population for urban local authorities. The resulting gap in current provision amounts to 0.51 hectares per 1,000 population.

Table 5.10 Ownership of grass pitches - all sports categories

Pitch Type	Pitch Availability	Qty.	Ha.
Bowling Green Grass	PRIVATE	1	0.16
Bowling Green Grass	PUBLIC	1	0.15
Camogie Grass	PUBLIC	1	0.57
Cricket Grass	EDUCATIONAL	3	2.48
Cricket Grass	PUBLIC	1	0.57
Gaelic Junior Grass	EDUCATIONAL	9	4.84
Gaelic Junior Grass	PRIVATE	4	1.97
Gaelic Junior Grass	PUBLIC	7	4.66
Gaelic Senior Grass	EDUCATIONAL	8	7.11
Gaelic Senior Grass	PRIVATE	4	4.08
Gaelic Senior Grass	PUBLIC	16	14.61
Hockey Grass	EDUCATIONAL	2	0.6
Putting Green Grass	EDUCATIONAL	1	0.07
Rugby Junior Grass	EDUCATIONAL	19	10.22
Rugby Junior Grass	PRIVATE	1	0.77
Rugby Senior Grass	EDUCATIONAL	15	11.77
Rugby Senior Grass	PRIVATE	6	4.92
Rugby Senior Grass	PUBLIC	4	2.87
Soccer Junior Grass	EDUCATIONAL	8	4.38
Soccer Junior Grass	PRIVATE	8	3.3
Soccer Junior Grass	PUBLIC	17	6.97
Soccer Senior Grass	EDUCATIONAL	13	7.82
Soccer Senior Grass	PRIVATE	6	3.86
Soccer Senior Grass	PUBLIC	41	24.48
Totals		196	123.23

Pitch Ownership and Availability

5.4.8 The audit of provision includes all public, educational (schools and colleges) and privately-owned pitches. Only pitches that are of likely communal benefit, that is, those which are available to the public either generally or more usually via sports clubs, have been included in the audit.

5.4.9 Of the 196 pitches shown in Table 5.10, 88 (44.9%) are in public ownership, and 30 (15.3%) in private ownership. 78 (39.8%) are owned by educational bodies, reflecting the significant role schools and colleges play in the overall provision of all sports categories.

5.4.10 Pitch ownership varies across the county. This may have an influence on the demand for pitches dependent upon the level and extent to which they are available for community use. Further work is required to analyse the demand for pitches in terms of community use, pitch quality and accessibility.

Grass Pitches - Main Sports

5.4.11 Table 5.11 (next page) is a subset of Table 5.10 and gives a breakdown of the sports that are most represented in terms of provision of grass playing pitches. There are 191 pitches - 97.4% of the overall number for all sports, occupying 122.25 hectares - 99.2% of total land provision for all sports.

5.4.12 The results of the quantitative assessment reflect the relative popularity of each sport. The highest level of provision is soccer pitches, which occupy 50.81 hectares - 41.6% of the land provided for all pitches. This is followed by Gaelic and camogie pitches (37.77 ha.) at 30.9%. 29 rugby pitches have been identified and these occupy 30.55 hectares - 25% of the

total land area. There are 4 Cricket pitches occupying 3.05 hectares - 2.5% of the total land area.

Table 5.11 Grass Playing Pitches - main sports

Pitch Type	Qty.	Area (ha.)	% of total area
Camogie Grass	1	0.57	0.5
Cricket Grass	4	3.05	2.5
Gaelic Junior Grass	20	11.7	9.4
Gaelic Senior Grass	28	25.80	21.1
Rugby Junior Grass	20	10.99	8.9
Rugby Senior Grass	25	19.56	16.0
Soccer Junior Grass	33	14.65	12.0
Soccer Senior Grass	60	36.16	29.6
Totals	191	122.25	100%

5.4.13 From the small sample of pitches that were inspected, the pitch scores varied by pitch type and location. But the overall average score of pitches was considered to be ‘Good’ in terms of the quality of playing surface, pitch evenness and grass cover.

5.5 Provision for Children and Young People

5.5.1 Play provision is aimed at children aged 0-14 years and teenagers aged 15-19 years of age. The total population for both age groups in 2006 was 49,083 (25.3% of total county population).⁹

5.5.2 It is important to note that the provision of informal, that is, non-equipped play, for children and young people is already accounted for within the open space typologies. For example, Amenity Open Spaces within

residential area play a particularly important role in providing informal play opportunities close to home, in a safe, supervised setting.

This role is especially beneficial for toddlers and younger children. This informal aspect of play provision is taken into consideration when considering how standards for children and young people should be developed, later in the Strategy (Chapter 7 Setting the Standards: review of Play Policy 2003).

Quantity

5.5.3 The assessment considered all publicly-accessible play facilities in the county. The play provision includes facilities located within parks and open spaces and outdoor, stand-alone facilities at community centres (Map 8).



Local Playground in the People's Park, Dún Laoghaire

⁹ 0-14 yrs. = 35,244 and 15-19 yrs. = 13,839

Table 5.12 Play facilities by quantity and electoral area

Play Type	Ballybrack	Blackrock	Dún Laoghaire	Dundrum	Glencullen	Stillorgan	TOTALS
Regional Playground					1	1	2
Local Playground	2	2	3	1	1	1	10
Playlot		2			5		7
Community Playground	2						2
MUGA (half-size)	1			1			2
MUGA (full-size)	4				2		6
Skateboard park			1				1
Total provision	9	4	4	2	9	2	30

5.5.4 The total current provision for children and young people amounts to 30 sites on 5.22 hectares (Table 5.13).

- The countywide provision is 0.15 hectares per 1,000 population of children aged 0-14 years (population 35,244), the main target group
- Dundrum electoral area has the least provision
- Glencullen electoral area has the most provision due mainly to the regional playground and the local playground in Marlay Park
- It must be noted that the quality and accessibility of provision is more important than the amount of provision, given the small amount of area the sites generally cover.
- Where a play area was found to be in a good location it was clearly well-used. These tend to be the sites where the children can be clearly be seen and supervised.



All aboard at the opening of Ballawley local play ground, Ballinteer

Table 5.13 Play facilities by hectares and electoral area

Play Type	Ballybrack	Blackrock	Dún Laoghaire	Dundrum	Glencullen	Stillorgan	TOTALS
Regional Playground					1.65	0.62	2.27
Local Playground	0.46	0.16	0.36	0.05	0.46	0.28	1.77
Playlot		0.10			0.28		0.38
Community Playground	0.25						0.25
MUGA (half-size)	0.07			0.01			0.08
MUGA (full-size)	0.21				0.09		0.30
Skateboard park			0.17				0.17
Total provision	0.99	0.26	0.53	0.06	2.48	0.90	5.22



Local playground at Deerpark, Mount Merrion

Accessibility

5.5.5 Using the G.I.S, the distribution of play facilities was mapped using the 2006 census of population data to provide a basis for analysing current provision relative to accessibility thresholds. The District Electoral Division (D.E.D) provided the best scale for assessing the density of the population of children at local level (children/hectare/D.E.D), thereby enabling an analysis of how future provision might be directed.

5.5.6 Map 7 shows the distribution of those play facilities that serve children and young teenagers (0-14 yrs.) in terms of accessibility and provision relative to population for that age cohort. These facilities comprise all play grounds, but excluding the skatepark at Dunedin which is for older teenagers (15-19 yrs.). Using a 1.2 kilometre threshold¹⁰, it is clear that the current provision serves the majority of children and young teenagers in the county. However there are some gaps in provision.

¹⁰ Based on the current DLR Play Policy (2003).

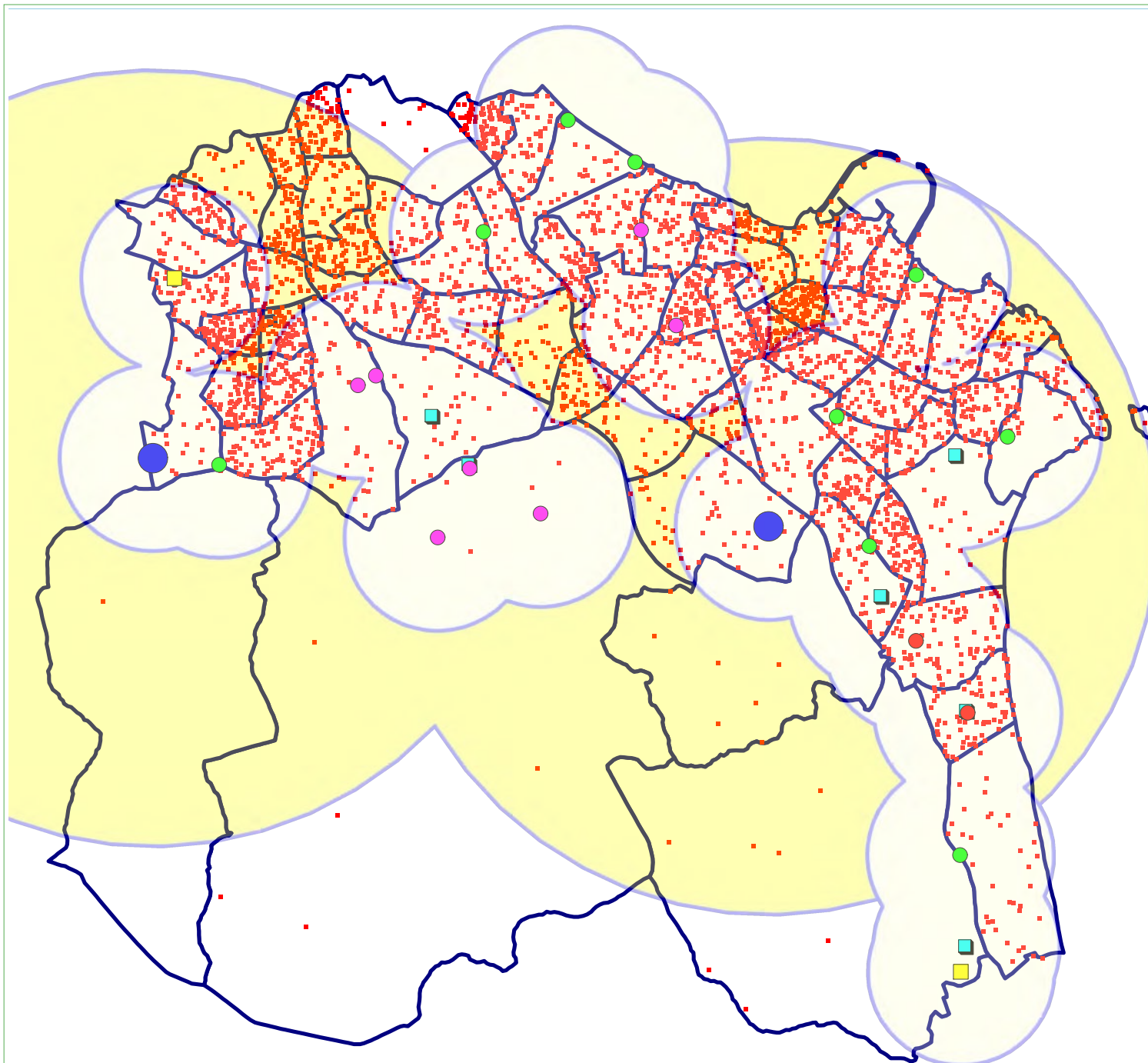
5.5.7 Gap analysis of Map 7 shows that there is under-provision of play facilities generally in parts of Clonskeagh, Dundrum, Dún Laoghaire, Foxrock, Monkstown and Stillorgan and specifically in the following D.E.D's:

1. Clonskeagh - Farranboley
2. Clonskeagh - Milltown
3. Clonskeagh - Windy Arbour
4. Dundrum - Sweetmount
5. Dundrum - Taney
6. Dún Laoghaire - Mounttown (Monkstown)
7. Foxrock - Beechpark (Clonkeen)
8. Foxrock - Torquay
9. Stillorgan - Leopardstown (Gallop Green)




5.5.8 Map 8 shows those facilities that serve teenagers (15-19 years) in terms of accessibility and provision relative to population. These are the two regional playgrounds at Cabinteely and Marlay parks and the skatepark at Dunedin Park. A 5.0 kilometre accessibility threshold has been used to reflect the wider catchment area of these large regional facilities.

5.5.9 These findings provide a useful basis for planning and prioritising the future provision of play facilities. Such provision should be considered as part of a review of the Council's current Play Policy.







5.5.10 It is important to note that children will make use of amenity spaces close to home for informal, spontaneous play. Therefore it is not always necessary to provide formal playgrounds or fixed play equipment in such spaces.




DLRCC
Open Space Strategy.

-  District Electoral Divisions
-  Accessibility Threshold at 1.2 kilometres
-  Accessibility Threshold at 5 kilometres

Type of use

-  Children's playground / Regional (2)
-  Children's playground / Local (10)
-  Children's playground / Community (2)
-  Children's playlot (7)
-  MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) (6)
-  MUGA (half) (2)

Density of children per DED

-  Density of under 14 year olds per hectare

Map 7

Play Facilities for Children:
Accessibility

Scale : 1 : 75,000

Date : November 2010

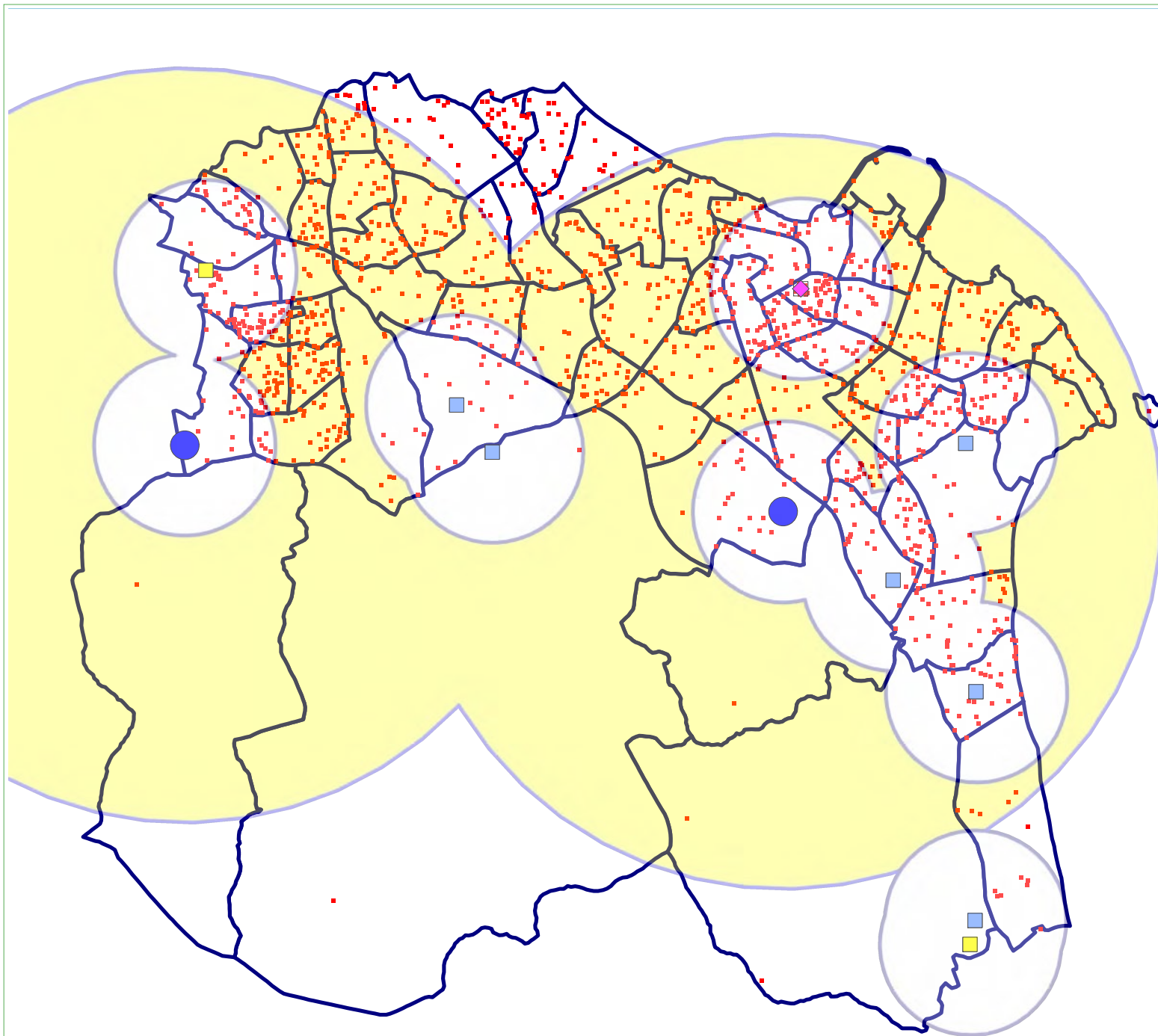


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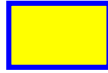
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Open Space Strategy.

-  District Electora Divisions
-  Accessibility Threshold at 1.2 kilometres
-  Accessibility Threshold at 5 kilometres

Type of use

-  Children's playground / Regional (2)
-  MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) (6)
-  MUGA (half) (2)
-  Skatepark (1)

Density of Teenagers per DED

-  Density of 15-19 year olds per hectare

Map 8

Play Facilities for Teenagers:
Accessibility

Scale : 1 : 75,000

Date : November 2010



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Quality of Equipped Play Areas

5.5.11 Quality inspections were carried out on a random sample of play and MUGA facilities. It is important to note the inspections represent a 'snapshot in time' and were carried out in April 2009. The audit was based on the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA) *Play Value Assessment* proforma assessment. This examines a variety of criteria, including the overall appearance of the site, its ambience and the type of equipment by age range. Equipment for Toddlers, Juniors and Teenagers was assessed as discrete elements within the overall play value assessment.

The quality inspections considered the following play value criteria:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Agility Bridges ▪ Ball Play ▪ Balancing ▪ Climbing ▪ Crawling ▪ Gliding ▪ Group Swinging 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Jumping ▪ Rocking ▪ Rotating ▪ Single Swinging ▪ Sliding ▪ Viewing Platform ▪ Wheeled Play
--	--

5.5.12 The audit considers elements that best practice play areas have been found to promote. These include diversity in textures, use of wildflowers and landscape planting. In supporting the generation of a sense of place it considers whether the play area is locally related to reflect some local significance. This could be, for example, if the site is near the seaside, then the play area's design could reflect this through themed equipment designed around the sea.

5.5.13 Site scores not only consider the play value of the equipment, but they also consider the quality of the physical characteristics of the play area. This

includes consideration of the different types of activity that the play area allows. This includes overall site features including access gates, whether the area is pollution and noise free, presence of shade, access for the disabled, appropriate signage, locally-related features and seating.

5.5.14 The audit allows compilation of a quality score (presented as a percentage) to reflect variances in the quality of play facilities across the county. As part of the ROSPA audit, individual play elements have been scored by age group (toddlers, juniors, and teenagers). These have been compared against the ROSPA value line set out below.

ROSPA Quality Score Line

<25%	25%-40%	41%- 50%	51%-65%	66% +
Poor	Below Average	Average	Good	Excellent

The quality audit provides an indicative rating of quality out of 100%. It is important to note that the quality score represents a 'snapshot', reflecting the quality of the site at the time of the visit (April 2009).

5.5.15 A summary of the quality assessment for each site is shown in Table 5.14 (next page), including an overall quality score.

Key findings:

- There is a significant variance in the amount of play equipment with Cabinteely Park having the greatest number of pieces. This is to be expected given the relatively larger size of this facility.
- Kilbogget Park and Shanganagh Park rated highest for play value

Table 5.14 Quality of Equipped Play Areas

Site Name	No. Of Pieces of Equipment	Toddlers %	Juniors %	Teenagers %	Overall Quality Score
Kilbogget Park	12	61	53	0	Good
People's Park	9	42	37	0	Average
Shanganagh Park	10	61	53	0	Good
Deerpark	16	53	54	12	Good
Sallynoggin Park	9	24	39	10	Good
Rathsallagh M.U.G.A	8	45	49	0	Good
Marlay Park (Toddlers Play)	5	26	24	0	Average
Loreto Park	6	32	32	12	Below Average
Cabinteely Park	21	58	66	35	Excellent
Blackrock Park	7	39	39	0	Average
Blackrock Park (Booterstown)	9	45	51	0	Good
The Gallops (Glencairn Drive)	5	13	10	0	Below Average

- In terms of ambience (visual appeal, litter and design,) Kilbogget Park, Deerpark and Marlay Park rated 'Excellent'.
- Loreto Park rated lowest due to its design and the presence of litter.
- Toddlers play scores varied significantly from the poorest at The Gallops offering limited play activity
- The best toddler play areas were in Shanganagh and Kilbogget parks
- Junior provision mirrors the toddler provision with The Gallops rating lowest, while the highest was Cabinteely Park at 66%.

- Provision for Teenagers is generally sparse with only 5 of the 12 sites making any provision for teenagers in terms of fixed play equipment. Of those that do, Cabinteely was the best.

5.5.16 The audit revealed the overall quality of provision by age group:

- Toddlers – play provision was rated as 'Average'
- Juniors - play provision was rated as 'Average'
- Teenagers – provision was rated as 'Poor'

Play provision in the larger Flagship Parks tended to be significantly better quality than provision made in the Local Parks and open spaces. Further audit work is needed to fully understand the condition and quality of the county's provision of play facilities. While there have been improvements to the number and quality of play facilities since the audit, more work is required to improve our offering of play facilities.



Local playground sited among mature trees at Shanganagh Park, Shankill