



Open Space Management Policy

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure effective management, maintenance, and use of open spaces. Open spaces provide areas for recreation, social interaction, environmental conservation, and contribute to the overall well-being of individuals. This policy outlines the responsibilities and practices required to preserve the quality, accessibility, and sustainability of open spaces.

Illogan Parish Council endeavours to promote the protection of bees, pollinators, and other beneficial insects by minimising or eliminating the use of harmful sprays and pesticides in areas managed by the Council. Bees and other insects play a crucial role in pollination, biodiversity, and maintaining healthy ecosystems. This policy aims to adopt sustainable pest management practices that safeguard these species and the environment.

Policy Statement

Illogan Parish Council is committed to protecting bees, pollinators, and other beneficial insects by eliminating or significantly reducing the use of chemical sprays and pesticides. Where pest control is necessary, non-toxic and environmentally friendly alternatives will be prioritised and will be applied not sprayed.

Objectives

- **Sustainability:** Preserve and enhance the ecological health of open spaces through sustainable practices.
- **Accessibility:** Ensure open spaces are accessible to all members of the community, regardless of physical ability, age, or background.
- **Maintenance:** Establish guidelines for the regular maintenance and upkeep of open spaces to ensure safety, cleanliness, and functionality.
- **Community Engagement:** Promote the use of open spaces for community engagement, recreation, and educational activities.
- **Safety and Security:** Ensure that open spaces are safe for users by implementing security measures and minimising hazards.
- **Protect Pollinators:** Minimise harm to bees, butterflies, and other essential pollinators.
- **Promote Biodiversity:** Support a healthy ecosystem by protecting beneficial insects that contribute to the natural food chain.
- **Adopt Eco-Friendly Pest Management:** Consider and use alternative, sustainable pest control methods that minimise environmental impact.



- **Raise Awareness:** Educate everyone about the importance of pollinators and the dangers of harmful chemicals.

Definitions

- **Open Space:** Any area of land that is designated for public use and is left undeveloped, either natural or landscaped including roadside verges.
- **Sustainable Management:** Practices that protect natural resources, biodiversity, and ecosystems while allowing for human use.
- **Maintenance:** Routine actions such as cleaning, repairing, landscaping, and monitoring.
- **Pesticides:** Chemicals used to eliminate pests, including insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides.
- **Bees and Pollinators:** Insects such as honeybees, bumblebees, butterflies, and other species that contribute to the pollination of plants.
- **Beneficial Insects:** Insects that perform valuable functions such as pollination, soil aeration, and pest control (e.g., ladybugs, hoverflies, and lacewings).
- **Integrated Pest Management (IPM):** A pest control strategy that focuses on long-term prevention through biological control, habitat manipulation, and the use of resistant varieties.

Roles and Responsibilities

- **Illogan Parish Council's Climate, Environment and Planning Committee:** Responsible for the overall management, planning, and decision-making regarding open spaces. This includes budgeting, setting priorities for space use, and improvements.
- **Illogan Parish Council Office:** Managing the day-to-day upkeep of open spaces, including landscaping, waste removal, facility repairs, and dealing with reports of hazards or issues.
- **Community Members:** Encouraged to participate in the stewardship of open spaces by adhering to usage guidelines, reporting hazards or issues to the Parish Council Office, participating in public feedback opportunities, and contributing to community activities or volunteer programs.

Usage Guidelines

- **Permitted Uses:** Open spaces may be used for recreational activities, educational events, social gatherings, and other approved activities consistent with community values and environmental sustainability.



- **Prohibited Activities:** Any activity that may cause harm to the environment, damage to infrastructure, or poses a risk to public safety (e.g., littering, vandalism, unauthorised vehicle use, destruction of flora and fauna, release of balloons).

Environmental Conservation and Sustainability

- **Biodiversity Protection:** Maintain and enhance the natural ecosystems, including the preservation of native species and habitats.
- **Water and Energy Conservation:** Implement water-saving techniques (e.g., drip irrigation, rainwater harvesting) and energy-efficient practices in maintaining facilities within the open spaces.
- **Waste Management:** Ensure adequate waste disposal facilities are available and promote recycling and composting in open spaces.

Safety and Security

- **Hazard Identification and Risk Management:** Regular inspections will be carried out to identify potential hazards. Immediate action must be taken to resolve any safety concerns.
- **Lighting and Surveillance:** Appropriate lighting, signage, and surveillance (CCTV where necessary) should be installed to improve safety, especially in high-use or secluded areas.
- **Emergency Response:** Clearly marked emergency contact information and accessible pathways for emergency vehicles should be maintained.

Maintenance Protocols

- **Routine Maintenance:** Includes regular cleaning, lawn care, tree trimming, and repair of public infrastructure such as benches, lighting, and playgrounds.
- **Seasonal Maintenance:** Seasonal preparation, such as preparing for heavy rains, and other weather-related maintenance should be planned and executed proactively.
- **Infrastructure Repair:** Address infrastructure issues, such as damaged walkways or playground equipment, promptly to ensure safety.

Community Involvement and Feedback

- **Public Consultation:** Illogan Parish Council will engage with community members through surveys, public meetings, and forums to gather input on the management and future development of open spaces.



- **Volunteer Programs:** Encourage the community to participate in activities such as tree planting, clean-up days, and wildlife monitoring programs.
- **Educational Programs:** Develop educational initiatives to raise awareness about the importance of open space preservation, biodiversity, and sustainable practices.

Guidelines

- **Neonicotinoids and Harmful Pesticides:** The use of neonicotinoids, glyphosate-based herbicides, and other pesticides known to be harmful to bees and beneficial insects is prohibited on all properties and spaces managed by the Council.

Use of Non-Toxic Alternatives:

- Encourage the use of natural repellents such as neem oil, diatomaceous earth, or insecticidal soap for pest management.
- Promote the use of biological control methods, including the introduction of beneficial predatory insects (e.g., ladybugs, parasitic wasps) that naturally control pests.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM):

- Implement Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices that focus on monitoring pest populations, using physical barriers, and promoting biological diversity to keep pest levels in check.
- Where pest control is needed, use the least toxic options and only as a last resort, following careful monitoring and assessment.

Pollinator-Friendly Landscaping:

- Promote the planting of native wildflowers, shrubs, and trees that provide food and shelter for bees, butterflies, and other pollinators.
- Design green spaces with diverse, pesticide-free habitats that attract and support pollinators.
- Avoid cutting flowering plants during peak pollination seasons.

Community Involvement and Education

- **Public Awareness Campaigns:** Conduct educational programs, workshops, and public outreach to inform the community about the importance of bees and other beneficial insects and how individuals can protect them by avoiding the use of harmful chemicals in their own gardens.
- **Partnerships:** Partner with local environmental organisations, beekeepers, and agricultural groups to promote pollinator protection and share best practices for pesticide-free land management.



- **Signage in Public Spaces:** Place informative signs in parks, gardens, and other open spaces to raise awareness about the Council's commitment to protecting pollinators and encourage visitors to support the initiative.

Monitoring and Reporting

- **Pesticide Use Monitoring:** Regular audits will be conducted to ensure compliance with this policy. Any pesticide use must be reported and justified with an explanation of non-toxic alternatives considered.
- **Pest and Pollinator Surveys:** Conduct periodic surveys to monitor pest populations and assess the health and diversity of pollinator species in managed areas. This data will be used to adjust pest management practices and improve pollinator protection efforts.

Exemptions

- **Public Health Exceptions:** In cases where public health is at serious risk (e.g., disease-carrying pests like mosquitoes), the use of non-toxic methods will be prioritised. If chemical intervention is absolutely necessary, only targeted, controlled applications of the least harmful substances will be allowed, and every effort will be made to protect non-target species.
- **Invasive Species Management:** In instances where invasive species pose a significant threat to local ecosystems, targeted control measures may be implemented in line with the principles of IPM and the Council's Policy for the Control of Weeds and Invasive Non-Native Plants on Land Owned or Managed by Illogan Parish Council.

Budget and Resources

- **Funding Allocation:** A dedicated budget will be allocated annually for the maintenance and development of open spaces.
- **External Funding and Grants:** Efforts should be made to seek grants and funding from external sources, including government programs, private organisations, and environmental agencies.
- **Resource Management:** Prioritise resource allocation for essential maintenance and conservation projects while exploring cost-effective measures.

Review and Amendments

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by the Governance Review Committee to ensure it remains relevant and effective. Amendments to the policy may be made as required to address emerging challenges or changing community needs.

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This open space management policy serves as a guideline to ensure that open spaces are preserved, well-maintained, and accessible for current and future generations. It underscores the Council's commitment to protecting the environment and promoting sustainable practices that safeguard pollinators and the broader ecosystem.