



Biodiversity Recovery Project Advice



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Biodiversity Recovery

It is critical that we protect our green spaces and encourage growth of native flowers and trees that supports our delicate eco-system.

The Biodiversity Recovery Coordinator at Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful has some advice and ideas that you could incorporate into your Small Grants Scheme application.

Find more advice:

[All Ireland Pollinator Plan](#)

[Royal Horticultural Society](#)



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Bird and Bat Boxes

Purchase wood and other equipment to make nesting boxes for birds, bee habitats, a hedgehog house and bat boxes.

Different species of birds need different sized holes

[Learn how to build a bird box](#)

[Learn how to build a bat box](#)



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Go Nuts about Fruit!

Grow your own fruit trees and bushes and nut trees in a small community orchard.

You can buy lots of different varieties of fruit trees on semi dwarfing rootstock including apples, plums, & pears.

Soft fruit such as raspberries, strawberries, blueberries, blackcurrants, gooseberries and blackberries grow really well in the Northern Irish climate.

Choose native and heritage varieties where possible.

[Be inspired by this community orchard](#)



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**Create
habitat
where you
can**

Planting a mixed species native hedge - Around a community garden for example. As well as providing food and shelter for all sorts of wildlife, you can also use it to forage for blackberries, haws, sloes and rosehips.

Planting a variety of native trees and creating a mini woodland where both community and nature thrive.

Creating a pond of any size - Even, very small, shallow ponds can attract all sorts of birds, frogs, newts, insects and a host of other wildlife.



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**Create
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Designating “no mow” areas in your community – create paths and seating areas.

Creating signage which provides information and informs the wider community about the benefits to wildlife is great for bringing the whole community behind a common goal.

You don't need to buy expensive wildflower seed; by simply not mowing, native flowers will appear through time – things like clover, buttercup, ragged robin etc

Mow paths through long grasses, or maybe provide log seating areas so everyone can enjoy the area.



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For containers, planters and hanging baskets choose flowering plants which are perennial (ie permanent) if possible and good for pollinators. This will also save money (and work and compost) long term. If choosing annuals, some excellent choices are listed below, and those to avoid.

Avoid these bedding plants Bred for showiness & do not provide food for pollinators.	Good for pollinators <u>Annuals</u>	Good for pollinators, <u>Perennial</u>	Good for Pollinators, <u>Perennial Herbs</u>
Geraniums	Nasturtiums (edible flowers and leaves)	Lavender	Chives
Petunias	Calendula (edible flowers)	Echinops	Garlic chives
Begonias	Cornflower (edible flowers)	Echinacea	Rosemary
Busy Lizzie	Wallflowers	Foxglove	Thyme
Double flowered French and African marigolds	Tagetes minuta	Aquilegia	Herb fennel
Nemesia	Borage (edible flowers)	Hellebore	Sage
	Cosmos	Erigeron	Anise Hyssop
	Cerinthe major 'Purpurascens'	Eryngium	Sweet Cicely
	Scabious	Astrantia	Lemon balm
	Alyssum	Aliums	Mint
	Rudbeckia	Salvia	
	Bidens	Verbena Bonariensis	
	Bocopa	Catmint (Nepeta)	
		White clover	
		Red clover	
		Crocus	
		Muscari	

Positive Plants for Pollinators



Ditch the Peat

As our peatlands are such important areas for nature and also as carbon sinks, please use peat free compost.

Even better, create your own community garden/alleyway/orchard compost bins if you have room.



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Don't Mow Let It Grow

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