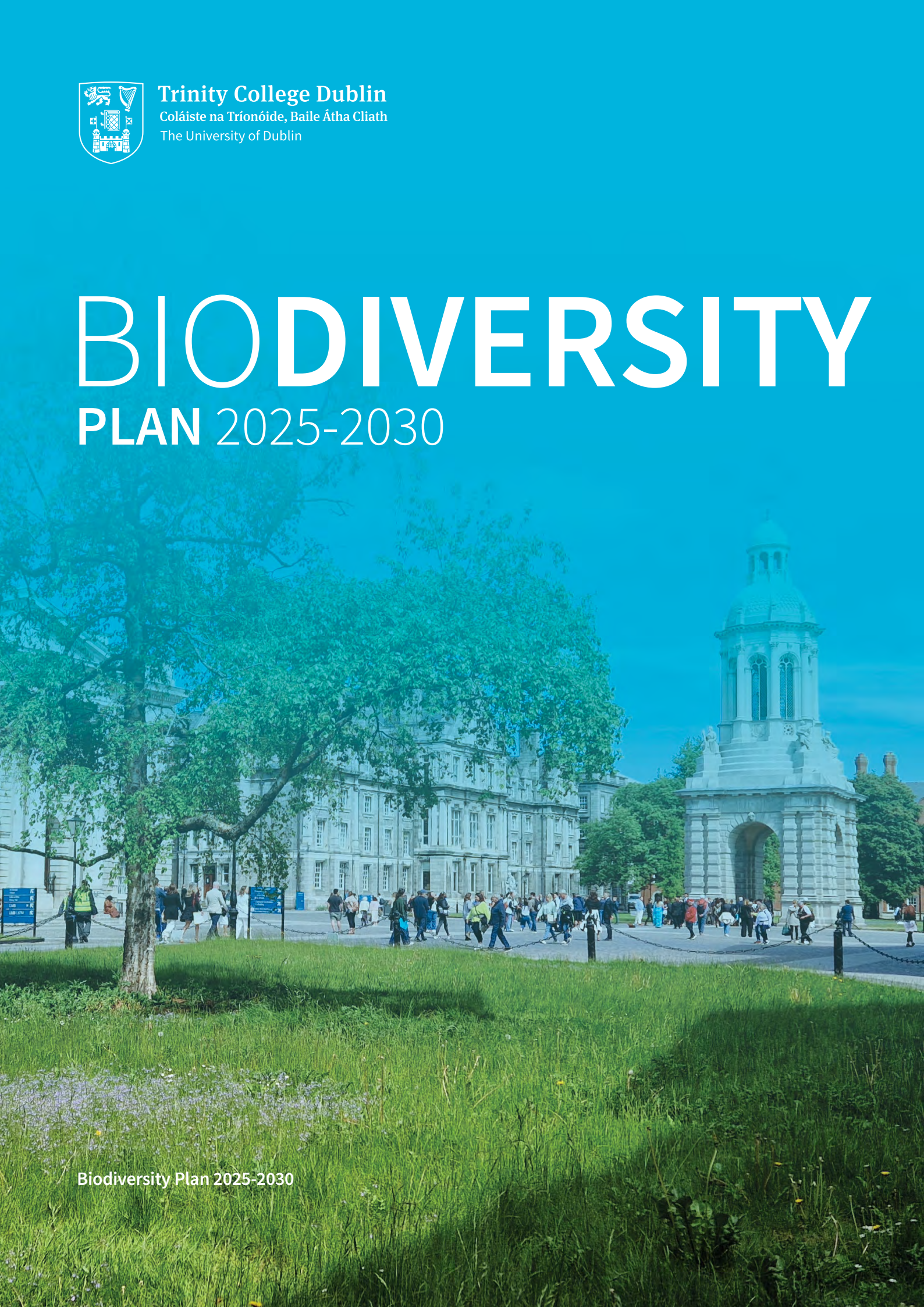
Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

BIODIVERSITY
PLAN 2025-2030



We will be a university, a place, and a community where climate change and biodiversity loss are addressed in a holistic, integrated, and health-focused way to protect and restore our planetary home for future generations.

Sustainability Strategy 2023-2030



Table of contents

Foreword from the Vice President for Biodiversity and Climate Action

As someone with a particular interest in the relationship between people and nature, I am delighted to welcome Trinity's first Biodiversity Plan. It represents not just a strategic ambition, but a genuine commitment to restoring and living well with nature, both for its own sake, and for the wellbeing of people and planet.

A nature-positive campus is one of three headline targets in Trinity's Sustainability Strategy. This reflects our understanding that nature, climate, and health are interconnected challenges and require integrated solutions. Biodiversity underpins climate resilience and human wellbeing, and addressing any one of these issues in isolation makes little sense.

Though our city-centre sites are compact and physically constrained, Trinity's reach is extensive. We play a crucial role as a connector within Dublin's nature networks, helping link green spaces and enhance urban biodiversity. We also recognise the wider environmental impact we have through our supply chains and sourcing decisions - what happens beyond campus matters, and we are committed to taking responsibility for that. At the heart of our contribution is our expertise. Our greatest positive impact on biodiversity lies in the knowledge we generate through research and practice, and in how we share it, including through formal education, informal learning, and community engagement. We aim to equip current and future generations with the understanding and skills needed to care for and live well with nature.

To develop this plan, we brought together a cross-university working group of academic staff, professional staff, and students. This collaborative approach ensured a broad and inclusive range of perspectives. The plan embraces key principles of the conservation mitigation hierarchy, namely from avoiding harm, achieving no net loss, and moving toward net positive outcomes.

It aligns with national and international targets and frameworks, and reflects a genuine ambition to foster partnership across the Trinity community and with civic and global stakeholders.

We have also sought to approach biodiversity goals in a whole system approach: embedding circular economy principles to support sustainable, regenerative resource use; promoting biodiversity education to inspire lifelong commitment; and grounding actions in evidence. Avoiding greenwashing is essential - our efforts must be transparent, science-led, and open to innovation.

As proud members of the Nature Positive Universities network, we welcome opportunities to work with others in Dublin, across Ireland, and internationally. Together, we can restore nature as a foundation for climate resilience, health, and hope. This plan is both a step forward and an invitation to act, to collaborate, and to reconnect with the living world around us.

Professor Jane Stout,
Vice President for Biodiversity and Climate Action, Trinity College Dublin

Cowslip, *Primula Veris*, Provost's Garden

Our Biodiversity Commitment

By 2030, Trinity College Dublin will be a nature-positive university. We envision a campus that restores and regenerates urban ecosystems in Dublin's ecological network, an organisation that promotes nature positive practices to safeguard our long-term viability and resilience, and a community that inspires lifelong learning about nature, adds knowledge and leads by example. Through research, education, operations and engagement, Trinity will contribute to a biodiversity-rich Ireland, ensuring nature's benefits are sustained for future generations.

Specifically, our objectives are to:

1. **Aim for 30% of Trinity's land to be protected, managed, or restored for nature by 2030**
2. **Understand Trinity's nature-related dependencies, impacts, risks and opportunities and adopt nature-positive business practices**
3. **Enhance biodiversity knowledge for nature positive action across and beyond Trinity**

Our Place in the World

Biodiversity is not only all the different plants, animals, fungi, and microorganisms on earth, but also the habitats they occupy, and genetic variation that exists within species. Yet human activity is driving biodiversity destruction and degradation at an alarming rate. Globally, 75% of land and 66% of ocean areas have been significantly altered by human activity, and one million of an estimated 8 million species on earth are currently at risk of extinction (IPBES, 2019). In addition, the populations of those organisms are getting smaller: there has been a 73% decline in vertebrate animal populations since the 1970s (WWF, 2024), and half of animal species globally are in decline (Finn et al., 2023). The main drivers of biodiversity decline are habitat loss, climate change, over-exploitation, pollution, invasive species and other pressures. This rate of loss is unprecedented, threatening ecosystem health and resilience, and humanity's own health and economies.

The global community has responded with the agreement of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (CBD, 2022), alongside Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 14 and 15, which focus on life on land and in water. The European Union's Biodiversity Strategy and Ireland's National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP, 2023) set clear targets to halt and reverse biodiversity loss, emphasizing a "whole of society" approach.

The EU Nature Restoration Regulation (NRR) sets specific targets for urban areas, including no net loss of urban green space and urban tree canopy cover by 2030, and an increasing trend in the total area of urban green space from 2031 onwards. In addition, the NRR sets ambitious targets for pollinator restoration, aiming to reverse pollinator decline by 2030 and achieve an increasing trend in pollinator populations. This includes improving pollinator diversity and restoring habitats, alongside reducing pesticide use.

Trinity College Dublin, as a Nature Positive University, is committed to supporting these efforts, aligning with the Trinity Sustainability Strategy to become nature positive by 2030. Building on the 2021 Trinity Biodiversity Audit, which documented campus species (e.g., foxes, swifts, bats, plants and fungi) and habitats (e.g., lawns, tree lines, urban structures), we aim to lead in urban biodiversity conservation, demonstrate innovation in Dublin's city centre, and ensure nature is central to all campus activities and operations.

Trinity is also committed to demonstrating leadership, and not only managing our campus in a nature friendly way, but taking a nature-positive approach to our business operations. This means being transparent and taking nature into account when making decisions, and being ambitious and responsible within the limits of our resources.

In addition, Trinity has a unique opportunity to play a role in restoration of biodiversity beyond Trinity through expertise in research and dissemination of research outcomes for positive consequences for policy and practices across all disciplines and sectors. Furthermore, Trinity can provide education about biodiversity and its value, through our various taught programs. And we can demonstrate leadership and innovation and co-create knowledge with communities across and beyond Trinity, through partnership, and collaboration with local and global communities for far-reaching, long-lasting change.

Trinity's Natural Heritage

Trinity's natural heritage is strongly intertwined with its built and cultural heritage, presenting a unique blend of habitats that have served as a haven for a diversity of species. Trinity College Dublin's College Green campus spans 47 acres in the heart of Dublin city, blending historic buildings, such as Front Square and the Old Library, with green spaces like College Park, a 6-acre parkland and sports ground. It is a place where people, nature, and the built environment interact. The College Green campus supports diverse habitats, including managed lawns, tree lines, a "pocket forest" with >20 species of native trees and shrubs, and a variety of built urban structures. In addition, Trinity's satellite sites in Santry, Iveagh Grounds, Trinity Hall in Dartry, and the Boat Club grounds in Islandbridge include river-front, grassland and woodland areas. Ongoing developments, such as the refurbishment at Trinity East, offer opportunities to integrate biodiversity into urban planning, making Trinity a living example of nature-positive action in a city setting.

Trinity's 47 acre College Green Campus in Dublin city centre

Trinity's Biodiversity

Waterfront at Trinity Boathouse at Islandbridge

Iveagh Grounds sports pitches

Woodlands at Santry

Trinity College Dublin has a strong foundation in biodiversity conservation, and this plan builds on years of action to protect and enhance nature on campus. As a long-standing participant in the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, Trinity has established ornamental meadows, no-mow zones, and pollinator-friendly planting to support pollinating species like bees and butterflies.

Pollinator-friendly planting outside the Botany Building on College Green Campus

We have installed nest boxes to boost habitats for pollinators and birds, grown food on the College Green campus to promote regenerative production, and documented and celebrated the Trees of Trinity College Dublin. Students and staff have contributed through biodiversity programs and citizen science initiatives, strengthening our understanding of campus ecosystems. The 2021 Biodiversity Audit provided a critical baseline, informing our pledge to become a Nature Positive University by 2030 and setting the stage for this ambitious 2025-2030 plan.

Trees of Trinity College Dublin (4th Edition, 2019)

Ornamental meadows at Front Gate, (June 2025)

Pyramidal and Helliborine orchids spontaneously flowering in Parliament Square as a result of No-Mow May initiatives in 2023

One of Trinity's recently established wildlife ponds (est. 2022), now home to a range of invertebrates and amphibians

Trinity's Biodiversity Audit 2021 revealed a surprising diversity of life on campus, from iconic species like foxes and swifts to hidden insects, fungi, and plants. Key habitats include managed lawns, tree lines, and urban structures that support nesting birds and bats. Wildlife-friendly management practices, like reduced mowing of lawns, have resulted in unexpected species being found on campus.

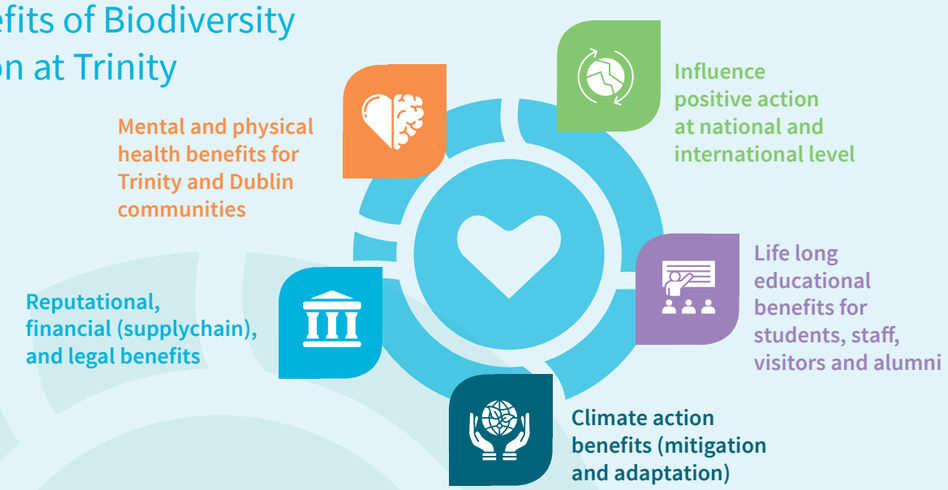
However, pressures like urban development and historical landscaping practices have reduced habitat connectivity, making strategic action essential to better understand, protect and enhance this biodiversity. In addition, rising temperatures and extreme weather, invasive species, and pollution (e.g. pesticides, light, noise) will have impacts on campus biodiversity. These challenges align with those identified in the Dublin City Biodiversity Action Plan 2021-2025, underscoring the need for collaborative action across Dublin's community to protect our urban biodiversity.

Why We Care

Policy Alignment

This Plan supports Ireland's National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP)'s goals for a whole-of-society approach, the Government's Wellbeing Economy agenda, and the EU's Nature Restoration Regulation targets to prevent net loss of urban green space and tree canopy cover by 2030 and reverse pollinator decline. It also aligns with the Dublin City Biodiversity Action Plan 2021-2025, which emphasizes urban green networks. By integrating biodiversity into our education, research, and operations, Trinity contributes to Ireland's broader commitment to the EU Biodiversity Strategy and the Global Bidiversity Framework.

Benefits of Biodiversity Action at Trinity



Protecting and enhancing biodiversity on and off campus delivers multiple benefits. It provides space for nature restoration in an urban context, but also delivers on other areas of strategic importance in Trinity, namely climate action and health and wellbeing. Urban nature improves mental and physical health for Trinity's community and surrounding urban area of Dublin city centre, mitigates climate change through nature-based solutions like carbon sequestration and storage, improved drainage and air quality, and reduces reputational, financial, and legal risks associated with inaction. Our efforts will inspire students, staff, and nearly one million annual visitors, amplifying our impact through education and collaboration. By leading in urban biodiversity conservation, Trinity can influence local and global communities, contributing to a nature-positive future.

Trinity's Biodiversity Impacts and Dependencies

The nature-related impacts and dependencies on biodiversity are based on existing knowledge, including Trinity's Biodiversity Audit 2021, and reflect Trinity's current understanding of its ecological footprint. As part of this Biodiversity Action Plan 2025-2030, a formal assessment will be undertaken to identify additional nature-related impacts and dependencies and determine which are most significant for Trinity to prioritize and act on, to track progress on and to avoid greenwashing.

Impacts

Trinity's operations have both positive and negative impacts on biodiversity including:

On-Site Positive:
Tree and wildlife-friendly planting, no-mow areas, wild spaces, ponds, log piles - supporting species like bees, swifts and bats; and nature-based solutions;

On-Site Negative: Potential green space removal, hard landscaping, pesticide use, light pollution, and risk of habitat fragmentation due to campus development.

Off-Site Positive: Education, research, and contributions to Dublin's green network; potential for global influence through visitors.

Off-Site Negative: Supply chain impacts on ecosystems beyond campus, including impacts of waste and carbon emissions from operations on nature.

Dependencies

Trinity depends on biodiversity and healthy functioning ecosystems to provide outputs (Ecosystem Services) that have benefits and values to the organization and its people including:

Provisioning services:
Food, water, natural materials used in labs, buildings, and campus operations are reliant on healthy ecosystems for production.

Regulating services:
Climate regulation, water attenuation, air/water quality, temperature/noise control, habitat support (such as wildlife islands and corridors between green spaces).

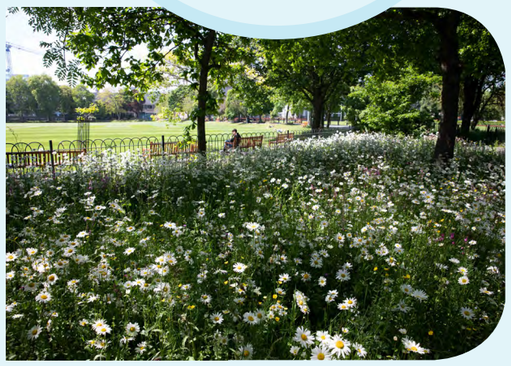
Cultural services:
Aesthetics, education and health (green spaces enhance student and staff wellbeing).

Objectives and Actions

Three key objectives have been identified to:

1. Protect and enhance **on-site** biodiversity
2. Reduce negative biodiversity impacts as a result of operations and value chains **off-site**
3. Enhance knowledge and partnership

These objectives reflect the Trinity Strategy (2025-2030) “Thrive”:



PURPOSE: At the heart of our positive contributions to nature are the research, education and contribution to society that we can bring as a nature-positive university.

PEOPLE: A nature-rich campus can be a healthier campus for both students and staff, creating a thriving and more engaged workplace.

PLACE: By creating a thriving campus and reimagining our physical estate through retrofit and refurbishment rather than new build, we will reduce loss of nature on site, incorporate nature into capital projects where possible, and reduce demand on resources that contribute to nature loss elsewhere in the world.

The **key principles** underpinning this Plan are:

- **Net biodiversity gain:** going beyond no net loss, we are committed to being a nature-positive university and improving biodiversity on our campuses.
- **Conservation mitigation hierarchy:** observing a hierarchical approach to campus development that firstly seeks to avoid harm and protect what we have by managing habitats appropriately; secondly, restores and regenerates biodiversity rich areas following damage; and finally creates new biodiversity habitats when necessary.
- **Co-benefits:** managing nature spaces for the benefit of people in terms of health and well-being, for climate mitigation and adaptation, as well as for biodiversity.
- **Evidence-based decision making:** making science-based decisions, and taking nature into account as part of the decision-making process, and recognising tradeoffs. For example, as part of the upgrading of sporting infrastructure on the College Green and Iveagh Grounds campuses as part of Trinity’s Sports Plan, consideration should be given to the both the environmental (biodiversity, carbon, water, microplastics) and health (safety, frequency of use, accessibility) impacts of grass versus artificial pitches.

Alumni team tree planting

Coprinellus micaceus

Iveagh Grounds

Objectives and Actions

Objective 1:
Protect and Enhance On-Site Biodiversity

Target: *Reflect the Kunming-Montreal "30 by 30" goal and strive for 30% of Trinity's land to be protected, managed, or restored for nature by 2030, prioritizing habitat quality. Although highly urban, Trinity's campus hosts a range of biodiversity which requires context-specific management.*

This objective focuses mainly on direct operations (through Trinity campuses), building a baseline of our interface with nature and local place-based actions that can be taken to enhance biodiversity.

Priority Theme 1: Conserve and Avoid Harm (Maintaining Nature on Campus):

Action 1.1	**Retain existing nature-rich habitats across all Trinity sites, to prevent loss and conserve existing biodiversity** • Identify and map existing spaces for nature across all Trinity sites and make these habitat maps available to all stakeholders. • Engage with key stakeholders within Trinity and proactively prevent the destruction or degradation of nature-rich spaces wherever possible, and ensure any new projects follow the conservation mitigation hierarchy.	**2025**
Action 1.2	**Reduce light pollution, considering safety for campus users** • Review lighting across all sites and inform future upgrades to minimize impacts on nocturnal species (including switching to warm-toned, low-intensity lighting, directing light downwards, only illuminating necessary areas, using motion sensors or timers to minimize unnecessary light exposure where possible). • Create a living lab project to assess impacts of light pollution.	**2026**
Action 1.3.	**Adopt nature-friendly management and landscaping practices, in line with the College Habitats Maintenance Policy** • Use local- provenance plants, trees, and shrubs wherever possible, including those of conservation relevance. • Work with Estates and Facilities and waste service providers to create compost from organic waste collected whilst landscaping (including leaves), and avoid peat use. • Use organic mulches to conserve soil health. • Review and minimize pesticide use – only use where necessary to maintain health and safety (e.g. on sports pitches, and kitchens) or for certain invasive species, according to best practice. • Develop biodiversity-friendly landscaping guidelines for Trinity if necessary, to ensure consistent restoration efforts across projects, including at Trinity East, safeguarding long-term habitat health. • Manage campus areas to support pollinators, building on Trinity's participation in the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, including maintenance of bug hotels and no mow areas.	**2026**

Objectives and Actions

Objective 1:
Protect and Enhance On-Site Biodiversity

Priority Theme 2: Act for Nature (Restoring and building for biodiversity):

Action 1.4 Incorporate biodiversity into capital projects — 2025-26
- Engage with Capital Projects team to introduce nature-friendly features into campus projects at design stage, where possible, including rain gardens and sustainable urban drainage systems, green and brown roofs, living walls etc. to create permeable surfaces to enhance water management and habitat connectivity.
- Engage with the Irish Green Building Council for guidance, and developing new guidelines, where appropriate.

Action 1.5 Create new high-quality areas for nature — 2025-26
- Identify areas for planting trees, expanding no/low-mow management, and establishing ornamental meadows and other nature-friendly planting
- Identify where nesting and other micro-habitats such as log piles can be created for birds, bats, bees, small mammals, and other wildlife, and add nest boxes where appropriate.
- Identify areas for ponds to support invertebrates and amphibians, and install new ponds where possible.
- Identify areas for creation of small scale urban food production.

Action 1.6 Create opportunities for nature and wellbeing
- Maintain existing BioHavens and explore potential new areas to connect nature and good mental health.

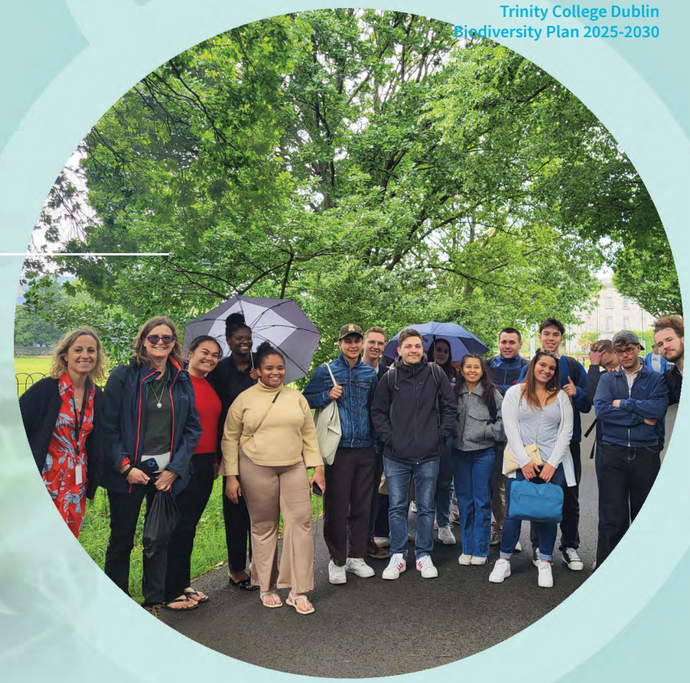
Priority Theme 3: Measure and Monitor:

Action 1.7 Track biodiversity changes through regular assessments — 2025-26
- Update Trinity's habitat map annually to review progress on 30 by 30 target.
- Use biannual surveys of indicator species (birds, insects, plants, focusing on breeding, nesting and foraging requirements) and citizen science survey projects (e.g. via mobile app) to add species data layers to habitat map, and track changes in species over time.

Action 1.8 Maintain an up-to-date biodiversity repository — 2025-26
- Collate existing information of biodiversity on Trinity's sites into a central database and update at least annually.
- Engage with external bodies (including National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC)) for verification of data and submission to national databases.
- Report on invasive species to relevant bodies as appropriate.

Action 1.9 Establish a dashboard for biodiversity KPIs and explore their integration global frameworks — 2026
- Develop appropriate key performance indicators (KPIs) (including metrics such as habitat extent, species diversity, proportion of different habitats, number of trees/area of tree cover, cover/presence/identity of indicator species) and create a monitoring and evaluation plan to track progress and timeline.
- Explore the Science-Based Targets for Nature approach to integrate Trinity's biodiversity monitoring and align with global nature reporting standards.

Objectives and Actions



Objective 2:
Reduce negative biodiversity impacts as a result of Trinity's operations and value chain

Target: *Understand Trinity's nature-related dependencies, impacts, risks and opportunities and utilise best-practice methodologies to adopt Nature Positive business practices that enhance nature beyond Trinity's campus.*

This objective focuses mainly on Trinity's upstream and downstream interfaces with nature, building an understanding of our wider impacts and dependencies, to inform what actions / collaborations with suppliers can be taken to enhance biodiversity.

Priority Theme 4:
Business practices and integration in ESG reporting:

Action 2.1	**Explore the development of a nature-grounded double-materiality assessment to confirm nature-related impacts and dependencies through direct operations and value chain** ● In collaboration with biodiversity experts, explore, and if necessary design and conduct, a double-materiality assessment to identify impacts and dependencies. ● Collect data on nature-related impacts and dependencies (e.g., water use, carbon emissions, supply chain biodiversity risks) from Trinity and key suppliers. ● Analyse assessment findings to rank the most significant impacts, risks and opportunities, prioritizing areas with the greatest biodiversity impacts.	**2026-27**
Action 2.2	**Conduct a biodiversity assessment of Trinity investments, pensions and insurances** ● Assemble a cross-functional team to map portfolios, screen for biodiversity risks using the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) tools, engage fund managers/insurers with a proven sustainability focus, quantify impacts, prioritize actions, and report findings.	**2027**
Action 2.3	**Undertake nature-related reporting in alignment with European and global voluntary reporting standards** ● Form a reporting team, select frameworks (e.g., EFRAG ESRS E4, GRI 101, TFND), gather data, define KPIs (building from Objective 1), draft a report, engage stakeholders, publish and review annually.	**2027**

Objectives and Actions

Objective 2:
Reduce negative biodiversity impacts as a result of Trinity's operations and value chain

Priority Theme 5: Procurement:

Action 2.5	**Promote sustainable sourcing in Trinity's supply chain by including biodiversity criteria in the tendering process for procurement** ● Explore the potential for adopting accredited eco-labels, prioritizing local sourcing, and supporting new public food norms in community-supported agriculture, short food supply chains, and regenerative farming practices, aligning with the Trinity Food Plan and Green Events Plan.	**2026**
Action 2.6	**Introduce a biodiversity element in the purchasing process** ● Explore the introduction of nature-related criteria in the purchasing process (iProc) and increase awareness of biodiversity impact of purchased goods/services. ● Work with key suppliers to highlight biodiversity impacts in the supply chain and promote more nature-friendly suppliers.	**2026**
Action 2.7	**Promote biodiversity friendly food systems on campus** ● Assess current catering menus and identify opportunities for increasing plant-based, whole-food dining options. ● Support Procurement to promote seasonal and local supply chains in food purchasing. ● Continue to introduce small-scale trials of whole-food plant-based meals to gather feedback and refine offerings.	**2026**
Action 2.8	**Support innovation at source** ● Explore collaboration with suppliers to support innovation to reduce impacts through the supply chain.	**2026**

White clover
(Trifolium repens)

Willow, *Salix Alba*, Trinity Centre for Health Sciences, St. James

Objectives and Actions

Objective 3:
Enhance knowledge and partnership

Target: *enhance biodiversity knowledge for nature positive action across and beyond Trinit*

This objective focuses mainly on the Trinity's influence in terms of driving behavioural changes across its stakeholder groups.

Priority Theme 6: Enhancing Knowledge:

Action 3.1	**Foster biodiversity research through collaborative initiatives on and off campus and share findings to inform policy and practice.** ● Establish a biodiversity research network building on existing initiatives such as Nature+, the Trinity AIB Climate Hub and Climate+ Co-center, to develop and conduct interdisciplinary biodiversity research across all Faculties, share results and knowledge to influence policy/practice, and monitor impact.	2027
Action 3.2	**Support novel learning approaches in terms of nature.** ● Explore and develop outdoor learning spaces across Trinity's sites. ● Support biodiversity-focussed living lab projects	2026

Male red fox *Vulpes vulpes.* **Photographed at Lincon place gate.**

Orange Tip butterfly *Anthocharis cardamines.* **Photographed in wildflower meadow at rear.**

Priority Theme 7: Sharing Knowledge:

Action 3.3	**Integrate biodiversity into Trinity's educational programmes** ● Identify current undergraduate and postgraduate curriculum for nature as part of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) mapping. ● Identify opportunities to integrate biodiversity into the curriculum in the future, including potential micro-credentials/executive education ● Identify funding sources for developing new courses/modules.	2027
Action 3.4	**Develop bespoke biodiversity courses, nature-focused wellbeing programmes and biodiversity-themed health courses for staff and students** ● Create biodiversity training courses, including linking biodiversity to economy, climate and wellbeing, covering topics like the benefits of green spaces for mental health (e.g. stress reduction), and connections between biodiversity, diet (e.g., plant-based foods), and physical health. ● Work with Trinity Botanical Gardens staff to showcase the Gardens as a wellbeing space via Trinity's website, social media, student/ staff emails. Host guided mindfulness walks or nature journaling sessions in the Gardens, led by trained staff or student ambassadors.	

Objectives and Actions

Trinity's Biodiversity Officer Collie Ennis showing students some of the biodiversity on Trinity's College Green Campus.

Green Pearse St Initiative with the Lord Mayor of Dublin: Engaging local neighbours in biodiversity conservation

Objective 3:
Enhance knowledge and partnership

Priority Theme 7: Sharing Knowledge:

Action 3.5	**Raise awareness about biodiversity within the student community** ● Train student ambassadors annually to advocate for biodiversity across campus and in the wider community. ● Involve students in citizen science-based biodiversity data collection	**2025-26**
Action 3.6	**Provide evidence-based biodiversity progress and resources to staff, students and the public** ● Update Trinity's website to share progress on biodiversity targets (dashboard), and resources, ensuring accessibility for all stakeholders.	**2025-30**
Action 3.7	**Leverage social media platforms to engage students, staff, and the public in Trinity's biodiversity initiatives** ● Share biodiversity stories from Trinity's campus through digital media. ● Coordinate biodiversity research communications for maximum impact on policy and practice.	**2025-30**
Action 3.8	**Host public events, such as lectures, guided walks, and panel discussions, to connect with communities and visitors** ● Offer biodiversity tours of campus, workshops on nature friendly gardens, pond building, rewilding community spaces etc. to local schools, businesses and community groups. ● Partner with Trinity Tours to integrate biodiversity elements into guided tours, highlighting campus habitats and species. ● Hold other public events on campus to raise awareness, promote citizen science, showcase Trinity's biodiversity (e.g., foxes, swifts, pollinators). Invite Trinity academics, other experts, and/or community leaders to give or take part in events.	**2025-30**

Priority Theme 8: Partnering for Biodiversity:

Action 3.9	**Engage neighbours, public bodies and local businesses through community events and research translation to foster collaboration** ● Share evidence-based recommendations to enhance biodiversity in operations, including working with Business for Biodiversity Ireland to deliver resources and events. ● Host hands-on biodiversity workshop sessions (e.g. pollinator planting or citizen science training) for residents and businesses. ● Coordinate and be involved with planting, habitat creation or invasive species removal in sites adjacent to Trinity, including along Pearse St or nearby Grand Canal. ● Work with buildings managers to promote 'Grey to Green' approach and incorporate nature-friendly actions in suitable places to build the nature network in Dublin. ● Invite local primary and secondary students/teachers/community groups for biodiversity workshops, fostering community engagement through education in partnership with Trinity Access Programme. ● Provide resources and links on Trinity Sustainability website.	**2025-30**
Action 3.10	**Advocate for biodiversity-friendly policies at national and international levels** ● Engage in UN Conference on Biological Diversity COP engagements, Oireachtas initiatives, and lobby for systemic change with partners across the third level sector and in government.	**2025-30**

Governance and Implementation

This plan was developed through our collaborative working group, bringing together academics, professional staff, and students, to ensure diverse perspectives shape our plan. The scope encompasses all Trinity sites - including the College Green campus, Trinity East, and other sites, addressing both direct and indirect impacts on biodiversity. The Biodiversity Officer, supported by Trinity Sustainability and VPBCA, will oversee the implementation of the plan.

An annual review will ensure accountability, with progress reported to Trinity's Sustainability Management Group and the broader community via Trinity's annual Sustainability Report.

Painted lady butterfly *Vanessa cardui*. Photographed feeding on pollinator friendly plants on front square.

Collie Ennis, Biodiversity Officer, Trinity College Dublin

Female common frog, *Rana temporaria* , photographed in Santry sports grounds.

Final Comments from Trinity's Biodiversity Officer

As Trinity College Dublin's Biodiversity Officer, I am proud to present this **Biodiversity Plan for 2025–2030**, a roadmap to ensure our campus becomes a beacon for biodiversity conservation in the heart of Dublin. Biodiversity underpins the health of our ecosystems, communities, and future generations, yet it faces unprecedented threats locally and globally. Trinity, as a Nature Positive University, commits to reversing this decline, aligning with Ireland's National Biodiversity Action Plan and the global Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Through collaboration with our students, staff and visitors, we aim to protect, restore, and celebrate nature, fostering a sustainable future for all.

Collie Ennis, Biodiversity Officer, Trinity College Dublin

A-Z Glossary of Terms

Biodiversity
The variety of life on Earth, including all species of plants, animals, fungi and microorganisms, the ecosystems they form, and the genetic diversity within them. Often the term is used in policy and public spheres interchangeably with the word “nature”.

Biosphere
The zone of life on Earth, encompassing all living organisms (plants, animals, fungi, and microorganisms) and the environments in which they interact, from the deepest oceans to the upper atmosphere.

Biohaven
An outdoor space for staff and students, designed to foster mindfulness, reflection, well-being, and connection with nature, which may include a curated selection of sensory plants to engage olfactory and tactile senses, and seating to encourage quiet meditation, personal contemplation, or gentle conversation.

Circular Economy
An economic model designed to reduce resource over exploitation, reduce waste and pollution, keep products and materials in use for longer, and regenerate natural systems.

Ecosystem
A community of living organisms interacting with each other and with their physical (non-living) environment (e.g. light, temperature, water, air, minerals).

Ecosystem Services
The outputs from nature that are of benefit to people, such as clean air and water, pollination of crops, climate regulation, flood protection, cultural inspiration, and recreational activity.

Green and Blue Infrastructure
A network of natural and semi-natural land and water (e.g. parks, street trees, green roofs, rivers, wetlands) designed to deliver multiple ecological, social, and economic benefits in urban or rural landscapes.

Habitat
The natural home or environment of a plant, animal, or other organism, providing the conditions it needs to live, feed, and reproduce. On campus, habitats may include grasslands, trees, old walls, or purpose-built features like ponds and insect hotels.

Living Lab
The use of the campus as a testbed for research, teaching, and innovation, where biodiversity projects provide real-world data and experiences for students, staff, and external partners.

Mitigation Hierarchy
A framework for managing biodiversity impacts, prioritising: (1) avoiding harm, (2) minimising impacts, (3) restoring affected areas, and (4) offsetting or compensating as a last resort.

Natural Capital
The stock of natural resources – including biodiversity, soils, water, and atmosphere – that underpin human wellbeing and economic activity.

Nature Networks
The connections between green spaces that allow wildlife to move, feed, and reproduce. Campuses can act as important “stepping stones” within wider city or regional ecological networks.

Nature Positive
A global goal and approach that aims to halt and reverse biodiversity loss, so that by 2030 nature is visibly and measurably recovering.

No Net Loss / Net Gain
A principle for managing impacts on biodiversity. No net loss means ensuring that any harm to nature from activities is fully balanced by conservation actions. Net gain goes further, seeking an overall improvement in biodiversity.

Pollinators
Species such as bees, butterflies, moths, beetles, and flies that transfer pollen between flowers, enabling plants to reproduce sexually and produce fruit and seeds.

Regenerative Agroecology
An alternative, but productive, farming approach that is less reliant on synthetic inputs and works in synergy with nature. It combines ecological principles with regenerative practices to restore and enhance biodiversity, soil health, water systems, and climate resilience. It goes beyond reducing harm to actively regenerate ecosystems, while supporting sustainable food production and local communities.

Resilience (Ecological)
The ability of ecosystems to resist, recover from, or adapt to disturbances such as climate change, pollution, or habitat loss.

Restoration
The process of assisting the recovery of ecosystems that have been degraded, damaged, or destroyed.

Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

Two male smooth newts *Lissotriton vulgaris*. Captured by Collie Ennis, under license by the NPWS, in the Provost garden pond during sampling.

Biodiversity Plan 2025-2030