

The Local Authority Waters Programme works with Local Authorities, public bodies and local communities to protect, maintain and improve water quality in our natural waters.

**UPDATE FOR
BORDER REGION
COUNTIES:
LOUTH,
MONAGHAN,
CAVAN,
LEITRIM,
SLIGO,
DONEGAL**

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**Further information
websites:**

**watersandcommuni-
ties.ie**

catchments.ie

**Sign up to our seasonal
newsletter at
www.catchments.ie**

Catchment Catch-up Border Region

Issue 2

June 2019

Water Heritage Day Sunday 25th August 2019

Water Heritage Day occurs on Sunday 25th August 2019, the last day of National Heritage Week. It is a collaboration between The Heritage Council and the Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO). This year's Pastimes | Past times theme provides an opportunity for young and old alike to get out and discover our water heritage and the magic and wonder of our rivers, lakes, canals and coasts.

Community groups are encouraged to organise local events that can include; a guided nature walk along a river or lake, a trip to discover a holy well, a walk and talk about the built and cultural heritage of a local waterway, boating trips and much more. Contact your local Community Water Officer for more information.

The Local Authority Waters Programme works with local authorities, public bodies, stakeholders and local communities to protect, maintain and improve water quality. A healthy water environment benefits health, wildlife and the economy.

For more information on Water Heritage Day visit <https://www.heritageweek.ie>



An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



Community Water Development Fund 2019

The Community Water Development Fund helps local communities deliver projects and initiatives related to water and nature. These projects deliver local benefits by enhancing the water environment and wider benefits by helping to meet water quality objectives of the national River Basin Management Plan. The fund is open to all community and voluntary groups interested in the protection and restoration of local streams, rivers, lakes and coasts. Community lead initiatives deliver improvements locally and in turn benefit the wider catchment.

There was massive interest in the fund in 2019 with a total of 151 applications, exceeding €750,000 total project costs. The amount of funding available for 2019 is €180,000. Allocation of this fund required a rigorous internal assessment followed by review and sign off by an External Evaluation Committee. A total of 105 grants were offered for 2019. Here is a link to an interactive map showing project locations and details for 2019:

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1LAe35U3U3WVieAJFI-TPPIv8K_IFbteH2&usp=sharing



Removing invasive species: Balsam bashing



Tunnelling removal from river bank.

EVERY PERSON HAS A ROLE TO PLAY IN PROTECTING WATER QUALITY

WHAT

Conserve:
Fix leaky taps to conserve water

Use water butts to capture rainwater for use in the garden

Install hippo bags in toilet cisterns (a red brick would do) 1/3 of water used in our households goes down the toilet

Protect:
NO grease, oil or fats go down the drain (brown waste bag)

Only 3 Ps down go down the toilet (pee, poo, paper)

Check the septic tank regularly and desludge when necessary

Minimise your use of garden chemicals

Buy local foods and do fewer car journeys where possible

WHY:

Water is precious
It takes 140 litres of water to make a cup of coffee (to grow the beans, transport and process them, prepare and make your coffee)

Every day each person in Ireland uses between 80 and 150 litres of water

It takes 1500 litres of water to make 1 kg of beef (that is four fat hamburgers). That is for the animal to grow, process, transport and package the meat

528,000 disposable coffee cups are discarded in Ireland every day.

“We do not own this land, we borrow it from our grandchildren”, Ancient Native American saying

Ongoing activities

Having completed Priority catchment desk studies the Catchment Assessment team have been supported by the Community Water Officers to host community information meetings in 13 of these areas for action. The Assessment team are now out on the ground doing river surveys in 8 of these priority areas for action.

Co. Cavan	Erne, Annalee, Cullies rivers
Co. Monaghan	Mountain Water, Emy Lake and Maghera river
Co. Louth	Big river
Co. Sligo	Unshin river
Co. Leitrim	Louth Melvin and Drowse river
Co. Donegal	Leannan, St. Johnston, Roosky, Nastackan, Glen lackagh

The Agricultural Sustainability Support and Advisory Programme organized farmer meetings in the Erne, Unshin, Leannan, Annalee, Big and Maghera priority areas for action. Further farmer meetings are scheduled to take place in June. At these meetings the catchment scientist gives an overview of water quality issues and the potential pollution pathways within the catchment. By providing a kick sample from a local stream or river they demonstrate what macroinvertebrates indicate for water quality.



Sligo Co. Co. EAO Pete Murtagh and Karen Kennedy organised a Networking for Nature event in Ballisodare for the local tidy towns, community council and fishing groups who all shared experiences and learned about their local environment. The day ended with a visit to the viewing platform for spectacular views over the falls and Ballisodare Bay. Well done all!



Very enthusiastic IT Sligo students learn about macroinvertebrate sampling from the LAWPRO team in Unshin Priority area for action.



The communities team are currently supporting projects across the region that have been awarded Local Authority Waters Programme Community Development funding. Congratulations to all those successful communities and there will be more on this in our next issue.

National Water Heritage Day is on Sunday 25th August and there will be watery events across the region during the whole week so please support your local event.

Upcoming events

19th June 7pm	Community meeting Eske catchment	Townawilly Comm. Centre, Garvagh, Barnsmore F94 Y284
24th June 7pm	Community meeting Duff catchment	Cliffony Hall, Cliffony, Sligo F91 DP71
17-25th August	Heritage week events across the region	Check out www.heritageweek.ie

For further information see www.watersandcommunities.ie and www.catchments.ie