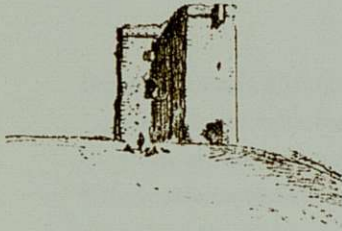




Tymon Park





Line drawings of Tymon Castle, 1840.

*From the original collection in the possession  
of Mr. David Newman Johnston.*

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## Acknowledgments



Tymon Park is one of the premier parks in the South Dublin County Council administrative area. The public have continuously expressed their support for its environmental, amenity and recreational uses and a great number are also interested in its history. As with all of our parks, there is a need to provide information on all of these matters and to enable people to understand various practices taking place as the management task changes from season to season. This booklet is part of a series of publications prepared on the parks of South Dublin, designed to inform and to enable a more fulfilling experience for people who use the parks and to encourage others to visit and avail of the facilities.

Leslie Moore, Senior Executive Parks Superintendent, was responsible for undertaking the production of this publication. David Cotter and Jennifer Wann carried out essential research. They consulted individuals with an interest and knowledge of the history of the Tymon area; in particular former Dublin County Council officials Mr. Michael Lynch, Senior Parks Superintendent, Fingal County Council and Pat Curran, Dublin Corporation Parks Department who were involved in the initial development of Tymon Park.

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Finally, appreciation is extended to the Tymon Park staff, past and present who diligently maintain the park for the people of South Dublin and beyond.

**Councillor Stanley Laing**  
*Cathaoirleach.*

**Frank Kavangh**  
*County Manager.*

**Dr. Christy Boylan**  
*Senior Parks Superintendent.*

South Dublin County Council.  
March 2001.



Pond at Tymon North (constructed 1985).

## Introduction



Plate showing a reconstruction drawing of a cinerary urn from the Greenhills area.

*Courtesy of the Royal Irish Academy.*

Tymon Park, the popular South Dublin amenity, was provided by Dublin County Council in the 1980s and has been managed by South Dublin County Council since 1994. It forms a greenbelt of 130 hectares (over 300 acres) between the established residential areas of Tallaght and Templeogue/Walkinstown and is one of a series of regional parks established in the suburbs of Dublin in recent decades.

Opened to the public in June 1986 by the then Cathaoirleach of Dublin County Council, Councillor Ray Burke, T.D., it was later divided into two large parks when the M50 motorway was constructed through the centre. The eastern and western sections, thus created, were linked with a pedestrian footbridge near the Greenhills Road and another further south near the Tallaght/Templeogue Road.

The exact origin of the name Tymon, or Tigh Motháin – the official Irish name given by the Placenames Commission, remains unknown although over forty variants of the name have been recorded for the area. Some of these include Timon, Tymothan, Teach-Munna and Stamuthan (see Appendix 3). The name Taghmon, a modern version of Teach-Munna, is a placename in County Wexford and in County Westmeath. Both locations have associations with St. Fintan or Munna and thus one possible explanation for the Tymon name in Dublin is that it may also have connections with this saint.

Another possible explanation is that the lands at Tymon may have been in the ownership of an Irish clan by the name of O'Motháin.

There have been several discoveries of archeological remains in the Tymon area. In the 1880s a burial urn, together with fragments of a smaller vessel, two flint scrapers and some human remains were discovered in a rough cist of large stones near Greenhills. This find was dated to the Middle Bronze Age period around 1500 BC.

Other archeological items have been discovered in the vicinity and some of these, including food vessels and other types of burial urns, can be seen on display in the National Museum of Ireland, Kildare Street.



Four funerary vessels from the Greenhills area. *Courtesy of the National Museum of Ireland.*





# section one

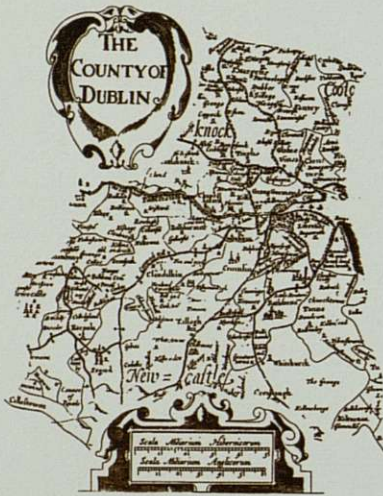
p a s t   a n d   p r e s e n t

## The Townland of Tymon North

The exact boundary of the Tymon townland in earlier centuries is unclear but by the seventeenth century it can be seen from maps that it included a portion on the south side of the Dodder River. This portion became known as Tymon South in the nineteenth century and does not form part of Tymon Park.

Before the Anglo-Norman conquest, the lands at Tymon may have been in the ownership of the afore-mentioned O'Motháins. However, in 1199, the Norman Milo le Bret became Lord of Rathfarnham, Kimmage, Templeogue and other lands situated in the Vale of Dublin which might have included the Tymon area. In 1230 King John granted the Lordship or Manor of Stamuthan or Timothan to Henry de Loundres (Henry of London), Archbishop of Dublin, in recompense for the losses the church suffered in fortifying Dublin Castle. This grant was subsequently confirmed by King Henry III and Tymon was established as a prebend in St. Patrick's Cathedral. A prebend is a portion of church-owned land from which an income is drawn by the clergyman to which it is allocated, in return for clerical duties.

Over the next few centuries Tymon lands passed through the hands of various prebendaries as church property, with changing political circumstances. One of the most notable landowners in the 16th century was Adam Loftus (1534 – 1605), a Yorkshire man who came to Ireland as a chaplain with the Earl of Essex and lived in Rathfarnham Castle. Among the titles he held were

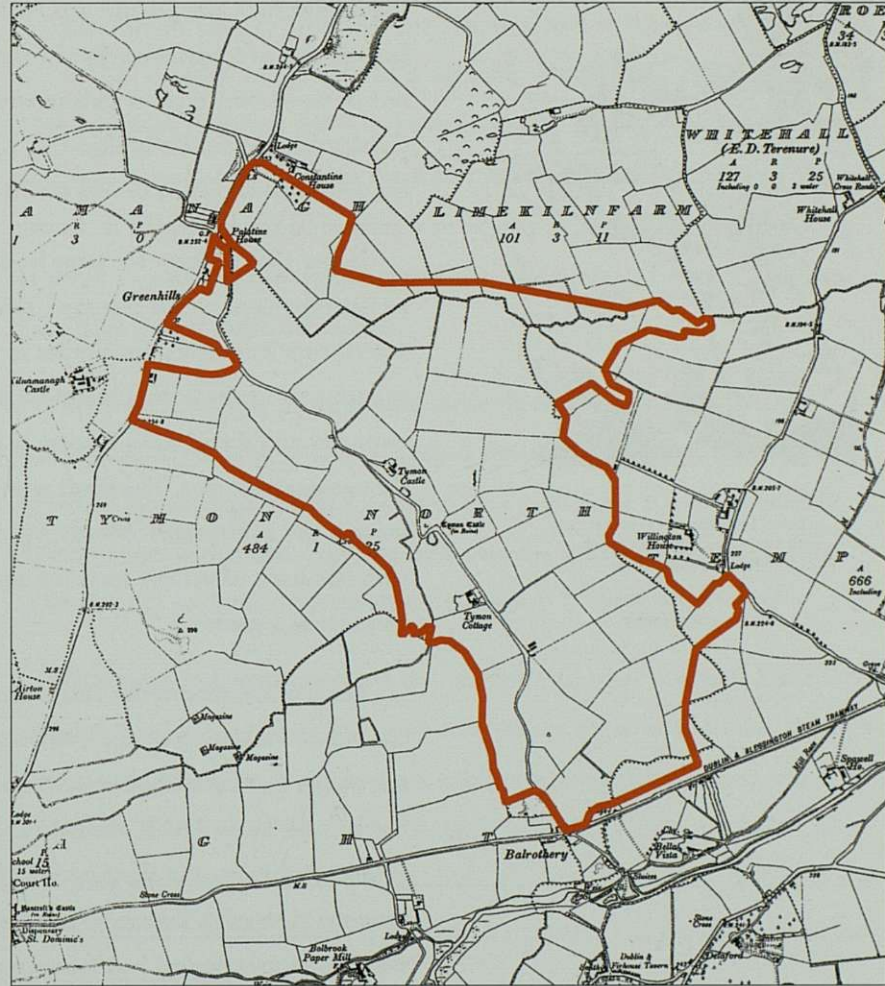


Map extract from *Hiberniae Delineatio*  
by Sir William Petty, 1685.

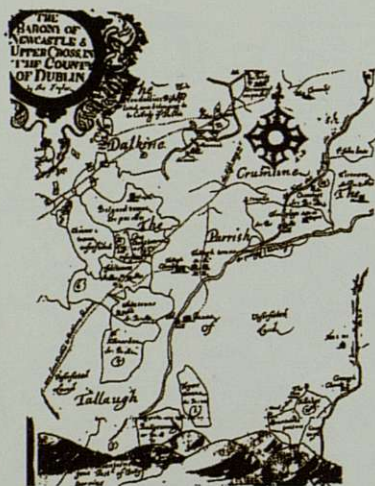
*Courtesy of the Map Library,  
Trinity College, Dublin.*

Dean of St. Patrick's Cathedral  
Dublin, Archbishop of Armagh,  
Archbishop of Dublin (1567 –  
1605), Lord Justice of Ireland,  
First Provost of Trinity College  
Dublin and during the reign of  
Queen Elizabeth I, Lord  
Chancellor of Ireland. His  
descendants inherited his estate  
in the 17th century, retaining  
ownership into the early 18th  
century. The lands were then  
sold by the Duke of Wharton,  
a descendant by marriage,  
to William Conolly, Speaker  
of the Irish House of Commons.

William Conolly was born in  
1662 in Ballyshannon, County  
Donegal of humble origins.  
He was elected as a Member of



Ordnance Survey Map 1887. Revised 1936-7. (outline of Tyman Park in red)



From 'The Barony of Newcastle and Uppercross, County Dublin', Down Survey (c. 1656).

*Courtesy of the Map Library, Trinity College Dublin.*

Parliament for Donegal and was soon afterwards appointed Speaker of the Irish House of Commons. By the time of his death in 1729, he had become one of the richest men in Ireland with numerous houses and estates including Castletown House, Celbridge, Co. Kildare. For the next hundred years or so, his descendants owned or had connections with Tymon.

In the 19th century, the large land block of single ownership from Tallaght to Rathfarnham, which included Tymon, appears to have been divided into several smaller ownerships similar to what was occurring in other parts of the country at the time. One piece of evidence is a sale notice of the portion owned by an Edward Ryan Esquire in 1850, about 138 acres in the north-west of the current park area. The lands were held under a complex system of owners, tenants and sub-tenants. Mostly the occupants were farmers and herdsmen, with labourers of various sorts leasing plots only big enough for a small house and maybe a garden.

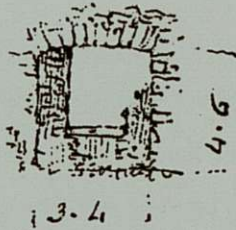
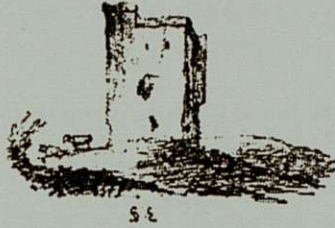
Maps of the nineteenth and twentieth century show evidence of quarrying and this is backed up by the 1901 census which lists some occupations as sand merchants and sand labourers. When the County Council acquired the lands for the park in the 1970s, the land had been mainly used for farming. Some families had farmed in the area for a hundred years or more. Amongst these were the Kennedys, owners of the Spawell Leisure Complex, and the Rafters, who were cattle dealers and farmers.

## Tymon Castle

The earliest construction date for Tymon Castle is thought to have been the twelfth century, in the time of King John. It could also date from the 15th and 16th centuries when there was a prolific period of building castles as defences against attack from the wild Irish clans. For example, in 1429 by statute of Henry VI, a £10 subsidy was offered to every subject of the King to build a castle or tower in defence of the King's lands. Tymon Castle may have been one of these £10 castles.

Tymon Castle, like many similar castles located in the Leinster area, would have served as an outpost to defend the lands of the Pale, the boundary of which ran through Tallaght. Located on a high ridge at a sharp bend in Tymon Lane, with a commanding view over the surrounding countryside, it was ideally positioned for defensive purposes.

Historians and artists recorded and documented what the castle looked like and described it as a square keep with an entrance on its western side through a large arch. Over the entrance was a small projecting gallery, from which melted lead, boiling water or other suitable materials were poured onto any attacking party below. It had a large chimney, two apartments, one above the other, both arched and linked by a winding staircase. The ground floor or hall was paved and vaulted.



Line drawings of Tymon Castle, 1840.

*From the original collection in the possession  
of Mr. David Newman Johnston.*



Tymon Castle, circa 1950's

*Photograph courtesy of Harry Taylor,  
Tallaght Historical Society.*

Over the centuries, the castle was recorded as being in varying states of repair. In 1547, it was described as being in a “ruinous condition”. In 1779, the antiquary, Austin Cooper recorded that he found it partly occupied by a family called Really or Reilly and on a return visit in 1783 he noted that the castle was uninhabited. Apart from the Reillys there seems to be no record of who lived in the castle over the centuries.

During the 1798 Rebellion, a party of soldiers attacked Ballymanagh House, near Oldbawn, Tallaght, and killed one of the occupying insurgents. The insurgents then left the house and crossed the fields in the direction of Tymon Castle, leaving the body of their comrade on their way. The soldiers followed and finding the body hung it from one of the windows of the castle until it disintegrated.

Tymon Castle lasted into the 20th century, until it was demolished in 1960 because of its dangerous condition. As a ruin, it was a well known landmark and the scene of countless picnic parties for visitors to the Tymon area.

Tymond Castle. near y<sup>e</sup> Greenhills. 3<sup>rd</sup> from Dublin.



Drawing of Tymond Castle collected by Gabriel Beranger. *Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland.*

## Tymon Lane

The most important natural landscape feature in Tymon Park is the esker upon which the meandering route of Tymon Lane is located. The lane was constructed on an esker, a ridge of gravel and sand laid down by a sub glacial stream within the base of glacier during the last Ice Age period, over 10,000 years ago. In ancient Ireland many roads were constructed along the line of eskers. Lined by mature hedgerows, this old laneway was a high ground access through marshlands and for centuries an important link between the City of Dublin and the former rural areas of the present day suburbs. It's date is unknown but the route can be seen on maps for hundreds of years. There were also sandhills along the route of the lane which is an explanation for the locality being called "Greenhills". The sand was quarried for construction purposes, including the construction of pathways during the development of the park.

The retention of existing landscape features, especially Tymon Lane and the field hedgerows, was a major objective from the beginning thus the landscape character was conserved for future generations. The Dublin and Wicklow Mountains can be seen from Tymon Lane and that visual link was important for the new park. When the Tymon North Distributor Road was constructed in the early 1980s, part of Tymon Lane was no longer necessary

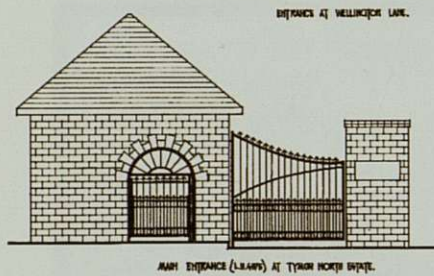


for vehicular purposes and the right of way on the section within the park was closed in 1985. It became an illegal dumping ground for old cars, household rubbish and builders' rubble with consequential damage being caused to the hedgerow.

In contrast, Tymon Lane now provides an attractive walk through the centre of the park serving as a haven for flora and fauna, retaining the atmosphere of its former function as an old country roadway. It has been supplemented with a further 14 kilometres of paths, much of which has been constructed using gravel excavated on site from the former quarries.



## Development of the Concept



The Planning Act 1963 required local authorities to prepare a Development Plan in which lands would be zoned for various purposes, including parks. The appointment of Michael Lynch to head the newly formed Parks Department gave impetus to the concept of a series of regional parks (see opposite page) dotted around the County including one at Tymon. The proposed Tymon Regional Park for Tallaght was included in draft Development Plans in 1967, 1971 and finally approved in 1972. Most of the regional parks such as Marlay Park were developed from former estate lands or areas alongside rivers and so were bought as one lot. However, Tymon Park was the exception, being bought piece by piece in a long drawn-out process, and built up from several holdings of former agricultural land.

The Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) issued in July 1973 for 638 acres was not just for open space; 40% of the land was zoned for housing, industrial development and a small portion for road improvements. It comprised 53 plots of which 18 applied directly to the park and also included the reservation for the Western Parkway motorway. Of the total, 383 acres was designated for open space and amenity of one sort or another.

## Regional Parks of County Dublin

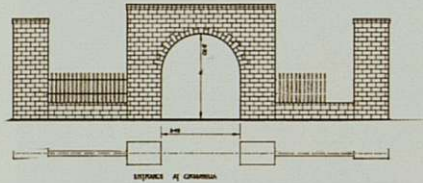
Nearly half the owners of the proposed park lands lodged objections on the basis that the CPO was unreasonable, unnecessary and a disruption to their lifelong associations with the area. A public enquiry was held on the 25th June 1974 following which the CPO was confirmed by the Minister for Local Government on 12th May 1975 and became operative on the 8th June 1977. Land acquisition then followed until the mid 1980s. The process of negotiations with landowners had lasted for a period of almost ten years.



Local authority administrative areas of County Dublin

■ South Dublin    ■ Fingal    ■ Dún Laoghaire/Rathdown

## Implementation of the Plan



As land acquisition proceeded, the preparation of a layout for the new park was underway. The objective was to provide a greenbelt with active and passive recreational facilities while retaining the unique landscape character. The first priority was to enclose as much of the land as possible for protection and definition purposes. This was achieved by the erection of a low wall and railing and the design concept included a similar style of entrance gates on the entire boundary of the park. For main entrances, this is an imposing design with large piers of 'Forticrete' blocks and steel gates. The first such entrance was provided in the early 1980s on the Tymon North Road and soon afterwards at the Greenhills Road junction. In 1981 the car park, at Limekiln Road was built but the grand entrance was not built until 1996. When the third car park was provided in 1989 at Willington Lane, it too was designed with the impressive entrance.

The CPO for Tymon Park also included the proposed M50 motorway, known as the Western Parkway. The term "Parkway" was first coined in the USA by Robert Moses, who constructed motorways on Long Island to enable people from New York to access parks which he built on the shores of Long Island. Since the M50 was going through the middle of Tymon Park, the park became two large parks, Tymon Park (West) and Tymon Park (East). The original plan for the park envisaged three pedestrian bridges over the Western Parkway connecting both eastern and western sections. In December

1990 the first of these took the form of a temporary bailey bridge, installed by the army. While the Government approved funding for one bridge, there was considerable controversy over securing approval for a second bridge. However, this was finally approved and erected in 1991. One bridge is located near the Greenhills Road and another near the Tallaght By-Pass at Balrothery.

With the establishment of South Dublin County Council in 1994 a re-examination of the development and management of Tymon Park was undertaken. The western section was generally regarded as being developed to a higher standard with a greater emphasis on passive usage



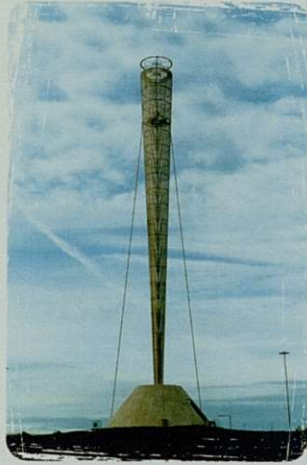
Aerial view of Tymon Park (west) and M50 motorway.



compared with the eastern section where there was a concentration of playing pitches. The response was the initiation of a programme of works with the following objectives :

- To create visual interest and landmark features within the park including high level viewing points to enhance views of the surrounding landscape, especially the Dublin Mountains.
- To rationalise the provision of recreational facilities and provide for accessibility throughout the park for all user groups.
- To eliminate areas of dereliction and provide greater habitat (flora and fauna) diversity.

These objectives were facilitated to a large extent by the construction of new lakes in 1997 to provide a focus for the east side of the park and, by the completion in 1999 – 2001 of the M50 motorway at Balrothery (Southern Cross Route), where some derelict land reserved for road construction existed within the park. After the construction of the motorway, the park boundary was redefined with a low stone wall and railing. In addition, the park topography was changed significantly adjacent to the pedestrian bridges, to create viewing points over the park and across the city and as landscape features in their own right.



ESAT Millenium Tower

Enclosed within the railing in the 1980s, was a 12 acre site intended for a second level school adjacent to the Greenhills Road. As the years passed, it seemed that the school was not going to be built and at one stage discussions had taken place with the Department of Education regarding the Council buying the site which by then was an established part of the park. However, in 1995, the site was required for an all-Irish school and following extensive discussions with County Dublin Vocational Education Committee (VEC) a site for Coláiste de hÍde, a 600 student Post Primary School, was agreed and planning permission granted in 1998. The shape and size of the site is different from the original because facilities for outdoor activities are available in the park. The new configuration allows the large corner entrance to remain and the pathway was re-routed around the school boundary to maintain the pedestrian access.

The ESAT Millennium Tower in the southern corner of the park, near the Balrothery Interchange was 'unveiled' in December 1999. This 30 metre stainless steel conical tower includes a telecommunications antenna and is the first piece of sculpture in the park. It was designed by Price & Myers, Consultant Engineers in London with sponsorship from ESAT Digifone and was the winning entry in a competition for a sculpture to celebrate the new millennium. The tower is a prominent landmark, contrasts well with the parkland setting and acts as a focal point for the surrounding Millennium Forest.





# section two

e n v i r o n m e n t   a n d   e c o l o g y



## Trees, Hedgerows & Woodlands

Tymon Park is one of the best examples of the retention of hedgerows within the new landscape. The hedgerows included some dead elm trees, which were victims of the Dutch Elm Disease. After felling and removal of the dead specimens, new planting was carried out to reinforce the hedgerows and to form a woodland boundary to the park. Initial planting commenced in 1982, followed 3 years later by 300,000 naturalised and indigenous trees. In 1992, a further 200,000 trees were planted and a new phase of planting, which commenced in spring 1997, have all contributed to what is called Tymon Park Urban Forest. Composed of a series of woodland plantations of varying size and structure, interlinked by a network of original hedgerows and by amenity parkland space, it was the outright winner in the Urban Forestry category of the 1998 Irish Forestry Awards. The awards competition, which included Northern Ireland, was run by the Royal Dublin Society with sponsorship from the Department of the Marine and Natural Resources – Forest Service and with the support of the European Union. The presentation was made by Dr. Michael Woods, T.D., Minister for the Marine & Natural Resources on 21st December 1998.

The woodlands are maturing to create an attractive setting which maximises the landscape and amenity potential of other park features. They contribute significantly to the ecological and local wildlife value of the park by fostering



the development of new habitats and enhancing the range of wild flora and fauna. In a broader context, Tymon Park Forest, comprising 30 hectares (over 70 acres) forms a vital link in the overall network of urban forest throughout South Dublin and particularly with establishing woodlands in the nearby Dodder Valley Park.

Tymon Park Forest is designed to produce a rich and diverse woodland landscape for a total of 125 different species. It includes four stands of predominantly beech, which are being managed to mature high forest. The greater proportion of the woodlands consist of randomly grouped and intimate mixtures of predominantly broadleaf species including beech, poplar, ash, chestnut, willow, maples, sycamore and birch. Many of these incorporate a small proportion of coniferous species, in particular larch, spruce and Scot's pine. At present, various species of poplar tend to dominate many of the plantations. While originally included for their rapid growth and as a nurse crop to create better conditions for establishing the long-term species, their dominance is being gradually reduced as thinning operations progress. This facilitates the maturing of a more diverse range of slower growing deciduous trees. However, in the short term they have proved very efficient in quickly achieving an attractive woodland setting for many park features.



Alder, hazel, and hawthorn predominate as woodland margin, coppicing and edge material with understorey planting of holly, and dogwood in thinned plantations. Formal avenues of lime trees have been established along two principal pathways within the park. New avenues of oak and beech were planted in spring 1998 and block plantings of willow are enhancing the amenity context of the various ponds and providing valuable cover for the associated birds and wildlife.

Long term management practices will aim to increase the amenity value of the woodland areas and protect attractive flora and fauna. When thinning operations have progressed to enable a sufficient amount of light to penetrate to understorey layers it is proposed to increase the diversity of woodland ground flora by introducing bulbs, plugs and seedlings for naturalising e.g. bluebells, primroses, wood anemones etc. Some understorey planting of shrubby species for coppicing, including hazel, dogwood and holly has already commenced. The development of woodland trails will be ongoing and this will include the provision of way-markers and signs to guide the visitor along woodland trails with on-site interpretation of woodland features where appropriate.



## Water Features

An essential feature in all parks is water, and Tymon Park is fortunate to have a supply from the River Poddle which rises in Fettercairn, Tallaght, flows northwards through Tymon and towards the city where it enters the River Liffey near Wood Quay. Up to the 13th century, it was the main source of water for the citizens of Dublin. In particular it served the monks of St. Thomas' Abbey at St. Thomas' Court (built in 1176) behind the present day Church of St. Catherine's on Thomas Street in the heart of Dublin City.

The Poddle enters the western section of the Park, follows its original course alongside Tymon Lane and then diverts to a new line along which a number of ornamental ponds, cascades, waterfalls and other water features were developed in the 1980s. It then disappears under the Western Parkway Motorway (M50) and emerges on the eastern section of the park, from which it flows through the areas of Limekiln, Walkinstown, and Whitehall. Near Kimmage it was once joined with the Old City Watercourse, a two mile long man-made connection from the River Dodder at the Firhouse Weir, built to boost the city's water supply over the period 1244-1777.

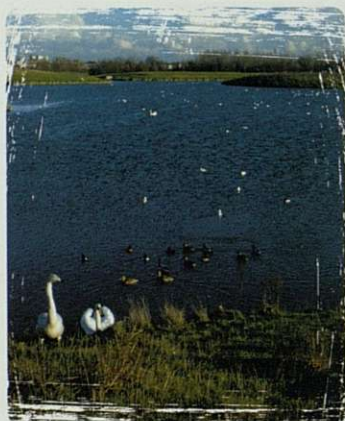
In 1985, lakes were constructed in Tymon Park (West) utilising a former quarry site for one of the ponds. It involved the excavation and redistribution of 50,000 m<sup>3</sup> of spoil and topsoil in order to achieve the desired contours and



to construct the elevated viewing areas. There are four interconnected ponds linked by a series of sluice gates, cascades and underground channels that control and regulate the flow of water. The presence of marl (a dense clay) in the soil profile enabled water retention in the lakes without the need for an artificial liner. The environment around the lakes is enhanced by a comprehensive system of pedestrian paths and bridges and substantial tree and shrub planting making it the recreational focal point in the Park. Within two years of its construction the lake was supporting a resident population of Mallard Ducks.

During the winter of 1986, these lakes were used as a recuperating station for forty-two swans, which had suffered the consequences of an oil spillage on the River Tolka. For nearly fifteen weeks, they were enclosed in a pen that straddled part of an island and a lake, closely monitored and attended to by the Rangers. The event gained popularity, individual identities for the swans during their stay and was featured on RTE's television programme, 'Face of the Earth'. Once recuperated and given a clean bill of health, the swans were returned to a new home on Broadmeadow Estuary, near Swords, North County Dublin. However, in 1988 two of the swans returned back to Tymon Park and established a breeding territory.





During 1997 work began on the construction of 2.2 hectares (5.45 acres) of lakes in Tymon Park (East) near the Limekiln Road. In a Planning permission granted for a housing development at Kimmage Manor, the developer was required to pay for alleviating possible flooding problems on the Poddle River which flowed through that scheme. The only location where flood attenuation measures could be provided was in Tymon Park and an initiative was taken by the Parks Department to introduce lakes into that section of the park where the public had sought relief from what they regarded as an excessive number of playing pitches. The levies were used with other funds for the development of the three lakes and associated pathways that are now a major amenity in that section of the park.

The new development entailed the loss of four football pitches and is composed of three interconnected lakes, designed to comply with a minimum flood storage capacity of 13,000 cu.m. Islands were retained within the lakes to encourage the presence of wild water fowl. Existing vegetation, including maturing woodland and hedgerows was also retained where possible. Over 100,000 cubic metres of earth were excavated and redistributed to provide the lake beds, islands and elevated viewing points, transforming a relatively flat site into a gently undulating landscape. Sections of flax fibre bio-engineering rolls, implanted with seeds of marginal aquatic plants were placed on the lake edge and proved very efficient with other plantings in reducing localised incidences of erosion along the lake shore.





## Flora and Fauna

Although large areas of the park are occupied by playing pitches there is still a diverse range of habitats which can be grouped under the categories of woodland, waterside, hedgerow, grassland and wasteland. A survey carried out in 1999 indicated a combined total of 339 species of flora and fauna in all of these habitats. The retention of hedgerows retains not only a physical historical link with the past, it also conserves some of the wildlife which existed when the lands were used for agriculture, being home for 90 species. Traditional hedge laying techniques have also been done with the assistance of the Conservation Volunteers Ireland (CVI) to maintain some hedges. Many areas are managed as wild flower meadows allowing a diversity of 74 species including some of interest such as the Pyramidal Orchid (*Anacamptis pyramidalis*).

All the water features provide a valuable habitat for up to 92 species of flora and fauna, and a breeding ground for the popular water-fowl. Some such as the Flowering Rush (*Butomus umbellatus*) were planted. The lakes near Willington are colonised by native aquatic flowering species providing a habitat for amphibians and aquatic waterside insect species (eg. *Enallagma cyathigerum* – the Common Blue Damselfly). The aim of management is to allow the lake systems to be colonised by local indigenous species to increase the amount of native biodiversity found within the park.





Five of the recorded species in Tymon Park are protected under the Republic of Ireland 1976 Wildlife Act. One of these, the Ring Ouzel (*Turdus torquatus*) is regarded as rare and three others, the Common Frog (*Rana temporaria*), the Pipistrelle Bat (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) and the Badger (*Meles meles*) are internationally important. The Ring Ouzel is very uncommon in the park being either a summer breeding visitor or a passage migrant in spring and autumn. It usually nests in open uplands dominated by heather and bracken and in rock scree areas and therefore only uses the park to feed on invertebrates and fruits such as elderberries. Consequently, the use of excessive pesticides or removal of fruit bearing tree species is avoided. The common frog is an amphibian which resides in the Willington lakes and it is hoped that it will also colonise the other lakes in the park. The Pipistrelle Bat uses the park as a feeding ground for insects and not as a roosting site. There are three Badger sets which are regularly monitored, but for protection purposes, the locations are not revealed to the public. The fifth species, the Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*) is a resident that feeds on seeds and insects in lightly wooded areas.



# section three

r e c r e a t i o n

*brush it out, and as the pa  
the wall*



## Recreational Facilities

Tymon Park is a valuable resource for the local communities and the surrounding hinterland. It provides opportunities for a wide range of outdoor active and passive recreational activities for all age groups including walking, jogging and participation in active sport, principally field sports. It is a popular venue for many public events such as tournaments, band recitals, film/television shoots, family festivals in the summer, cross country races and circus performances.

Lakeside walking is a popular activity that can provide an opportunity for people to observe wild life while enjoying the peace and tranquillity of the park environment. The park is used as an outdoor classroom for schools and youth organisations for natural heritage studies.

For children, one of the most important facilities in a park is a playground. In Tymon Park, one large adventure style playground was constructed in late 1987 and was in use the following June. The playground was refurbished with new swings and modern equipment in 2001.

A major use of Tymon Park is active recreational pursuits, mainly football (gaelic and soccer) As the park developed, more and more pitches were



provided and by 1983, with 250 acres acquired, there were twenty-one playing pitches in operation. One of the emerging problems was the need for pavilions with changing room facilities. Some clubs such as Faughs Hurling Club, St. Jude's Gaelic Football Club and Templeogue United Football Club were leased sites by the Council adjacent to the Wellington Lane entrance where they have built their own club houses. The long term plan is to provide a purpose built pavilion with public toilets, adjacent to the Limekiln Road car park for other sports clubs using the park.

The National Basketball Association secured agreement to construct an arena in the park and in May 1988, a site regarded the most suitable was chosen in the very southern end of the park between Tymon Lane and the Western Parkway. Planning permission was granted in December 1990 and a 250 year lease of the lands was approved by the Council in 1992. The Arena was completed in 1995 and because of difficulties with the proposed access from Balrothery, a separate access road was constructed through the park from the Tymon North Distributor Road. The arena has proved to be a popular venue for basketball (training and championship events) as well as other recreational uses such as gymnastics.

## Levels of Public Usage



The most notable use of Tymon Park, particularly at weekends, is the number of sports enthusiasts who travel from around the county and beyond to avail of the facilities. National and international events, many of which are televised, also attract people from around the world.

While the number of sports enthusiasts is easily determined it can be more difficult to assess the numbers involved in passive recreational use. However, students of the Institute of Technology, Tallaght, carried out the first parks visitor survey in the spring and summer of 1999. It revealed that approximately 82% of the people who visit Tymon Park are from a catchment area of a one kilometre radius from the park. They expressed a high level of satisfaction with the park, particularly in regard to parking, safety, accessibility and its range of facilities; 98% expressing confidence in recommending the park to others. A majority appreciated the wildlife diversity in the park and a significant number were unaware of the history of the land before it was developed as a park. Over 90% were pleased with the woodlands and over 70% liked the water features. Comments received indicated the need to provide more litter bins, better toilets, more seating and an improvement of the pathways. These views will be taken into consideration in carrying out future improvements.

In order to encourage more visitors and to make their visit more enjoyable, planning permission was granted in January 2001 for a visitor centre which will provide public toilets, a park ranger station and interpretive material relating to the park.





## Local Community Involvement

The park is well used by the local community especially on Family Days in July of each year when several thousand people visit and participate in the organised events of interest for all age groups, especially the youth. Another form of participation by the community is through special interest groups, many of which are focussed on environmental matters.

One of these was the Tree Council of Ireland, which after its inauguration, held a ceremonial tree-planting on March 9th 1986 to launch the first National Tree Week. The Dublin Federation of the Irish Countrywomen's Association celebrated their 80th anniversary on the 22nd April 1995 with a tree planting ceremony and completed an avenue of lime trees within the park.

Since early 1996, the Conservation Volunteers Ireland (CVI) have successfully attracted local volunteers from the surrounding communities to participate in practical management projects for the woodlands. These projects have included tree thinning, respacing and crownlifting, understorey planting of previously thinned woodlands, interplanting in hedgerows. In January 1997, the CVI launched their Millennium Urban Forest initiative with the planting of almost 1,000 trees and on March 7th 1999, in association with Bord Gais, they held one of the largest ever tree planting initiatives of its kind in Ireland, the Bord Gais Plantathon 1999. This unique project involved the planting of 5,000 trees by volunteers in one day at Tymon Park.

# Appendices

## Appendix 1: Park Statistics

Area of Park:	East:	84.2Ha.	208Ac.
	West:	47.4Ha.	117Ac.
Boundary Length:	Motorway:	4090m	
	Residential:	8409m	
Area of Lakes:	Tymon Nth.	1.35Ha.	3.35Ac.
	Limekiln:	2.2Ha.	5.45Ac.
	Wellington:	0.82Ha.	2.02Ac.
No. of Entrances	Vehicular:	4	
	Pedestrian:	12	
Length of Footpaths:	East:	8550m	
	West:	5360m	
Tymon Lane:		1846m	
Length of Hedgerows:		7000m	
Area of Woodland:		30.0Ha.	74.1Ac.
No. of Pitches:		26	
No. Car Parking Spaces:	Tymon North	176 Spaces	
	Limekiln Road	70 Spaces	
	Wellington Lane	66 Spaces	
	National Basketball Arena	363 Spaces	
Area of Playground:		0.52Ha.	1.28Ac.

## Appendix 2: Map of Tymon Park



### Appendix 3: Variants of the Tymon Name

Over the centuries many variants of the Tymon name have been used when referring to the placename, Tymon and to Tymon Castle. Some of these include:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Source</u>
Eracht Omothan	1219	c	Timmins (lands of)	1816	h
Erachtomothan	1899	f	Timmond (Castle)	1763	b
Stamoan	1531	j	Timon (Castle)	1816	h
Stamohan	1227	j	Timon (lands of)	1821	d
Stamohan	1585	e	Timond (Castle)	1763	b
Stamohand	1302	j	Timothan	1585	e
Stamohane	1531	j	Timothan	1562	e
Stamothan	1562	e	Timothan (prebend of)	1555	k
Stamothan (prebend of)	1577	k	Timothe	1582	e
Stamuthan	1230	j	Tymethen	1547	e
Tachmathane	1257	j	Tymen	1659	l
Taghmon	1913	i	Tymloy	1610	m
Tamothan	1529	j	Tymon	1665	e
Tathtom	1227	j	Tymon (Castle)	1855	g
Teach-Munna	1904	a	Tymone (Castelt & Toume of)	1654	n
Thamothan	1529	j	Tymothan	1547	e
Timethen	1547	e			

### Appendix 3: Variants of the Tymon Name (contd.)

Sources:

- a Adams. Ancient Castles of Ireland
- b Harbison. Beranger's Drawings of the Principal Antique Buildings of Ireland
- c Counts on the Great Rolls of the Pipe of the Irish Exchequer for the Reign of King Henry III
- d Duncan, William. Maps of the County Dublin, Dublin, 1821
- e Griffith (ed.) Calendar of Inquisitions
- f Handcock. The History and Antiquities of Tallaght
- g Hill Map of Dublin, 1855-1900
- h John Taylor's Map of the Environs of Dublin, 1816
- i Joyce. The Origin and History of Irish Names of Places
- j McNeill (ed.). Archbishop Alen's Register
- k Newport (ed.) The 'Dignitas Decani' of St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin
- l Pender (ed.). Census of Ireland
- m Speed's Map, 1610
- n Survey of Tallaght, 1654

Note: Full details of these sources are given in the bibliography.

When a variant occurs more than once in a source, the earliest entry is shown.

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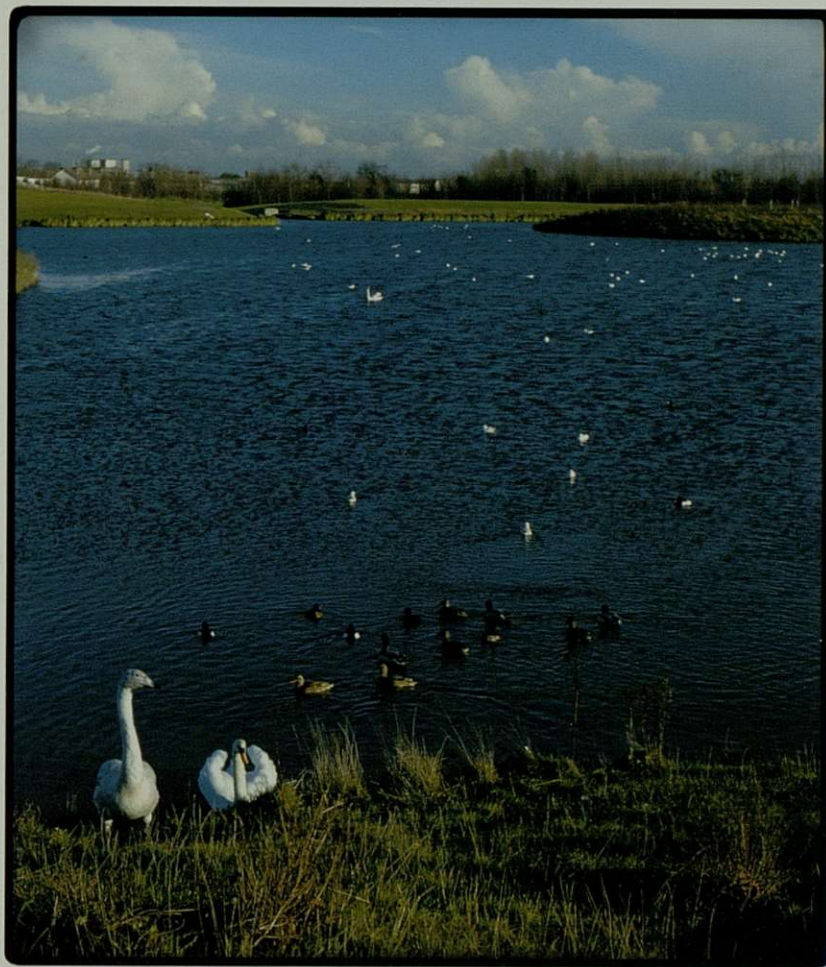
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Main lake at Limekiln Road (constructed 1997).



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*brush it out... and as the party so  
the wall this open*

push it out and as the power  
the walls the