

Charter Guardians of The Three Trout Stream

The primary aim of the group is to preserve and enhance the natural ecosystem corridor that is the Three Trout Stream for the benefit of local biodiversity, flood water retention, climate action, and access to nature. Recognising the climate and biodiversity emergencies, the group's vision for the TTS is based on a set of simple core principles:

- Existing natural habitats verging the river, such as wetlands, meadows and woodlands, should not be further disturbed. Previously degraded habitats should be rehabilitated using native tree and meadow seed stock.
- Any development (or part thereof) should be set back at minimum 20m from the bank of the river to maintain the integrity of the riparian zone.
- Walkways that allow public access to nature must be sensitively designed and include detailed signage to explain the importance of the various features, habitats and species.
- Any artificial lighting near the river should be avoided but where additional lighting is absolutely necessary, timer-controlled, bat-friendly options must be used. We see these as being hooded bollard lighting directed on the path only and only used in winter months from 4-9pm.
- The area has a rich archaeological history that should be documented and showcased through signage and images.
- Local area plans should confer ongoing, higher protection to such wild sites, for example by re-designating "Open space" zones as **ABR and APBR**. (Area of Biodiverse Richness and Area of Potential Biodiverse Richness.)
- The stream can become an immersive experience with art trails and nature signage running along its whole route at different points.
- The Group will encourage and engage local communities along the stream to take care and plant on their stretch. The group will guide on native tree stock, protection and enhancement of wildlife habitat and prevention of all chemical use and removal of invasive species.
- The group would encourage the idea of a river day 1 day of the year where all the communities along the river come out and plant and clean and celebrate the river, its wildlife and the communities along it. This should involve local schools.

- The group would seek to have the EPA official record and monitor the stream and the tributary from Delany The Brown trout.
- The EPA's - SEA - Strategic Environmental assessment for the areas' Local Area Plan indicates a number of areas designated as public parks - the group fully supports this. Many of these areas run alongside the banks of the stream and sit on historic flood plains.
- The SEA -Strategic Environmental Assessment, GI - Green Infrastructure guidelines, Climate adaptation and mitigation Plan, Biodiverse Area Plan, Dept. of Heritage directives, IFI -Inland Fisheries Irelands Guidelines, Habitats Directive, EPA goals and targets re water, soil and air, all call for the protection, enhancement and creation of interconnected green corridors along our rivers and streams and between our woods and forests. The Guardians TTS aims and aspirations for the Stream and the wider area fully align with all these directives and policies.

The group's vision for the TTS is for an ecologically healthy, biodiverse catchment that is resilient to climate change and continues to provide important ecosystem services such as natural flood water retention; a protected space that locals can be proud of and enjoy.

The group believes this vision and non-exhaustive set of guiding principles could be extended to other natural sites in the Greystones area in order to connect them into one continuous ecological corridor. Furthermore, the TTS and the local successes achieved can be used as examples to inform and improve national policies.