



THE WARREN COMMUNITY GARDEN

**Proposal for the Development of a Community Organic and
Biodiverse Garden at Warren Estate,
Co. Roscommon**

Submitted by:

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Introduction

We are proposing the development of a Community Organic and Biodiverse Garden on currently underutilized Greenbelt land in the **Warren Estate, Roscommon**. This space, which is currently being impacted by fly-tipping and neglect, holds huge potential to become a vibrant, safe, and inclusive space for the entire community. This garden will be rooted in organic principles, promote biodiversity, encourage community connection, and provide education and sustainable food growing skills for people of all ages and abilities.



Background and Need

The Greenbelt area within the Warren Estate has unfortunately become a target for some illegal dumping. As a resident gardener and environmental educator, I have witnessed the negative impacts this has on the estate — from environmental degradation to lost opportunities for community engagement.

By reclaiming this space for a community garden, we can:

- Improve the physical environment and reduce illegal dumping
- Offer an inclusive space for learning, wellbeing, and social connection for the wider community and community groups

Encourage eco-conscious practices like composting, rainwater harvesting, and wildlife-friendly gardening



Our Vision for the Warren Community Garden

- 🌿 Organic & Pesticide-Free: All growing will follow sustainable, organic methods
- 🐝 Biodiversity-Boosting: Wildlife-friendly planting, native hedgerows, bee hotels, log piles, pollinator corridors, and a 'no-dig' philosophy unless to remove rubble
- 🌍 Climate Conscious: Composting systems, rainwater harvesting, reusing materials, and low-impact landscaping
- ♿ Inclusive & Accessible: Designed for all ages and abilities, with raised beds, seating areas, and learning zones
- ♻️ Recycling-Focused: Using reclaimed materials for beds, signage, and fencing where possible
- 👥 Community-Led: Open to residents, schools, youth groups, and local volunteers



Proposed Features

- Raised Beds: For shared and individual growing of Vegetables, Herbs and Fruits
- An Native Irish Orchard with Apples, Damsons and Native Nut Trees
- Possibly a small polytunnel and or large greenhouse for seed germination and warm weather crops e.g. Tomatoes
- Wildlife Zones: Pollinator planting, bug hotels, native wildflowers, dead hedge, logs
- A small pond to encourage frogs and newts for slug control and other insects and wildlife
- Composting Area: For garden and kitchen waste to produce compost for the site
- Rainwater Collection: Reclaimed barrels for watering
- Tool Shed / Storage: Secure space for communal tools
- Outdoor Classroom: Small space for workshops and school visits
- Sensory Garden Section: With herbs and textured plants for therapeutic use
- Seating and Gathering Spaces: For workshops, rest, and community events



Community Benefits

- 🌿 Reduction in fly tipping and restoration of degraded land
- 🌱 Free access to fresh, local, organic food
- 🧠 Improved mental health, mindfulness, and physical wellbeing
- 👨🌾 Hands-on sustainability and gardening education for all ages
- 💛 Stronger social bonds within the Warren Estate and wider Boyle Area and a place for groups like Drumderrig House Nursing Home and St Joseph's Nation School to visit and join in.
- 🐝 Support for Ireland's pollinator populations and biodiversity goals



Management Plan

The garden will be managed by a small working group of volunteers, residents, and local partners. We aim to form a Garden Committee that will oversee:

- Plot allocations
- Seasonal garden planning
- Workshop organisation
- Health & safety / access
- Funding and maintenance planning

Support and Sustainability

Initial setup funding and council support would enable the clearing of the site, soil testing, and installation of basic infrastructure (fencing, beds, water source). We plan to seek additional grants through:

- Community Gardens Ireland
- Roscommon PPN
- LEADER programme
- Local tidy towns initiatives
- Crowdfunding and in-kind donations
- Ongoing costs will be supported through workshops, small membership fees (where appropriate), and local partnerships with schools and community groups.

Next Steps

- Formal approval and designation of the site for community use
- Soil and biodiversity assessment with environmental guidance
- Formation of the Garden Committee and community call-out
- Site clean-up (with council support hopefully)
- Phase 1 installation (paths, composting, beds, seating)



Conclusion

We believe this project will not only transform a neglected greenbelt into a community jewel but also support Roscommon County Council's goals for sustainability, social inclusion, climate action, and local food resilience.

We welcome the opportunity to work alongside the Council and other local stakeholders to bring this vision to life.



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