# REPORT

**Green Foundation Ireland,**
**along with the**
**Local Authorities Water Programme (LAWPRO),**
**invite you to an information afternoon**

## *Where the Tolka Meets the Sea*

***Venue:*** **East Wall Water Sports Centre,**
**East Wall, Dublin, D03 H768**

***Sunday 24 August 2025 – 14:30 to 16:30***

# *Where the Tolka Meets the Sea*

## THEME

This was an opportunity for all those interested in protecting the River Tolka as a resource to come together. It was a family friendly afternoon, including a tour of the East Wall Water Sports Centre which is situated on the mouth of the Tolka. As well, we had a number of short talks by experts about what we can do to preserve the biodiversity of the Tolka and how we can improve its water quality.

**This event is part of National Heritage Week 2025.**

**With thanks to the Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO) for their financial support towards this event.**

## ABOUT OUR GUEST SPEAKERS

### Éanna Gallagher

Éanna is Community Water Officer with the **Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO)**.

### Toby O'Mahony Adams

Toby is the founder of **Treasure the Tolka** – a local volunteer group dedicated to restoring the River Tolka's natural beauty. Their team works tirelessly to remove rubbish and tackle invasive plant species, creating space for native wildlife to thrive.

### Laura Ribero

Laura is a marine and freshwater ecologist and biologist, working at Dublin City University as postdoctoral researcher. Her work has been focusing on ecology and biodiversity of temperate and tropical coastal areas, wetlands and riverine ecosystems, in the Mediterranean Sea and south-east Asia.

## ABOUT OUR INFORMATION AFTERNOON

This event "Where the Tolka Meets the Sea" was organised by Green Foundation Ireland, along with **LAWPRO**, as a means of bringing together the different stakeholder and community groups interested in the future of the River Tolka.

It took place on the afternoon of Sunday 24 August 2025 at the **East Wall Water Sports Centre** in Dublin.

Those who arrived early had an opportunity to go out on the boats, while others were fascinated by the location of the Sports Centre. So many people in Dublin do not know that this facility exists. It operates mainly as a sports centre for local youth groups in the East Wall area. **Alan Dolan** of the Centre showed us around and later the chair of the East Wall Sports Centre spoke to the group about the history of The sports centre and what they do.

Other speakers included **Laura Ribero** from Dublin City University, **Toby O'Mahony Adams** from **Treasure the Tolka** and **Éanna Gallagher** from **LAWPRO**.

Each of them spoke about the importance of the river and what communities can do to protect the water quality and biodiversity. Éanna Gallagher expressed the hope that this could be a united group looking after the entire stretch of the River Tolka similar to the group **Dodder Action**, which looks after the River Dodder.

Food and ice cream were provided to those present and a lot of important networking took place. It was agreed by everyone that it was an important event which hopefully can be repeated next year.

The event was filmed by **Greenstem Films** for Green Foundation Ireland. Greenstem Films are actually making a film about the talk, and this event will be included in the final film.

*You can **view photos of the event here**.*

***Green Foundation Ireland*** ***23 September 2025***