



Declan Murphy

Groundskeeper

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Horticulture and Landscape Management graduate from Munster Technological University with **3 years** of practical experience maintaining sports pitches, parks, and gardens. Completed a **6-month** placement at the Fota House and Gardens estate and spent 2 summers working with Cork City Council's Parks Department. Comfortable operating ride-on mowers, strimmers, and hedge cutters, and experienced in seasonal planting, irrigation, and turf maintenance. Looking for a groundskeeper role where I can maintain high-quality outdoor spaces and develop towards a head groundsman position.

Experience

Seasonal Grounds Maintenance Operative, Cork City Council Parks Department, Cork

Apr 2024 – Oct 2025

Seasonal role across 2 summers maintaining public parks, pitches, and civic spaces in Cork city.

- Maintained **over 15 public parks and green spaces** as part of a 4-person grounds team
- Mowed, aerated, and overseeded **6 sports pitches** used for GAA, soccer, and rugby, keeping them match-ready throughout the season
- Planted and maintained **over 2,500 bedding plants** across seasonal displays in Fitzgerald Park and Bishop Lucey Park
- Operated ride-on mowers for **up to 6 hours per day** covering an average of **4 hectares per shift**

Garden and Grounds Placement Student, Fota House and Gardens, Carrigtwohill

Jun 2023 – Dec 2023

6-month placement supporting the head gardener at a historic estate with **30 acres** of formal gardens and arboretum.

- Assisted with the propagation and care of **over 100 rare and tender plant species** in the walled garden
- Supported visitor engagement by delivering **8 guided garden tours** to groups of up to **20 visitors**

Education

BSc (Hons) Horticulture and Landscape Management in Horticulture and Landscape Management, Munster Technological University, Cork

Sep 2021 – Jun 2025

Graduated with Second Class Honours, First Division (**62% average**). Final year project on *the effect of organic soil amendments on turfgrass quality in municipal sports pitches*, graded **65%**.

- Relevant modules: Turfgrass Science, Landscape Design, Plant Pathology, Arboriculture, Soil Science, Sustainable Land Management

Skills

Turf Management • Ride-On Mower Operation • Strimmer and Hedge Cutter Use • Sports Pitch Preparation • Seasonal Planting and Bedding • Irrigation Systems • Plant Identification • Herbicide and Pesticide Application • Health and Safety (grounds work) • Record Keeping

Certifications

PA1 and PA6 Pesticide Application (Safe Use of Pesticides), City & Guilds (NPTC equivalent, QQI)

Mar 2024 – Apr 2024

Chainsaw Maintenance and Cross-Cutting (CS30/31), Lantra

May 2024 – May 2024

Manual Handling Certificate, MTU Health and Safety Office

Sep 2023 – Sep 2023

Languages

English - Native • Irish - Basic

Projects

Final Year Project: Organic Soil Amendments and Turfgrass Quality

Sep 2024 – Apr 2025

Tested the effect of compost and seaweed-based amendments on turfgrass density, colour, and root depth in municipal pitch conditions.

- Set up **12 experimental plots** at the MTU sports grounds, applying 3 different amendment treatments plus a control
- Measured turfgrass density, NDVI colour rating, and root depth at **4-week intervals over 16 weeks**
- Found that the seaweed-compost blend produced **18% greater root depth** and visibly improved colour compared to the control

Extra Curricular Activity

Volunteer, Tidy Towns Committee, Blarney

Jun 2022 – Jun 2025

Regular volunteer with the Blarney Tidy Towns group, maintaining public flowerbeds and community spaces.

- Contributed **over 150 volunteer hours** across 3 years, helping Blarney achieve a **Silver Medal** in the SuperValu Tidy Towns competition in 2024