

# Parks prepare to fly the flag for Trafford

by Lynsey Roberts

**A NUMBER of green spaces across Trafford will be hoping to fly a flag of approval after being put forward for a prestigious award.**

Trafford council has entered sites from across the borough for the national Green Flag Awards, which recognise excellence in managing parks.

Flixton Gardens, Victoria Park in Stretford and Urmston Cemetery, Altrincham's Crematorium and John Leigh Park, are hoping to win the accolade for the first time.

Trafford Ecology Park, in Trafford Park, successfully gained Green Park status along with 178 other sites across England and Wales, last year.

The council's nature development officer, Lindsey Howard, says that the council now know what to expect and this is reflected in the chosen nominations.

She said: "All the parks that have been put forward are already of a high standard."

The council believes that volunteer 'Friends of' groups have a major role to play in the upkeep and funding of the parks, raising money through various methods and making them welcoming, safe and clean.

Ms Howard added: "The award definitely has a value for the parks.

"If they are successful, the sites will be able to fly the Green Flag and in doing so demonstrate to its visitors that it can maintain high standards."

The Green Flag parks could also help the Trafford 'In Bloom' campaign, the first stage of which is judged in June.

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Friends of Victoria Park members with the park's head gardener, Tony Dey, Trafford council's head gardener, Mark Fearnough and community parks officer Sasha Essuah-Mensah. SO'H 25/3



Planting bulbs at Trafford Ecology Park are Nicola Donnachie and students Lee, aged 14, from Lostock College of Arts and William, 16, from Manor High School. SO'H 25/3