

Green Flag Award – Raising the Standard

Over the last four years, Trafford has become one of the leading authorities in the country in terms of the quality of their parks and open spaces. This significant improvement came about because of the Friends group movement within the Borough in 2001, pressuring the Council to improve the poor state of its greenspace.

Perhaps the most significant tool used to help guide the service during this period was the Green Flag Award scheme. This scheme is the nationally recognised award for excellence within parks and open spaces.

Trafford is now joint first in the North of England with 11 Green Flag Awards and is

joint second in England and Wales. Last years winners are as follows;

- 2005 Walkden Gardens
- Woodheys Park
- Halecroft Park
- Trafford Ecology Park
- John Leigh Park
- Victoria Park
- Flixton Gardens
- Altrincham Crematorium
- Urmston Cemetery
- Worthington Park
- Denzell Gardens

Trafford have used the Green Flag criteria as a management tool to shape the service to our customer. This has not only just affected the winning parks, but all sites are now managed with the criteria in mind. This means



● Flying the flag, friends and council staff, at the Green Flag Awards

that we manage our sites so that they are clean and well maintained, welcoming and accessible, safe, well marketed, sustainable, and most importantly that they involve the community at all levels.

This unique approach to

managing all sites and not just those applying for the Award has had an incredible effect on the quality of the greenspace across the Borough and on the quality of life of those people that use our parks and open spaces.

A Forest of Friends Transforms a Park

Kingsway Park has been wonderfully transformed with the help of enthusiastic residents, school children and community groups. The Friends of Kingsway Park successful application for Greening Greater Manchester funding culminated in the planting of woodland areas and wildflower meadows.

The Friends of Kingsway Park have been supported by Trafford Council and Red Rose Forest who won additional funding through 'Trees for Cities'. This charity plants trees and landscapes public spaces in urban areas of greatest need. It's vision is to stimulate a greening renaissance in cities around the world that will impact on global warming and beautify the urban landscape, as well as encouraging greater social cohesion through the participation of local people.

A special effort was made to involve local school children of all ages and the planting at Kingsway Park certainly did this – despite the snow on the Saturday morning! Among



● Tree-mendous, Kingsway Park tree planting

the volunteers were several 'Agapao Apprentices' volunteers who work with young people in Uganda who brushed up on their tree planting skills to apply them to their future Ugandan projects.

Hundreds of trees were planted between March 4th and 8th and once the wildflower and wetland meadows establish, the park will attract a diverse range of wildlife that will also be a rich educational resource.

'Sculpture Culture' in the Park

Dead tree trunks and limbs are being transformed into sculpture in Trafford's parks.

Wood sculpture Mick Burns has been demonstrating his genius with the chain saw to create a new attraction to the Devisdale (Denzell Gardens and the Devisdale) in Bowdon.

The Friends of Denzell Gardens and the Devisdale were so impressed by work created in nearby Hakecroft Park by wood sculptor Mick Burns they commissioned him.

In April 2006 park visitors watched Mick's amazing chain saw skill as he created new works of art including a "basking" lizard on the broken stump of a beech tree in Devisdale.

