

What's your blooming best?

Trafford is once again gearing up to showcase the best of the borough as it enters into the prestigious north west in bloom competition.

Last year Trafford beat off stiff competition, winning the best large city award.

The judges then visited Trafford Town Hall, Manchester United's football ground, Trafford Ecology Park, Walkden Gardens, Woodheys Primary School, Stamford Brook at Broadheath, ending

with a visit to the National Trust gardens of Dunham Massey.

Local residents are being asked to nominate the best places to take the competition judges this year and help the borough retain the title.

"If your nominated place is selected for the tour you will get to meet the judges and tell them why you nominated it," explained Mark Brazil, Trafford in Bloom coordinator.

"Although the route has not been released we think the

judges will be impressed with this year's entry and we may include a few surprises.

"We've been in the top three positions for several years. This shows how much our environment continues to improve," he said. To nominate a place contact Mark on 0161 912 5526, email traffordinbloom@trafford.gov.uk

The judges will be looking for a clean and green environment with good landscaping, that's well maintained and encourages nature and wildlife. The winner will be chosen from a panel of judges from the council. Residents, community groups and businesses are also being encouraged to take part by nominating the Best Pub/Hotel, Best Front Garden, Best Garden Containers, Best Business Frontage and Best Shop Frontage. Application forms for the competition can be picked up from any local library or call 0161 912 4706.



Judges during last year's tour



Follow the footprints

Youngsters in Partington certainly know the safest routes to school - thanks to new, fun markings on local footpaths.

As part of Partington in Bloom, local pupils were invited to take part in a competition to design 'foot prints' to improve road safety.

"It has been very rewarding watching the children use the markings on the pavements," said Paul Grange, from Positive Partington, whose idea the project was.

"I have even seen children telling their parents they are trying to cross the road in the wrong place and have insisted they make their way to the right place to cross."

Green grants for groups

A greener future has been secured for four community projects in the borough, thanks to a £38,000 award from Greening Greater Manchester.

The council's parks and development team have worked with the Friends of Parks groups to develop the projects, which include an orchard and a garden of tranquillity.

The £12,000 garden of tranquillity is to be created by Friends of Victoria Park in Stretford, working with residents of a nearby sheltered housing scheme. It will have a solar powered fountain.

Mansfield and Balmoral allotments and community orchard project in Urmston will use £9,536 of the award to develop a mixed orchard, scrumping lane, wild fruitwood, wetland/meadow and allotments.

£6,380 will help the Friends of Longford Park, Stretford, to continue to spruce up the wildlife garden which began four years ago. This will include a board walk for pond dipping, improved access for disabled people and bird and butterfly feeding zones.

The snail labyrinth designed by Year 6 school children in Sale will be created using £3,210 of the grant by the Friends of Worthington Park. Wooden snail sculptures will be created and detail added to explain the designs.

Greening Greater Manchester is funded by Landfill Tax Credit from Biffaward and is co-ordinated by a partnership between Groundwork, Biffa, the Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority and the local councils of Greater Manchester.