

National award for community green space



Green Flag Community Award-winning volunteers at Skelton Grange Environment Centre, Leeds



Photo: David Tothill

▲ *“It is clear to see the fantastic work that Living Under One Sun have done and the positive effect it has had on all those involved with the group. The group has been successful in reaching both individuals and community organisations which has had an impact on policy and practise both locally and regionally.”*

Tom Nandi

BTCV Community Advocate
for London

What is it?

The Green Flag Award is the national standard for parks and green spaces in England and Wales.

In 2003 the Green Flag Community Award was introduced to recognise and reward high quality green spaces managed by voluntary and community groups.

Many places that were run-down and neglected just a few years ago are now shining examples of outstanding green space. The award aims to be the impetus for continual improvement in the quality of all our community-run parks and green spaces.

The award scheme criteria act as a framework you can use to manage your site. Here's a taste:

- ✓ A welcoming place
- ✓ Healthy, safe and secure
- ✓ Well maintained and clean
- ✓ Environmental sustainability

- ✓ Biodiversity and heritage
- ✓ Community involvement
- ✓ Management and achievements

Find out more about the criteria from your local advocate (see opposite) or request a pack at www.greenflagaward.co.uk

What are the benefits?

Winning a Green Flag Community Award recognises your achievements and bring your site and your community into the spotlight. This can mean more support, involvement and can even help to unlock sources of funding.

The application process will help you to plan actions you can put into practice on your site and with your community. Groups have the added benefit of access to BTCV's Community Advocates who will support you through the award process and help to build and implement effective management plans for your site.

Winners get free annual membership to BTCV's Community Network. You'll join 1000s of other groups gaining access to discounts, insurance, funding information, training opportunities, support and much, much more!



▲ *"St. Nick's is a unique green space transformed into what it is today by the work of hundreds, probably thousands, of volunteers. It is now home to a wide variety of wildlife and a great place for locals to enjoy."*

The Green Flag Community Award is a tribute to all those people who have, over the last 20 years, helped to create this fantastic green space."

John Brierley
*Project Co-ordinator,
Friends of St. Nicholas Fields*

Contact BTCV to find out how your local advocate can support your group:

BTCV, GREEN FLAG TEAM

Sedum House, Mallard Way, Doncaster DN4 8DB

T: 01302 388883 E: npt@btcv.org.uk

Who can apply?

There is a wide range of groups and sites that apply for the award each year, from community gardens to city farms. The only stipulations are that the site is freely accessible and is solely managed by the group, although your management can be supported by others, such as the landowner or local authority.

How is it assessed?

The scheme recognises that each open space and the community involved with its management is different. Applicants are not in competition with each other and an award will be given to any green space that is judged to meet the criteria.

Applications are open from 1 November to 31 January. You simply complete a form describing how you meet the criteria and provide supplementary information about your group and site, including a management plan.

You will be assigned an independent judge who will arrange a date to visit your site. Using the information in your application and from their visit, they will score your site against each criterion. All sites receive detailed feedback and recommendations for the future. Those that score 66% or over receive the award for one year.



For more information visit:

www.greenflagaward.co.uk

www.green-space.org.uk

www.communities.gov.uk

www.keepbritaintidy.org

www.btcv.org



The Green Flag Award Scheme is managed by a consortium, comprising Keep Britain Tidy, BTCV and GreenSpace. Known collectively as the Green Flag Plus Partnership, the consortium manages the scheme in England on behalf of Communities and Local Government (CLG) and in Wales for the Welsh Steering Group.