



Wednesday 9 September – for immediate release

**Diary date:
Raising the Standard
29 September 2009
Manchester**

GreenSpace's next conference, Raising the Standard, will take place on 29 September at the City of Manchester Stadium in Manchester. The conference, which will focus on sharing best practice and guidance from Green Flag Award winners, is organised in partnership with IPGS and the Green Flag Awards.

The management of the Green Flag Awards was taken over by GreenSpace, Keep Britain Tidy and BTCV in March this year, and since then the scheme has reached its highest ever awards total, with over 1,000 flags awarded to sites in the UK and the Netherlands.

With so many parks attaining Green Flag Award status, it's clear that there is a wealth of knowledge and experience contained within the scheme; the conference aims to start the process of sharing this knowledge with the sector as a whole.

The conference is open to anyone from the parks sector, whether they have already achieved a Green Flag Award and are looking for ways to improve their sites, or have yet to apply and would like an insight into what the scheme can offer.

To find out more and book a place, please call Jessica Reid on 0118 946 9068, email events@green-space.org.uk or go to www.green-space.org.uk.

-Ends-

-Notes to Editors-

- For further information, or to arrange a press pass, please contact:

Emma Donaldson
Senior Communications Officer
T: 0118 946 9066
E: emmad@green-space.org.uk

To book a place at the conference, please contact:
Jessica Reid
Senior Events Officer
T: 0118 946 9068
E: events@green-space.org.uk

- GreenSpace is a registered charity which works to improve parks and green spaces by raising awareness, involving communities and creating skilled professionals. For more information please go to www.green-space.org.uk

- **Presentations include:**

Green Flag: Sharing learning

This presentation will focus on the potential for the Green Flag Awards to become a valuable learning tool for the parks sector, sharing best practice, learning and examples from over 1000 award-winning sites. It will also offer delegates the chance to learn more about plans for the scheme in the future.

Partnerships for communities

Richard Marsh, Leeds City Council

Otley Chevin Forest Park was the recipient of a Green Flag Award for Innovation this year, thanks to a partnership between Leeds City Council's Parks and Countryside Service, Adult Services and the West Yorkshire Strategic Health Authority. Richard Marsh will discuss how this partnership came about and the work it made possible, such as the installation of a fully accessible changing facility, courtyard resurfacing and purchase of a wheelchair accessible vehicle for the site.

Managing in partnership

Martin Hyde, London Borough of Lewisham and Adrian Wickham, Glendale

Blackheath is one of London's key open spaces. The heath crosses the boundary between the boroughs of Lewisham and Greenwich with each Council managing a section of the site. This presentation will explore the challenges and opportunities that producing a joint Green Flag application presented, in particular the integration of the in-house provided service at Greenwich and the externally managed parks service at Lewisham.

Afternoon session. Delegates choose to attend a workshop or site tour:

Workshop 1: Engaging communities with Green Pennant

Claire Lyon, BTCV and Graham & Judith Brown, The Friends of Gorse Hall

This workshop will explore how the Green Pennant Scheme can help communities to manage green spaces, looking at the challenges and opportunities for groups who are thinking of applying. The workshop will feature practical guidance from BTCV, who are managing the scheme, as well as examples from existing winners of the award.

Workshop 2: Managing smaller sites

Paul Scragg, Liverpool City Council

Many local authorities have found that smaller sites are not only a useful starting point for Green Flag, working to improve them can also engage local populations and help to boost community involvement in green space. Paul Scragg will explore how Liverpool City Council has adopted this approach, using particular case studies and providing ideas on approaches that can help bring small sites up to the Green Flag standard.

Workshop 3: How to use feedback reports to your advantage**Annie Surtees, Salford City Council**

This workshop will explore how judges' feedback reports can be a useful tool for improving sites and attracting funding, and offer advice on the best way to respond to feedback.

Site Tour 1: Platt Fields Park

Delegates will have the chance to visit this large central park, which has a strong Friends group who are currently working towards celebrating its centenary in 2010. Platt Fields offers a year-round packed community events programme, and is soon to include beekeeping within its provision.

Site Tour 2: Philips Park

A visit to a historic formal park which sits in one of the most challenging and exciting regeneration areas in England. In May 2009, a community fruit orchard opened in the park, and the site's close proximity to SportCity means it is increasingly attracting a reputation as an excellent venue for extreme sports activities.

Site Tour 3: Clayton Vale

Delegates will have the chance to visit this once neglected industrial tip to see how it has been restored into a tranquil 90 hectare wildlife haven for local schools and communities.