



Report on The Green Flag Award for Parks

The Green Flag Award is an international benchmark for the quality and standard of parks. It was introduced into Ireland in 2015 and is administered by An Taisce with the aim of recognising and rewarding good park management and encouraging high environmental standards.

To achieve an award a comprehensive management Plan has to be submitted and each park is visited by independent assessors. The Flag is awarded annually and an application for each park costs €500.

In 2015, Dublin City Council submitted and achieved Green Flags for two parks, Bushy Park and Poppintree Park. This increased to five parks in 2016 Bushy Park, Poppintree Park, St. Annes Park, Blessington St Park and Markievicz Park.

In 2023, it is proposed to submit the following twelve parks for a Green Flag Award. These Parks for the first time represent each Electoral Area and there are another five Green Flag Parks which will continue to fly their Green Flag from 2022 (Bushy Park; Markievicz Park; St Audeons Park; Weaver Park; St Patricks Park).

No	Candidate 2023 Green Flag Park	Area Committee/Electoral location
1	Ringsend Park (new)	South East/South East Inner City
2	Herbert Park	South East/Pembroke
3	Eamonn Ceannt Park (new)	South East/Kimmage, Rathmines
4	Bridgefoot Street Park (new)	South Central/South West Inner City
5	Ballyfermot Peoples Park (new)	South Central/Ballyfermot- Drimnagh
6	Griffith Park (new)	Central Area/ Cabra Glasnevin
7	Blessington Street Park Basin	Central Area/Cabra, Glasnevin
8	Poppintree Park	North West/Ballymun-Finglas
9	Johnstown Park (new)	North West/ Ballymun-Finglas
10	St. Anne's Park	North Central/ Clontarf.
11	Father Collins Park	North Central/ Donaghmede
12	Albert College Park	North Central/Artane Whitehall

The Green Flag Award is judged against eight criteria:

1. **A welcoming place:** when entering a park, the overall impression should be positive and inviting. There should be good signage with space and recreational facilities provided for all ages and interests in the community.
2. **Healthy, safe and secure:** the park, its equipment and facilities must be a safe and secure.
3. **Clean and maintained:** the park should be clean, free from litter and vandalism.

4. **Sustainability:** park maintenance operations should be environmentally friendly e.g. minimising pesticide use, not using horticultural peat use, recycling green waste etc
5. **Conservation and heritage:** the applicant must demonstrate that the conservation of biodiversity, natural and built heritage is addressed as part of the Park management.
6. **Community involvement:** the active participation and engagement of the community is essential to a successful park. This needs to be demonstrated in the application.
7. **Marketing:** there should be good provision of information to the public about amenities and activities with contact information for those who wish to volunteer.
8. **Management:** A management plan or strategy should be in place to address the previous 7 criteria. The plan must be actively implemented and regularly reviewed.

Leslie Moore, Head of Parks, Biodiversity and Landscape Services
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