

Appendix 1

The eight criteria for Green Flag are as follows:

1. A welcoming place

The overall impression for someone approaching and entering the site should be positive and inviting.

Features of particular importance are:

- Good and safe access;
- Effective signage to and in the park; and
- The principle of 'something for everyone'

2. Healthy, safe and secure

The park or green space must be healthy, safe and secure place for all members of the community to use. Relevant issues must be addressed in management plans and implemented on the ground. New concerns which arise must be addressed promptly and appropriately. This criterion emphasises that:

- Equipment and facilities must be safe to use;
- The park must be a secure place for all members of the community to use or traverse;
- Dog fouling must be adequately dealt with;
- Health and safety policies must be in place, in practice and reviewed; and
- Toilets, drinking water, first aid, public telephones and emergency equipment where relevant (e.g. lifebelts by water) should be available on or near the site and clearly sign posted.

3. Clean and well maintained

For aesthetic as well as health and safety reasons issues of cleanliness and maintenance must be addressed, in particular:

- Litter and other waste management issues must be adequately dealt with;
- Grounds, buildings, equipment and other features must be well maintained; and
- A policy on litter, vandalism and maintenance should be in place, in practice and regularly reviewed.

4. Sustainability

Methods used in maintaining the green space and its facilities should be environmentally sound, relying on best practice according to current knowledge. Management should be aware of the range of techniques available to them, and demonstrate that informed choices have been made and are regularly reviewed. Specifically:

- An environmental policy or charter and management strategy should be in place, in practice, and regularly reviewed;
- Pesticide use should be minimised and justified;
- Horticultural peat use should be eliminated;
- Waste plant material generated in the park should be recycled;
- High horticultural and arboriculture standards should be demonstrated; and

- Energy conservation, pollution reduction, waste recycling and resource conservation measures should be used.

5. Conservation and Heritage

Particular attention should be paid to the conservation and appropriate management of:

- Natural features, wildlife and flora;
- Landscape features; and
- Buildings and structural features.

6. Community Involvement

Park management authorities should actively pursue the involvement of members of the community, with representation of as many park user groups as possible. Management should be able to demonstrate:

- Knowledge of the user community and levels and pattern of use;
- Evidence of community involvement in park management and/or development and results achieved; and
- That there are appropriate levels of provision of recreational facilities for all sectors of the community.

7. Marketing

Is there:

- A marketing strategy in place? Is it in practice and regularly reviewed?
- Good provision of information to users e.g. about management strategies, activities, features, ways to get involved? and;
- Effective promotion of the park as a community resource?

8. Management Plan

A Green Flag site must have a management plan. It must set out the balance between all the priorities, policies and partners that apply to a particular green space. It should establish a time scale for putting the objectives into practice. It should also identify the contribution the site is making towards an area's wider strategic aims. It must be actively implemented and regularly reviewed.

Financially sound management of the site must also be demonstrated.