



Seven parks are recognised as some of the country's best parks



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Seven parks in Hertsmere are among the best in the UK – and that is official!

Today's announcement (Thursday 14 October) confirms that Hertsmere has been awarded six Green Flag Awards this year, as well as a Green Heritage Site Accreditation and a Community Award. This makes our parks among a record-breaking 2,127 UK parks and green spaces to receive the prestigious award in its Jubilee Year.

Green Flags are a national standard highlighting quality green spaces that are well managed. A Green Flag flying overhead is a sign to visitors that a park or green space has the highest possible environmental standards, is beautifully maintained and has excellent visitor facilities.

Councillor Seamus Quilty, Portfolio Holder for Environment, said: "The last 18 months have seen our parks and green spaces play a vital role for people through lockdowns as a place to relax, exercise and meet friends and family safely. The news that seven of our parks have achieved Green Flag recognition is testament to the hard work and dedication of the team that make our green spaces a great place that everyone can enjoy."

Our park with the longest running award history is King George Recreation Ground in Bushey, which has held the prestigious accolade for an impressive 23 years. Not far behind is Oakmere Park in Potters Bar which has received the annual award 19 times, Aberford Park in Borehamwood has held a Green Flag for 14 years and Parkfield in Potters Bar has been awarded 13 times. Bushey Rose Garden has received the award for the 11th year and Mary Forsdyke Garden and Warren Lake, located in the heart of Bushey Heath, has won the prestigious award for the fourth time.

Bushey Rose Garden has also achieved the much-coveted Green Heritage Site Accreditation, supported by Historic England, for the management of its historic features.

Elsewhere in Bushey, Fishers Field Nature Reserve has received a special Green Flag Community Award for the thirteenth time in recognition of work carried out by local volunteers who manage the site in partnership with the council.

Cllr Quilty added: "You can find out about Hertfordshire's parks and open spaces on the 'ParksHerts' website. You can search for the perfect day out based on who is going, what they want to do and see, as well as the really important things like whether you can get a cup of tea! So, whether it's to let the kids run about, walk the dog, relax in nature or to get fit - ParksHerts will help.

"We recognise that quality parks and green spaces are important to local people and essential to healthy, happy communities, so we will continue to work hard to maintain these special places where residents can come together to rest, relax, play, exercise and have fun.

"We would not have this kind of success without the hard work and dedication of our parks team, our grounds maintenance contractor John O'Conner, InspireAll which manages some of our parks events and our friends groups. The contribution of our volunteers is particularly special and I'd like to say a big thank you to everyone involved in Borehamwood Four Parks Friends Group, Friends of Bushey Rose Garden, Friends of Fishers Field, Friends of King George and Warren Estate Residents Association."

Commenting on the news that seven Hertsmere parks have achieved the Green Flag Award standard, Green Flag Award Scheme

Manager Paul Todd said: "I would like to congratulate everyone involved in making so many parks and open spaces in Hertsmere worthy of a Green Flag Award.

"To meet the requirements demanded by the scheme is testament to the hard work of the staff and volunteers who do so much to ensure that their parks maintain high standards of horticulture, safety and environmental management and is a place that supports people to live healthy lives."

The Green Flag Award scheme, managed by environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy under licence from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, recognises and rewards well-managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of green spaces across the United Kingdom and around the world.

To find out more about our parks please visit: www.hertsmere.gov.uk/parks

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