



The Valley Voice

Newsletter of The Friends of Braidburn Valley Park

Green Flag Award

The Green Flag Award is a scheme that has been running in England and Wales for some years. Like blue flags on beaches, it is an award for excellence in parks and green spaces. Parks are judged annually on the basis of a number of criteria, namely is it a:

- welcoming place
- healthy, safe and secure
- clean and well-maintained
- managed sustainably
- conserving its heritage and encouraging biodiversity
- involving communities
- marketed well, and
- does it have a management plan?

Greenspace Scotland and the Civic Trust are piloting the Green Flag Award scheme in the City of Edinburgh Council and Dundee Council, in Scotland.

What does this mean for us? Braidburn Valley Park is one of three parks put forward by Edinburgh Council for this prestigious award. This has precipitated

a flurry of activity in the park, such as the arrival of the new welcome board at the main Greenbank Crescent entrance and the development of a management plan.

Two judges joined the Friends of Braidburn Valley Park committee and P7s from South Morningside Primary in the park at the end of May. Despite a downpour, the park was looking good and the demonstration of community commitment was there for all to see.

We will have to wait a few weeks to see if the park has achieved its Green Flag Award status. If it does, we will have to find a home for a flag pole to display the actual green flag. Watch this space!



You'll be having your afternoon

TEA IN THE PARK

Saturday

1st. September, 2007
Braidburn Valley Park

Pipers
Highland Dancers
Family Highland Games
Auld Spice Ceilidh Band

The 7 Stanes
Mountain Bike Team
'improve your skills' area.
Bikes and instructions
provided for children

Art & Crafts
Fire Engine
Vintage Cars
World-famous 'Duck Race'

Organised by The Friends of Braidburn Valley Park

Welcome to Braidburn Valley Park

Noticed something new at the main entrance to the park in Greenbank Crescent? The new "Welcome Board" for Braidburn Valley Park has arrived and is now full of information about the park and the Friends.

The Friends of Braidburn Valley Park have been lobbying for some time for more attractive and informative entrances throughout the park. The board is a good step along the way, but we would like to see a welcome board at the southern end, and better and more consistent signage when people enter the park.

Keep an eye on the new welcome board for information about forthcoming events and activities and if you would like to display material that is relevant to the park, please contact the committee.



What Next for Our Trees?

The trees of Braidburn Valley are a fundamental feature in defining the landscape of our park. The Cherry trefoil and the Wheatley Elms along Comiston Road have huge historical significance, as do the Hornbeams round the stage and the Poplars marking the southern boundary.

The Friends' Honorary Tree Wardens and the Council have been working together recently to audit, survey and develop management proposals of the park's trees. This is necessary now,



particularly because of the cherry trees. These were planted by 5000 Edinburgh Guides, Brownies and Rangers for the Silver Jubilee of King George V. Therefore, they are now over 70 years old and reaching the end of their lives. Do we, as a community, want them to be replaced? If we do, how should this be done? Should they be removed all at once or in stages spread over a number of years? How will this be paid for? What about the other trees in the park when they die or are vandalised? Would it be good to have more trees along the burn, creating shady areas for fish and insects and for people as summers get hotter? What about Memorial Trees for commemorating loved ones? How about a community orchard?

These are the questions that the Friends and the Council would like to have a public debate about. The intention is that there will be a public meeting in the autumn about the tree plans, and a stall with information at the "You'll be having your afternoon tea in the park" Family Fun Day on 1st September. The Friends look forward to hearing your thoughts.

Friends of Braidburn Valley Executive Members

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