

Quality Audit Criteria

The Quality Audit takes criteria from the Green Flag Award Guidelines¹. The 2016 edition of the guidelines recognises the importance of green and open spaces:

'in relation to healthy living, especially the far-reaching impacts of stress, mental health and obesity. For children, experts recognise the importance of natural play and freedom to play imaginatively, as well as the physiological development benefits of outdoor activity.

National governments are investigating the knock-on economic benefits of wellbeing, health and exercise, as well as the impact of volunteers working in this sector - the way that public services are delivered in times of austerity and the positive impacts on the volunteers themselves, especially amongst older, otherwise isolated individuals or younger people making a start in a world of work rather than worklessness'.

The criteria recognises well-managed green spaces and can be applied to any green space that is freely accessible to the public. The Green Flag criteria includes the following and will be applied to the spaces as applicable.

Section	Criteria	Illustrative examples
A Welcoming Place	Signage	Appropriate entrance signage
		Signage with contact information, out of hours reporting, opening times
		Signage in good condition
	Entrances and access	Well presented entrances
		Safe access - road crossings, cycle access
		Adjacent secure car/cycle parking
	Social inclusivity	Accessibility to the disabled
		Any buildings publicly accessible
		Use of colour/scent/texture for partially sighted visitors
	Design	Varied visual interest
		High quality material for hard landscaping
		Appropriate trees, plants and shrubs
		Consistency of furniture (seating, litter bins)
		Enlivening features - decorative railings, lighting
		Working areas screened from view

¹ <https://www.greenflagaward.org/media/1019/green-flag-award-guidelines.pdf>

Appendix 5.5 - Quality Audit Criteria

Section	Criteria	Illustrative examples
Healthy, safe and secure	Health & wellbeing provision	Organised sports facilities
		Identified fitness or jogging route, if appropriate
		Sports development activities
	Safe equipment and facilities	First aid provision and safety measures around water
		Sense of personal safety and visibility through the space
		Informal supervision and surveillance from nearby properties
		Adequate lighting and lighting in car parks
	Security	CCTV if appropriate
		Visited by community wardens or police
		Activity and busyness - pedestrians, gardeners etc
	Control of dogs	Adequate dog bins
		Adequate signage on control of dogs
		Evidence of compliance with dog byelaws
Well maintained and clean	Litter and waste management	Adequate litter bins for the space
		Appropriate capacity of litter bins
		Free of litter, gum residue
		Free of vandalism, graffiti, fly posting
	Grounds and horticulture maintenance	Condition of flower beds and horticultural features
		Condition of grass swards
		Condition of grassed edged areas
		Condition of shrubs
		Condition of trees
		Condition of wooded areas
	Building (except toilets)	External and internal condition
		Extent of graffiti / vandalism to exterior
		Adequacy of security when closed.
	Public toilets	Adequacy of provision, including disabled toilet
		Condition of toilets
	Infrastructure maintenance	Condition of paths
		Condition of fences, railings, gates, walls

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Section	Criteria	Illustrative examples
		Condition of signs and noticeboards
		Condition of planters/raised beds
		Condition of steps, ramps and seats
Environment, conservation, and heritage		Appropriate management of areas of woodland and wildlife habitats
		Areas of water in good condition
		Presence of wildlife where appropriate
		Historic structures - buildings, statues, railings, walls - conserved
		Suitable interpretation for heritage features
Community involvement		Active Friends Group
		Facilities and features for under 8s
		Facilities and features for 8-12s
		Facilities and features for teenagers
		Facilities and features for young adults
		Facilities and features for families
		Facilities and features for older people