

A year in the Park Ranger Service at the East

Newsletter 2014

We would like to share with you some of the things we did this year.

We have had a very interesting year with a very **wide range** of activities in the East Parks:

More than **55 healthy walks** in different locations with the lovely ladies from “Adult Learning Links” and once a month with our friends from “Care for Carers”. This is definitely one of the more satisfying collaborations and it helps us to keep fit!



The activities with the **local schools (15 occasions** in the last year, around **700 kids!**) are another of our favourite events. We have carried out cleanups, bulb planting, tree planting, wildflower seeding, leaf hunts, bird feeding..., and we think that every time (in a sunny or rainy day!) the kids and teachers had a good time.



Taking the kids from school to do positive things in the Parks is not just to show them many educational resources you can find in a Park: it is also about the enjoyment and respect in a public area and how you can **learn, help and enjoy** at the same time in the Parks.

The support to **Friends of Park Groups** and other groups of volunteers gives us the opportunity to collaborate with the local community groups, developing activities together in the Parks including wild-flower seeding, clean ups, gardening, storytelling (with the help of the Library, of course)... More than **300 participants** can tell you!



We also have tasks to do **weekly** in the Parks: inspection and cleaning the **24 playareas** in the East Neighbourhood, to be sure they are tidy and safe; **picking big items** from the Parks and the burns with the big van and separating the items to be recycled later on. This is a **lot of tons** of **rubbish recycled** every week!



It is important to keep the burns cleared to avoid floods. Because of that we carry out big cleanups from time to time. You would never imagine the amount and the size of the things we can find there...

To do these **huge cleanups**, at times, we have the inestimable help of the **Park Ranger Service** from other Neighbourhoods in a monthly kind of **“working together”**, doing big jobs all over the city that each area could not do on its own.



We know the public is hugely interested in the **wildlife** in our Parks, as we are: it is one of the amazing resources the Parks offer to us all year around...from the squirrels collecting nuts in autumn to the waterfowl and their babies in summer.

There is always something interesting to see!

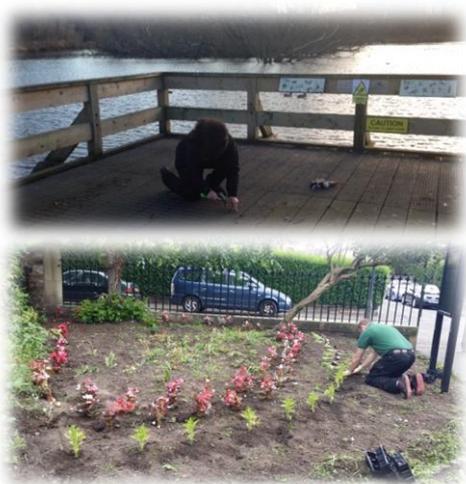


And, yes...quite often we enjoy very exciting moments!

So in our **regular patrol** of the Parks we watch very carefully to detect any problem and report it.

Other issues we tend to find patrolling the Parks are full bins, litter (litter pickers are almost always in our hands...), floods, questions and complaints from the public (and some compliments as well!). We try to **solve** as much as possible and if we can not help ourselves, we **refer** them to the appropriate team.

To finish, we do some **maintenance work** in our Parks too: gardening (weeding and planting), painting gates, putting signs up, keep updated the information boards and some minor repairing...



Hope you have enjoyed it. We did it!