




Site Quality Evaluation (Mystery Shop)

Name of Site	Dromiskin Heritage Park		Managing organisation	Dromiskin Tidy Towns	
Weather Conditions	dry, sunny and warm				
Date of assessment	4th September 2023		Time (from – to)	2.30 - 4. 30pm	
Overall Result	<p>Green – Meets the standard with no concerns raised</p> <p>Amber – Meets the standard but with some minor areas of concern</p> <p>Red – Does not meet the requirement with major issues identified</p>				
Result: (✓)	<p>Green ✓</p> <p>Is the site of Green Flag Award Standard?</p>				
Grading			Strengths and Recommendations		
<p>Each question is graded Green, Amber or Red</p> <p>NG (not graded) is used when the question can't be answered or is not applicable – for which an explanation is provided.</p>			<p>Strengths and recommendation are provided to support each grading.</p> <p>Photographs can be included throughout, or at the end of the report to support the feedback from the judge(s) in relation to both strengths and recommendations.</p> <p>Please refer to the Raising the Standard guidance manual here for further information on the criteria.</p>		
A Welcoming Place					
1. Is the site welcoming?	NG	G	A	R	Yes. The bright open entrance is clean and well maintained and entices the visitor in to see what is inside.
		Y			
2. Is the site easy to find?	NG	G	A	R	Yes. The garden is on the main street and is announced by good clear signage, flag and colourful hanging baskets.
		Y			
3. Is signage in good condition?	NG	G	A	R	<p>All signage is in excellent condition.</p> <p>There is a good variety of signage types in the garden that are clear, interesting and all are at an appropriate height and angle for wheelchair users as well as the general public.</p> <p>Along with some of the more traditional type signs, the outdoor books are a brilliant robust and interesting design that will particularly appeal to children and nature lovers.</p> <p>This heritage garden should be highlighted as an example of how signage should be done.</p>
		Y			
4. Is the site accessible to all users?	NG	G	A	R	Yes, the entrance is fully accessible to all users, and paths and signage are all appropriate to wheelchair users.
		Y			
Healthy, Safe and Secure					
5. Are facilities on site in good and safe condition?	NG	G	A	R	Yes, all facilities are in good and safe condition.
		Y			

6. Did you feel safe during the visit?	NG	G	A	R	Absolutely. Clear lines of sight and lighting if required.
		Y			
7. Are dogs being controlled and the site free of dog fouling?	NG	G	A	R	Yes. There is clear signage and dog poo bins. The park was free of any dog foul.
		Y			

Well Maintained and Clean					
8. Is litter, waste and recycling managed?	NG	G	A	R	Yes. The park was generally free of litter, apart from one piece on the park bench. Litter bin in place and appears to be emptied regularly
		Y			
9. Is there a good standard of horticulture maintenance?	NG	G	A	R	The park has an appropriate amount of planting for its size, given that it is a heritage park. While I'm not against leaving wild plants (so called weeds) in place for pollinators, the garden design is fairly formal. Some of the planted areas could do with being tidied up or 'weeded' to prevent couch grass and some tap rooted 'weeds' from smothering shrubs and spring bulbs.
		Y			
10. Is there a good standard of arboriculture maintenance?	NG	G	A	R	The trees in the garden are in good condition and well maintained. The tree trail outdoor book is a great educational prop.
		Y			
11. Are buildings and infrastructure such as walls, paths, steps and structures in good condition?	NG	G	A	R	While there are no buildings on site, all paths, fences, walls and seating are in very good condition. I was joined by some family members on my judging visit and they were all very impressed. However, one common comment was that the park would benefit from additional seating.
		Y			
12. Is equipment used by the public and staff in good condition?	NG	G	A	R	Yes, the outdoor books and wind-up speaker are innovative, safe and well maintained.
		Y			
Environmental Management					
13. Is there evidence that the site is managed to have a positive impact on the environment?	NG	G	A	R	While this pocket park does not have the scope for different and varied habitats, its native trees, shrubs and grass areas contribute to carbon sequestration. Adapting the grass cutting height to allow pollinator friendly plants like clover and selfheal to grow, while not impacting on it being used as an amenity area for picnics etc has a positive environmental impact. The proposed extension of the park with a path (greenway) linking the Heritage Park with Ginnetys Pond, will enable the park to significantly enhance its environmental and biodiversity credentials.
		Y			
Landscape and Heritage					
14. Are heritage and/or landscape features in good condition?	NG	G	A	R	The park is recent so I'm not sure if there are any original heritage features. However, the railway heritage items and heritage signage throughout the garden are all in good condition.
		Y			
Community Involvement					
15. Is there evidence of community involvement and engagement?	NG	G	A	R	This park is a community project from start to finish. The park layout along with the design and build of the celtic style planters, park bench, outdoor books, ogham stone, Nicholas
		Y			

					Callan sculpture and planting were all completed by local professionals and crafts people. The local Tidy Towns group is also fully invested in the park.
16. Is user feedback positive?	NG	G	A	R	Yes,
		Y			
Marketing and Communication					
17. Is there evidence of marketing and promotion, including events? e.g. notice boards, in buildings, website & social media.	NG	G	A	R	The heritage garden is featured on signage around the village of Dromiskin. There is quite a bit of on-line material about the garden and it regularly features on the dromiskin tidy towns facebook fage.
		Y			
18. Is the correct year flag flying and certificate on display?	NG	G	A	R	The appropriate plaque was on display at the entrance. However, the green flag was not flying as it had been temporarily replaced by a Heritage flag for heritage week. Consider a second flagpole or modifying the existing flag pole to accommodate two flags.
			x		
Overall Result (✓)	Is the site of Green Flag Award Standard? Green YES  Amber Red				

Final comments:

It is always a pleasure to visit and spend time in Dromiskin, especially the Heritage Garden.

The pocket garden packs a lot into a small space and it was great to see the addition of the ogham stone, wind-up speaker and outdoor book on birds, butterflies and bees. I'm not sure there is scope to add much more into the third of an acre apart from maybe an extra bench or two.

However, the proposal to create a path (greenway) between the heritage garden and Ginnety's Pond (a brilliant addition) will provide additional capacity for new initiatives. Linking the garden with the pond will enhance the environmental and biodiversity value of both the pond and heritage garden, especially if a corridor of native trees and pollinator friendly plants line the pathway.

Some personal observations on the Ginnety's Pond development... (I'm sure some of these are already in the pipeline)

- The accessible entrance from the church / school car park to Ginnety's pond, should be protected from being blocked by parked cars by the installation of bollards.
- The 'Green Infrastructure' sign in the school car park is very good but would benefit from a 'You Are Here' locator
- Consider creating a grass mound close to the pond as an additional vantage point (especially for shorter visitors) to view the pond as currently the views are blocked by bull rushes.
- Consider a ribbon of pollinator friendly wildflower area along the lower fence
- The area around the pond would benefit from some seating / benches.

Keep up the great work and congratulations on retaining your green flag.



