

Local charity scoops prestigious environmental award for third year in a row

Open green spaces, wildlife conservation, orchards...you may not associate environmental activities like these with an inner city charity based in Radford, Nottingham but the Partnership Council is proving anyone can help the environment wherever they live - by winning a Green Guardians Environmental Award for the third year in a row - presented by the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust.

The Radford based charity won the Environmental Community of the Year Award for the support it gives to volunteers - enabling them to run a vast range of environmental projects around Nottingham. The award was presented at a glittering awards ceremony held at the Council House, Old Market Square, Nottingham on Wednesday 11th November 2009.

The prestigious Green Guardians Environmental Awards are hosted by the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust every year to recognise, reward and encourage local people and organisations who go beyond the call of duty to look after the environment - including schools, community groups, individuals and businesses.

The Green Guardians Environmental Awards are the only dedicated environmental awards in Nottinghamshire and they are backed by many of the UK's best-known environmentalists including Bill Oddie, John Craven and Professor David Bellamy - who judged the winning entries for 2009.

This year, the Greater Nottingham Partnership has also supported the Awards.

In addition, the Partnership Council received a cash prize to help it continue its environmental work. In 2008, the Partnership Council won the 'Protecting the Environment through Partnership' Award for the way its wide range of environmental projects involves community groups and individuals with the aim of promoting sustainable living and spreading the green message. In 2007, the Partnership Council won the Environmental Community of the Year Award and the Living for Tomorrow Award.

Partnership Council • 181 Alfreton Road • Radford • Nottingham • NG7 3NW
Telephone 0115 970 8200 • Fax: 0115 970 8200 • Email mail@partnershipcouncil.co.uk

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Here are just a few of the many green projects being supported by the Partnership Council at present:

The Partnership Council helped a local residents' association, the Forest Fields Improvement Association, to plant over 200 hanging baskets in Forest Fields recently, to improve the look and feel of the area whilst bringing neighbours together. The Partnership Council has also helped the association to replant the hanging baskets - to keep them at their best.

The Partnership Council's green project for young people, Sprout, is currently helping two 21 year olds to launch a new project to save Nottingham's bees. Many bee species are currently under threat of extinction and the project aims to prevent this by providing bee-friendly plants and artificial nesting sites for community gardens and allotment holders around the city.

The Partnership Council runs an ongoing programme of community gardening days, whereby volunteers can help to improve their local environment whilst learning more about gardening. For example, the Partnership Council's volunteers have helped to transform the gardens of several public libraries as well as community gardens and allotments around Nottingham. In addition, volunteers have transformed several areas of former waste-ground into community gardens for local people, whilst providing a new home for plants and wildlife.

**To find out more please call Ruth Greenberg on 0115 970 8200
or email ruth@partnershipcouncil.co.uk**

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