

04.01.07

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Forest aims to boost its visitor numbers

BLACKLEY Forest is to get more visitors if work by volunteers is anything to go by.

The Friends of the forest have launched a new project which will concentrate on generating more interest in the park and improving its use.

Members of the group are to take responsibility for various tasks within the forest and the group will decide between themselves which issues to address and how.

Friends group member Dot Keller said: "Our aim is to encourage more people to visit the forest, more often, and we'll do this by arranging more occasional and seasonal events."

"With the support of Manchester City Council and other partners we'll also be working on longer-term projects."

Blackley Forest was the first local nature reserve in North

Manchester - and only the second one in the city - when it was designated in 2005.

To officially launch the project, the Friends of Blackley Forest enjoyed a morning planting dogwood saplings along the south perimeter of the forest.

In support of this new initiative Councillor Neil Swannick, executive member for the environment for Manchester City Council, said: "This is an excellent example of dedicated community volunteers working with the council to protect and enhance their environment."

"It's great that they can set the priorities for this much-loved forest."

Anyone interested in joining The Friends of Blackley Forest and getting more involved in the life of the forest should contact Dot Keller on 0161 795 0900.



THE volunteers lead a community clean-up