The independent environment charity Keep Scotland Beautiful is calling on Scots to cast their vote for their favourite park. It announced in July that a record-breaking 51 parks and green spaces in Scotland had been awarded the coveted Green Flag – now the public get a chance to have their say and vote for the nation’s favourite – battling against parks from all across the UK.

Voting for the annual People’s Choice Award is now open - giving the public the power to decide which one of the 1,448 Green Flag sites across the UK should be named park of the year with an online vote.

To vote please visit www.keepscotlandbeautiful.org/parks and follow the instructions.

Keep Scotland Beautiful manages the award in Scotland and Carole Noble, Head of Environmental Services said:

"Our judges have decided on this year's winners of the coveted Green Flag Award in Scotland but the public now have the opportunity to decide which park or green space deserves the People's Choice Award.

“This award will pit all Scottish parks against others in the UK, so if you think your park is the best – please vote for it. In the Year of Natural Scotland, we want all of our Green Flag parks in Scotland to receive the backing of their local communities and those who use them.”

The vote will close at midday on 1st October and the winner of the 2013 People’s Choice will be announced on 9th October.

The Green Flag Award for parks is the national standard for parks and recognises well managed, high quality sites with community involvement.
All Green Flag Award-winning parks and green spaces are entered into the annual People's Choice Award vote, which last year saw thousands of votes recorded and resulted in the crowning of Victoria Park in Tower Hamlets as the People's Choice. None of the top ten choices were located in Scotland in 2012.

The Green Flag Award scheme is licensed to Keep Britain Tidy, from the Department for Communities and Local Government, and managed across the UK in partnership with Keep Scotland Beautiful, Keep Wales Tidy and Tidy Northern Ireland, the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens and the National Housing Federation.

ENDS

Notes to editors

1. Keep Scotland Beautiful is the independent charity which campaigns, acts and educates on a range of local, national and global environmental issues which affect people’s quality of life. It is committed to making Scotland clean and green, today and tomorrow. Further details from www.keepscotlandbeautiful.org

2. Keep Scotland Beautiful administers the Green Flags for Parks scheme in Scotland, and the list of Green Flag accredited parks is available at www.keepscotlandbeautiful.org/parks

3. Media enquiries: Carole Noble is available for broadcast interviews through to Peter Duncan on 07740 469949, or Andy Maciver on 07855 261244.