



Environmentalists of all ages took part in the community seed collection day at Blackley Forest MI410106

Planting the seed

ENVIRONMENTAL activists have earned a lottery grant to help develop a community woodland.

The Friends of Blackley Forest Local Nature Reserve have been awarded a £9,530 Breathing Places grant from the Big Lottery Fund.

The Friends group that helped organise a seed collection and tree planting event last weekend, is an active group of local people who work together to encourage more people to use the forest and to improve it for wildlife and people.

Hilary Wood, Irk Valley project

officer, has been working with the group to bring more resources into the Forest, and to enable more people to enjoy it.

Hilary said: "This is a great boost for the forest. The Local Nature Reserve is a fantastic woodland full of wildlife for everyone to enjoy. This grant money will be spent on encouraging and enabling more people to discover and appreciate it"

A spokesman for the Friends group said: "We are delighted to be awarded this grant. Not only will we be able to raise the profile of the Forest but, we will also be able to

spend more money on making the improvements which are needed to encourage more people to use it."

The money will be spent on organising a family fun event next summer, working with the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers to refurbish some steps and provide practical woodland management training for local people as well as planting woodland wildflowers.

The Breathing Places grants aim to increase participation and access to local green spaces and to make a lasting improvement to the environment.