

Conservation Volunteer



Help us protect, conserve & enhance the environment of the Lagan Valley

Role description:

Saturday conservation volunteers meet on a fortnightly basis to carry out a wide range of practical conservation tasks throughout the beautiful Lagan Valley Regional Park.

Purpose:

Volunteers help conserve the natural beauty of the Lagan Valley by assisting the Laganscape team with the practical management of the park with varied tasks to suits a wide range of ages, abilities and motivations. Everyone who is capable of a little light work and enjoys a day out in the fresh air is welcome to come along.

Specific tasks & duties:

- Tree planting
- Pond Management
- Hedgelaying
- Invasive species control
- Bird box building
- Nest box monitoring
- Wildlife surveys (bat, butterfly, red squirrel)
- Wildflower survey
- Woodland Management
- Growing trees from seeds campaign
- Path maintenance
- Scrub clearance

When:

All year – Task days are on Saturdays from 10.30 – 13.00

Location:

The Lagan Valley Regional Park office is based at the Lock Keeper's Visitors Centre just off the Milltown Road in Belfast. However task days take place at various locations throughout the park. Our Volunteer Coordinator will keep you up to date with a task timetable.

Why volunteer:

- Help protect your local environment
- Feel more connected to nature
- Gain valuable experience
- Meet new people
- Learn new skills
- Keep fit without going to the gym

Who will you volunteer with:

Saturday task days are led by our Volunteer Coordinator. You will be working as part of fantastic team of volunteers of diverse ages and backgrounds who come together to work towards improving the environment for the local community. We have a core of experienced and friendly volunteers who have often found their own niches in the team and this provides a supportive atmosphere to help you find your feet.

Support, supervision & training:

Full training and demonstration of safe use of tools will be given for each task by experienced staff who are qualified first aiders. You will not be expected to take the role of a member of staff, operate machinery, or carry out any task with which you feel uncomfortable doing. Volunteer feedback and input is always welcome and is treated with respect and enthusiasm by the Volunteer Coordinator. Also volunteers can request a reference from our Volunteer Coordinator.

Commitment:

This role is flexible to suit those of you who have busy lives. You can decide how much time to spend volunteering. We have turn up and try policy for those of you who would just like a taste of what it's like to volunteer.

Skills needed:

No specialist skills are required. Most conservation tasks are simple and are well demonstrated by LVRP staff. Having an interest in the natural environment and a willingness to learn new skills is important. Flexibility is essential as well as the ability to work closely with others. However volunteers can always refuse demands that they find unrealistic.

What to bring:

We ask everyone to dress for the weather, wearing layers is the best way to prepare for the good old Northern Irish climate. Waterproofs are essential as well as good boots or wellies. It's also a good idea to bring a cold drink or a snack.

We provide:

The task leader will give you training in work techniques and safety. We provide tools, gloves, materials, and most importantly the tea and biscuits!

Insurance:

As a volunteer you be covered by LVRP employer's liability insurance and protected by policies such as health & safety.



Volunteer Coordinator
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