Wildlife Survey Volunteer









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

Role description:

Wildlife surveyors assist LVRP in the monitoring of certain key species. The surveys are usually a weekly walk where you identify and record species such as red squirrels, butterflies or bats.

Purpose:

We have identified a number of key species that we would like to monitor and we're hoping that you can help us by taking note where and when you see them as you walk through the Park. The information we receive will help us to gain a better understanding of our local wildlife and will help us to direct management of the Regional Park to maximise its value for biodiversity.

Specific tasks & duties:

- To identify and record key species
- Log and report surveys to LVRP staff
- Walk a set transect
- Adhere to LVRP health & safety principles.

When:

This depends on the species you would like to survey. Red squirrel surveys are all year round, whereas butterfly surveys take place from April – October and bat surveys during the month of August.

Location:

The Lagan Valley Regional Park office is based at the Lock Keeper's Visitors Centre just off the Milltown Road in Belfast. However survey transects take place at various locations throughout the park. Our Volunteer Coordinator will help you arrange the specific transect you will walk.

Why volunteer:

- Learn about native species and their habitats
- Feel more connected to nature & heritage
- Learn new skills
- Meet new people

Who will you volunteer with:

Individuals who are interested in this role usually volunteer on the own, with a friend or with one or two other survey volunteers. Our Volunteer Coordinator will keep in regular contact with you regarding your role and the data you collect.

Support, supervision & training:

Although this role is mainly out and about, you will be supported by our Volunteer Coordinator. You will receive full training for this role and furthermore you are encouraged to pop into our office or arrange a time to catch up over the phone or email. 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.

Skills needed:

No specialist skills are required. You will receive full training in species identification and how to complete a survey. 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:

We will provide you with maps of the park, survey methodology, species identification charts, any other specialist equipment and all relevant health and safety information.

Insurance:

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



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