

Volunteer Role Description

Role title
College Lake Wildlife Garden Volunteer
Based at location
College Lake, Upper Icknield Way, Bulbourne, Tring, Herts, HP23 5QG
Purpose of the role
<p>This role is part of a volunteer gardening team maintaining and developing our wildlife garden, orchard and containers. The garden has been designed to be a demonstration to the public of ways in which they can invite wildlife into their gardens at home.</p> <p>You will work closely with the learning team who use the garden to deliver activities, and the reserves volunteers who maintain the wider nature reserve. There may be opportunities to get involved both with delivering learning activities and with work on the wider reserve if desired.</p> <p>There are areas for pollinator-friendly flower-planting, bushes, trees and wildflowers, a wildflower meadow area, wildlife pond, composting area and woodland glade and hedges. Outside of the Wildlife Garden, we have a container garden area and an orchard which is managed for wildlife and fruit production. The team also look after planters outside of our café, in which we use edible plants to create an attractive display.</p> <p>We are aiming to propagate more of our own plants from seed, cuttings and division. The plants could then be used for the garden plus selling plants in our shop.</p>
Type of work in which you will be involved
<p>Undertaking varied garden and orchard management tasks, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Propagating plants from seed, division, cuttings and grafts; growing and caring for plants, • Bed maintenance and watering • Hedge maintenance • Pond maintenance • Wildflower meadow maintenance • Orchard pruning and grass management and improvement • There are also opportunities to be involved in visitor engagement roles such as garden open days or orchard events.

Experience and skills required

No experience necessary, but enthusiasm and patience are important. If you have gardening, orchard or horticultural knowledge that is always useful, but a reasonable level of fitness and enthusiasm for being outdoors and working on gardening projects is as important.

Must be a good team player but also able to work unsupervised and have a willingness to learn about and practice wildlife friendly gardening and orchard management methods.

Suitable for Under 18s

No

Times/days we would like you to be available

Wednesday 10am-1pm, depending on tasks. Less often in winter months.

Benefits to volunteer & possible training opportunities

- Join a friendly team of volunteers and staff working together to promote wildlife learning and more nature everywhere.
- The chance to be actively involved in one of BBOWT's flagship sites.
- The opportunity to work closely with local people and enhance their enjoyment of nature.
- Make new friends and share skills
- Spend time in a beautiful natural space and make a real contribution to its upkeep.
- Facilitate fun and learning outdoors for toddlers, children and adults.
- Participate in engaging and meaningful physical exercise.
- Volunteers with the Trust can attend online talks and guided walks.
- Attend annual thank-you events with opportunities to meet other volunteers and staff and hear about activities and strategies of the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust.
- Receive an email newsletter for volunteers called Grapevine.

You will be responsible to

College Lake Assistant Warden

Expenses payable

None

Interview, References or DBS check required?

Informal interview and trial period on starting to ensure the role is suitable for you