

Country Park Conservation volunteer role description

Role title	Country Park Conservation Volunteers
Purpose of the role	To assist Country Parks staff with various outdoor and physical tasks to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve and conserve habitats in line with management plans to protect biodiversity and wildlife. • Keep the country park accessible and enjoyable for visitors
What you will be doing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helping with practical conservation tasks using a variety of hand tools. • Tasks include cutting back scrubby plants and trees, coppicing woodland, planting hedges, and controlling invasive plants such as pulling up ragwort and Himalayan balsam etc • Helping to improve visitor access by assisting with path maintenance and building and repairing bridges and fences.
Skills, experience and qualities needed	No previous experience is necessary as training will be provided, although any of the following would be useful: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An enjoyment and appreciation of the countryside and wildlife • Willing to do practical outdoor work in all weathers, getting muddy and grubby, and do something for our wildlife and countryside. • An enjoyment of meeting new, like-minded people • Volunteers must be over 18 years old.
When and where	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lakeside Country Park, Wide Lane, SO50 5PD Wednesday morning from 10am Meet at the ranger store near the lakeside toilet block. • Itchen Valley Country Park, Allington Lane, SO30 3HQ Wednesday or Thursday mornings from 10am Meet outside the Itchen Valley Cafe
Support offered	A countryside ranger will join the team every week to provide site information, tools, gloves and first aid. Let us know on the application form if you have any additional needs that we should be aware of. These will not stop you being able to volunteer, but we need to be aware of them for our planning.
What you could get out of it	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A chance to get active outdoors, be part of a community of volunteers and develop new conservation skills. • An opportunity to give back to the local community, share ideas and achieve tasks • We also provide refreshments although we cannot accommodate every dietary requirement at this time.

<p>Other relevant information</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You must wear suitable clothing for the work and weather conditions, including sturdy footwear suitable for outdoor work – these are essential. Tools and all safety clothing will be provided for tasks e.g. gloves and hard hats if needed. If the weather is too wet or windy, we will do our best to contact you to confirm that the session is cancelled. You can contact rangers on countrysidevolunteers@eastleigh.gov.uk or the volunteer administrator on volunteers@eastleigh.gov.uk if you have any questions
<p>What to do if you're interested</p>	<p>Please read the Countryside Volunteer Guidelines (below) before applying. By applying, you are agreeing to listen and comply with all instructions given during the task by the countryside ranger to maintain the health and safety of the team.</p> <p>To apply, please complete the online volunteer application form on www.eastleigh.gov.uk/volunteering and we will contact you once successful</p>

Eastleigh Countryside Volunteer Guidelines



Whilst volunteering for the country parks, you will be representing Eastleigh Borough Council and we ask that you act courteously and politely with members of the public, staff and other volunteers. You also have a personal responsibility to work in a safe manner so as not to affect the health and safety of yourself, staff, other volunteers or members of the public.

Health and Safety

Whilst working as a volunteer, all the health and safety precautions and legislation, that protect and govern full-time members of staff apply to you. This means that we have a responsibility for your health and safety while you are volunteering. To assist us in this please ensure that you:

- Wear the correct safety clothing, and equipment when necessary and bring appropriate clothing for the weather conditions
- Have the sufficient training and capability to use the tools and equipment assigned to you – inform the ranger if this isn't the case. If you find that a tool is damaged or defective, do not continue to use it.
- Comply with instructions and advice given by the ranger
- During hot periods, please bring sun cream and drink plenty of water.
- Report any accidents or near misses (no matter how minor you consider it).

- It is recommended that you have current protection against tetanus and Hepatitis B.
- Always ensure you thoroughly wash your hands after the task. Hygienic wipes or sanitiser will be available during the task.

First Aid

- The ranger will have a current first aid qualification and first aid kits will be on-site. Help or assistance can be summoned by means of the ranger's mobile phone if they become incapacitated.
- If you suffer from an unusual condition/allergy, please ensure you bring/take any required medication and ensure you fill out the application form accurately so the ranger is aware.
- All volunteers are required to re-register annually by completing a registration form which is sent out by email. We will contact you to let you know that your registration form has been accepted and that you continue to be registered as a volunteer. If your medical conditions or emergency contacts change before this time, please inform us via email.