

Corporate Volunteering in Walsall



Walsall Council



PROUD OF OUR PAST OUR PRESENT AND FOR OUR FUTURE

Corporate Volunteering in Walsall

Walsall is recognised as being a particularly green borough and its green spaces are an asset that the boroughs' residents can be justifiably proud of. Parks and countryside sites are the most valued leisure and cultural facilities in Walsall. Our valuable open spaces offer a green, leafy refuge providing opportunities where people can relax, engage with nature, contemplate and enjoy the fresh air or participate in active and recreational pursuits. Green spaces are ideal outdoor classrooms for learning and being creative. Green spaces also provide important ecosystems and habitats for wildlife, contributing to Walsall's biodiversity. Green spaces enrich the quality of life of the community who live and work in the borough. Walsall Council offers a wide range of corporate volunteering opportunities for businesses and other organisations who want to get outdoors and improve Walsall's green spaces.

This booklet provides a flavour of some of the volunteering projects available in different areas of the borough. If you want to get out into the fresh air, build relationships with colleagues in a totally different environment and give back to the community, please book your team volunteering sessions with us. Please note this booklet is only a guide and the projects included, along with the number of volunteers required, may vary depending on the requirements of a particular site at a particular time of year. If you do not find a project which suits your company needs then please call us to find out what other corporate volunteering opportunities might be available.

What do we offer?

- Professionally-led, safe, flexible and highly enjoyable experience
- Tools and basic training are provided for your team
- Opportunity for your company to take part in positive activities in pleasant surrounding

What we would like from you?

- Commitment to make a difference to the local community.
- Staff time. Anything from half day upwards.
- Funding is only required for some tasks – this is to cover costs of materials for larger projects

Benefits to Your Staff and Organisation:

- Your staff will gain a satisfaction from getting out of the office space, building up relationships with colleagues by active cooperation during different activities.
- Taking part in conservation and horticulture activities will help your staff escape from daily workplace stress and reduce anxiety.
- Staff who take part in at least 75 minutes of intensive physical activity per week miss an average 4.1 fewer days of work per year.
- Playing a part in helping to protect and enhance our green spaces will help to increase the profile of your organisation.

As a part of the Re-Thinking Parks initiative funded under the partnership of National Lottery Community Fund, National Lottery Heritage Fund and NESTA, we would like to offer you an outdoor experience in one of our six parks included in this project (Arboretum, Kings Hill, Palfrey, Reedswood, Aldridge Airport, Willenhall). However, if you feel that you would rather support a park within your company's locality, or you are unable to commit half/whole day of your staff's time, please do not hesitate to contact our team and we will be able to look into other options tailored to your organisation's needs. We offer flexible time slots for your organisation to get involved with volunteering activities lasting between 30 minutes to 2 hours.

Key to identify different activities available in different parks:



Horticulture/Gardening tasks



Countryside maintenance/Conservation tasks



Litter Picking



Suitable for larger groups (up to 30)



West Walsall

Willenhall Memorial Park, Willenhall



Looking for volunteers all year round 12 – 30 volunteers dependant on project

Willenhall Memorial Park is an award winning park, with a wide range of community facilities, including outdoor fitness equipment, bandstand, walking routes, sculpture trail, skate park, and a volunteer led community pavilion with cafe.

There are opportunities to work alongside Walsall Council and volunteers from the Friends of Willenhall Memorial Park in the park, and at the adjacent Fibbersley Local Nature Reserve in a variety of roles:

- Horticultural activities to renovate the sunken garden, transforming it into a sensory trail and horticultural maintenance of the memorial garden.
- Woodland maintenance tasks - clearing undergrowth to allow the enhancement of native ground flora/path route clearing and step/access repairs under the guidance of our Public Health Community Support Officers.
- Practical conservation in the woodland area under the guidance of our community liaison officers - clearing paths, clearing undergrowth, ground flora vegetation enhancement (seed sowing and bulb planting).
- Cleaning of a stream and cleaning around pools

Facilities: Car park, on site toilets, cafe facilities each Wednesday.



Kings Hill Park



Kings Hill Park is one of three parks in Darlaston. The site has a children's play area, picnic area and a mix of wooded and open areas of grassland to the south of the park. There is an active friends group, The Friends of Darlaston South Parks runs various different community events and activities throughout the year.

There are a variety of volunteering opportunities available including:

- General clearance, maintenance work
- Create areas for summer and winter bedding and plant up
- Expansion and renovation of herbaceous planting
- Planting and maintaining specimen trees

Facilities: Car Park, Toilets, Kitchen



South Walsall

Palfrey Park, Palfrey



Looking for volunteers all year round 12 – 30 volunteers dependant on project

Palfrey Park is an award winning park, with a wide range of community facilities, including outdoor fitness equipment, bandstand, walking routes, multiuse games area, children's playground and opportunities for schools to deliver outdoor activities in the nature conservation area.

There are also opportunities to work alongside volunteers from the Friends of Palfrey Park and Walsall Council in a variety of roles:

- Practical conservation in the woodland area under the guidance of our community liaison officers - clearing paths, clearing undergrowth, ground flora vegetation enhancement (seed sowing and bulb planting).
- Quarterly Spring Clean Days in the Pavilion and the park with the Friends and the Healthy Spaces Team.

Facilities: Pavilion community building, nearby parking, toilet facilities.



Central Walsall

Walsall Arboretum



Volunteering opportunities available all year round Maximum of 15 volunteers per project

Walsall Arboretum is the borough's premier park, situated nearby to Walsall Town Centre. Part of the park and surrounding housing sit within the Arboretum Conservation Area and the park is Grade 2 Listed on the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Interest maintained by English Heritage. Since 2010 the park has undergone a major restoration and redevelopment programme funded largely by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The centrepiece of the Restoration Programme was the building of a Visitor Centre which houses a cafe, public toilets and meeting spaces. The park is a hub of activity all year round with a full events programme.

There are a variety of volunteering opportunities available including:

- Practical conservation in the woodland area under the guidance of our Public Health Community Officers - clearing paths, clearing undergrowth, ground flora vegetation enhancement (seed sowing and bulb planting).
- Clearing invasive plant vegetation along the Brook Course, clearance in the Park Extension Spring / summer work).
- Litter picking in hard to reach areas e.g. plantations and park boundaries.

Facilities: Street parking, Toilets, cafe and meeting room available in visitors centre.



North Walsall

Reedswood Park



Looking for volunteers all year round 12 – 30 volunteers dependant on project

Reedswood Park is a large park close to the Crown Wharf and Reedswood Retail Park.

As well as a formal park area with a children's play area, football and cricket pitches and a circular path making for a perfect 1000m health walk, the site is bordered by woodland, which to the north leads to Reedswood Fishing Pool and the Victory Pools Site of Importance to Nature Conservation (SINC).

There's currently a large conservation project taking place called The Black Country Blue Network, which involves close partnership working between the City of Wolverhampton Council, Walsall Council, the Environment Agency, the Canal and River Trust and the Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country.

There are a variety of volunteering opportunities available including:

- Fishing pool surrounding area clearance
- Practical conservation in the woodland area under the guidance of our Public Health Community Support Officer - clearing paths, clearing undergrowth, ground flora vegetation enhancement (seed sowing and bulb planting).
- Litter picking in the hard to reach areas of the park
- General clearance, maintenance work

Facilities: Parking, Toilets



East Walsall

Aldridge Airport



12 – 30 volunteers dependant on project

Aldridge Airport is a large and well used public open space, nestled between Daisy Bank and Pool Green in the Aldridge Central and South ward. It was in active use as an airport from 1938, and still retains the aircraft hangar as a heritage feature. Nowadays the site uses the extensive flat ground for activities such as football and model aircraft use. The southern boundary of the site borders Hay Head Wood and management of the area allows for an unmown strip providing valuable habitat for biodiversity.

There are a variety of volunteering opportunities available including:

- Repairs and maintenance to tracks, trials, gates and fences.
- General clearance and maintenance work.
- Litter picking around the different areas of the park
- Practical conservation in the woodland area under the guidance of our community liaison officers - clearing paths, clearing undergrowth, ground flora vegetation enhancement (seed sowing and bulb planting).
- Fencing and pedestrian gate installation

Facilities: Parking, Toilets

If your organisation is interested in corporate volunteering or any other of our Corporate Social Responsibility packages, please contact our team on healthyspaces@walsall.gov.uk or call 01922 650465.

If you are interested in our sponsorship packages then please visit https://go.walsall.gov.uk/parks_and_green_spaces/our_work/rethinking_parks



Healthy Spaces

Email: healthyspaces@walsall.gov.uk

Tel: 01922 650465