

Volunteer Ranger



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

Role description:

Volunteer Rangers work closely with our Ranger Service carrying out patrols, surveys and helping with practical conservation tasks.

Purpose:

Volunteer Rangers will join the Ranger service as the first point of contact for the public. They are responsible for delivering interpretative services, assisting public with queries relating to park, ensuring the park is well maintained and also helping with conservation projects.

Specific tasks & duties:

- Patrols
- Wildlife monitoring
- Invasive species control
- Woodland management
- Path maintenance
- Assisting with events & guided walks
- Pollution reporting
- Scrub clearance
- Cycle patrols
- Litter control

When:

All year – Volunteer ranger sessions are timetabled for a Monday and a Friday. Times vary according to season.

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.

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:

Volunteer Rangers will work closely with the Lagan Valley Ranger Service. Our Senior Ranger will be responsible for coordinating your tasks and helping you with any queries you have. You may work as part of a team of volunteers, however there will be certain tasks where you have to work on your own.

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:

We would like volunteer rangers to be able to commit at least one morning or afternoon per week. Ranger led volunteer sessions will be on either a Monday or Friday.

Skills needed:

No specialist skills are required. Most ranger 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.

We provide:

The Ranger Service 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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