

## Leicester Environmental Volunteers



# Land Based

[leicester.gov.uk/parks-volunteering](http://leicester.gov.uk/parks-volunteering)





# The Litter legacy Group

Leicester is a beautiful city with lots of green spaces but some of our lovely parks need a little TLC. Litter Legacy is the group that loves to clean up 'problem areas', in both 'big parks', such as Watermead Country Park and Aylestone Meadows, and 'little parks', such as Bede Park. Whilst our grounds maintenance teams regularly litter pick these areas, some open spaces need additional help, please pledge your support. These beautiful areas could be brilliant for wildlife if only they were litter free!



On Monday, between 1.30pm and 3pm, we will visit a variety of parks and green spaces - full details of addresses and car parking will be given when you book your place on the session. Either come along regularly or when we are at your local space!

Together, we can work towards our parks being litter-free for future generations!



# Community Flood Relief Warden Scheme

Community Flood Warden schemes are completely voluntary, and can consist of a single person or several people acting as volunteers. The Warden's role is to help raise awareness of any flood risks in their community, help pass on flood warnings when they are issued, help prepare for flooding and help vulnerable people both during and after flooding has occurred. A Community Flood Warden may also be part of another group such as Neighbourhood Watch.

Community Flood Wardens are an important part of the local community but can also play a key role in assisting the Environment Agency, water authority, local and county councils with local information on flood conditions. For example, before or during a potential flooding event, the Community Flood Wardens may be contacted to give an account of ground conditions, water levels and the weather locally. This will help the Resilience Partnership Team and Environment Agency activate relevant plans and coordinate an appropriate response across the city and county.

Community Flood Wardens may notice or have been given information about a blocked watercourse, culvert, drain or burst pipe. The Warden should then report this to the relevant agency so that the necessary remedial action is carried out. By doing this, watercourses will be kept flowing unobstructed thus reducing the risk of local flooding.

Community Flood Warden Schemes in your area are operated and supported by Leicester City Council.





# Cemetery Champions

Leicester's cemeteries are a rich resource of the city's heritage and social history. Leicester City Council works with a number of voluntary community groups to offer a range of volunteering opportunities to help conserve, maintain and promote the cemeteries.

## **Friends of Belgrave Cemetery**

The Friends of Belgrave Cemetery who formed in 2004, aim to promote interest regarding the maintenance and conservation of this peaceful Victorian cemetery and organise activities which aid with the restoration of the cemetery and preserve its heritage.

Members meet at the cemetery every Sunday morning (weather permitting). Volunteer opportunities include assisting the public locating family graves, looking after old graves, sweeping paths, gardening and conservation jobs. The volunteers also arrange regular events, including guided walks and the annual commemorations of Armistice Day. For more information please visit: [fowrcl.org.uk](http://fowrcl.org.uk)



## **Friends of Welford Road Cemetery**

The Friends of Belgrave Cemetery who formed in 2004, aim to promote interest regarding the maintenance and conservation of this peaceful Victorian cemetery and organise activities which aid with the restoration of the cemetery and preserve its heritage.

Members meet at the cemetery every Sunday morning (weather permitting) and volunteer opportunities include assisting the public locating family graves, looking after old graves, sweeping paths, gardening and conservation jobs. The volunteers also arrange regular events, including guided walks and the annual commemorations of Armistice Day.

For more information please visit: [friendsofbelgravecemetery.org](http://friendsofbelgravecemetery.org)

## **Saffron Garden of Peace**

The Saffron Garden of Peace Group is a voluntary organisation that helps to maintain and conserve Saffron Hill Cemetery. Volunteers meet regularly to help with the maintenance and conservation of the cemetery undertaking such tasks as assisting the public locating family graves, looking after old graves, sweeping paths, gardening and conservation jobs. For more information please visit: [saffrongarden.org](http://saffrongarden.org)



# Park Force

Regular Park Force activities are based in parks across Leicester, ranging from horticulturally themed tasks in formal gardens to environmental and conservation work in country parks, with many of these to choose from each month.

Tasks change with the seasons, as they are tailored to fit in with the needs of the wildlife of each site, and so volunteers will never be bored!

On Castle Hill Country Park, we coppice and thin out woodland in the Winter, repair seats and paths in the Summer and prune fruit trees in the Autumn.

Our popular Abbey Park Garden of Senses sessions offer an opportunity to garden throughout the seasons and practice gardening skills in a calm and beautiful setting. Also on Abbey Park, the mediaeval-themed Cloister Garden sessions grow produce to share and also learn about historically grown foods.

On Spinney Hill Park, on Monday mornings, we enjoy a range of horticultural themed activities and take part in projects to rejuvenate specific areas of the park and Infinity Gardens.

The Relaxation Garden sessions are held within a quiet secluded garden in Victoria Park, behind the lodges. Again the emphasis is on horticulture and learning about plants away from the gaze of other park visitors, allowing volunteers to relax and enjoy the gardening and volunteer experience.

The Botany Discovery sessions are predominantly based within the greenhouses at Knighton Park. Volunteers will cultivate plants from seed and occasionally visit other parks across Leicester to collect specimens, create cuttings and grow new plant stocks. The new plants will then be planted out on the park. In addition to these regular sessions, volunteers can come along to special events and new opportunities out on parks.





# Horticultural Grounds Maintenance Work Experience

Whether you are looking to take your first steps in horticulture, thinking of a change of career or have previously worked in horticulture and would like to refresh your skills, work experience with Parks and Open Spaces can offer a variety of venues across the city in which to do just that!

When you contact us, we will send you an application form to complete. If you are successful, you will be invited to attend an interview. Following a successful interview you will be offered a work experience placement.

You will be required to provide your own safety work boots with a good tread. We will ask you to wear old clothing suitable for working in all weathers and seasons, as it may become snagged on thorns. All other safety and protective apparel will be provided depending on the work you will be undertaking.

You will be expected to fully complete a five to eight week placement at one of the following parks which are spread all over the city. We aim to place you in a convenient location near to where you live. Our workforce starts at 7.30am and finishes at 3.30pm from Monday to Thursday and 7.30am - 3pm on a Friday. We will expect you to be reliable, punctual, hard working and keen to learn new skills.

Our placements are subject to availability at the following venues; Abbey Park and Pets Corner, Evington Park, Knighton Park, Aylestone Hall Gardens, Belgrave Hall Gardens, Braunstone Park, Castle Gardens, Saffron Hill Cemetery, Welford Road Cemetery, Gilroes Cemetery and Spinney Hill Park.

On your first day you will be guided through our health and safety induction training and introduced to the staff you will be with over the coming weeks. At the end of your fully completed placement you will receive a reference letter, which we hope will assist you to progress further in your chosen career.

Please note that we are unable to offer full time employment as a result of your work experience placement but a good reference letter from the local government in the career field you wish to follow will further support your applications for work in both the public and private sectors.



# Orchard Group

Come and join us as we prune fruit trees at Evington Park and Evington Arboretum; we also maintain the plants in Evington Parks Fruit Garden.

This is a very welcoming group, which have done some impressive tasks in the two parks. No experience is necessary as there will be many others willing to lend a hand or give advice.

Most of the work is carried out during the Winter, with some smaller tasks taking place during the Summer, culminating in a big apple day where you can teach the public about apples and make some wonderful homemade apple juice.



# Burnaby Garden Group

At the Burnaby Gardens in Evington Park there are many things to get involved with, from maintaining the new rose garden to developing existing beds. The sessions are usually run by a Green Hat Leader supported by the local parks gardening team.

