

Gardening Volunteer Description

Name of Site: Delamere

Date(s): Early 2022 onwards

About us

Forestry England is a part of the government Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and is tasked with the sustainable management of the Public Forest Estate for timber, recreation, and wildlife.

Central England Forest District (CEFD) manages the public forest estate in the midlands and Northwest. This is a very significant area, from Milton Keynes in the south, to Hull in the east and the Mersey Belt in the North West.

The Central Forest District has responsibility for the management of some 30,000ha of the Nation's Forests within a triangle formed by Liverpool, Hull, and Milton Keynes. This gives rise to a large diversity of users, customers, neighbours, and pressures, all of which are interacting on a varied backdrop of land uses. With 6 Forest Centres, 3 community woodland areas and 200 plus woodland blocks in CEFD we can provide a unique range of benefits to a huge number of people - over 3 million visitors per annum.

Role description

The primary role of the Gardening volunteer is to look after the gardens and landscaped areas in and around the Forest Centre. You may be working by yourself or with other volunteers to remove litter, clear away weeds and cut back vegetation or prune at appropriate times of year.

As part of the recent project to build the new Visitor Centre and café at Delamere Forest, there are garden areas around the visitor centre. In addition, we have an orchard which has been on site for several years. To ensure these areas are kept neat and tidy for our visitors to enjoy, we are looking for volunteers who have an interest and/or experience in gardening to assist with the upkeep of these areas.

When?

During opening hours of the woodland you choose to volunteer in. We are not expecting you to garden for a whole day, maybe up to 2 hours at any one time would be of great assistance to your local woodland. There may be different hours needed throughout the seasons depending on what tasks are required.

If you can offer a longer shift or can help at a different time in addition to any core times agreed, please keep us up to date with this information.

What's involved?

The primary duty of all Gardening volunteers is to carry out tasks as agreed with the Forest Centre team to care for the garden area and ensure it looks well-kept all year round. The following will apply to this role:

Litter Picking Volunteer role

- Outdoor work in most weathers.
- Manual labour including weeding, watering, planting, pruning and litter picking.
- Looking after the hand tools and keeping them in a good condition
- Keeping pathways clean and clear of debris.
- Keeping staff informed if there are any issues, e.g., any problems or concerns with the areas you are working; sharps or hazardous waste found in these areas; other site issues such as problems with visitors.

At a Forest Centre most of the Gardening volunteering is provided close to the Visitor Centre. Whilst volunteering you will have access to the visitor centre and facilities (WC).

We'd like you to

- Have some experience of gardening or horticulture and use of hand tools or a willingness to learn
- Have a reasonable level of fitness to work outdoors
- Be willing to work outdoors
- Have a friendly personality and enjoy meeting people
- Be punctual to all shifts
- Enjoy working as part of a team
- Have good communication skills
- Be reliable, patient, and keen to share your enthusiasm
- Help share Forestry England's messages and information about the local Forest and the surrounds

We will

- Provide a volunteer registration and induction prior to your first day
- Provide appropriate training
- Provide support and briefing at the start of your shift
- Provide volunteer PPE and equipment
- Provide you with a volunteer mentor who you can talk to and give feedback to at anytime
- Provide you with free vehicle admission on your volunteer days
- Support you on your volunteering journey

Who to contact?

If you are interested in volunteering for this role, please complete the application form and send to delamere@forestryengland.uk

For more information about volunteering with Forestry England please visit www.forestryengland.uk/volunteering

Thank you for considering volunteering with Forestry England