

Conservation Extras! Volunteer

Role description:

The Conservation Extras! tasks are smaller tasks around the Hills that do not need a large group of conservation volunteers. Instead, the volunteers who live locally to the task site, and are willing to offer a bit more of their time, are called up to see if they can help out. These tasks are varied and are quite sporadic but still cover the full range of the Belfast Hills, from Carnmoney to Slievenacloy.

Purpose:

Volunteers help conserve the natural beauty of the Belfast Hills by assisting the Belfast Hills Partnership team with the practical management of the Hills with varied tasks to suit a wide range of ages, abilities and motivations. Everyone who is capable of a little light work and enjoys spending time outside is welcome to join us. The smaller tasks are equally important as the larger ones but because they do not suit a full group, they can become neglected. This is why the Conservation Extras! Volunteer role has been put in place so all conservation tasks, no matter how small, get completed.

Tasks and duties:

Some of the tasks and duties we carry out across the Hills:

- Invasive species mapping
- Litter picking
- Hedge maintenance
- Pond maintenance
- Surveys (biodiversity, visitor)
- Seed collection
- Wildflower meadow maintenance
- Path maintenance

When:

All year round – task days are variable and flexible to suit the volunteers who are called up to help out.

Location:

The tasks will be located across the Belfast Hills, from Slievenacloy to Carnmoney. However, the Conservation Extras! tasks focus on what is local to the Conservation Extras! Volunteers. Of course you are more than welcome if you just want to join us and don't mind about the location, just let the Volunteer Officer know and they will add you to the list!

Why volunteer:

- Help protect your local environment
- Learn new skills
- Feel more connected to nature
- Gain valuable experience
- Meet new people
- Keep fit without the gym



Conservation Extras! Volunteer

Who will you volunteer with:

The conservation extras tasks are led by our Volunteer Officer. You will work as part of small but wonderful team of volunteers of diverse ages and backgrounds who come together to help improve the environment for the local community, visitors and wildlife.

Support, supervision and training:

Full training and demonstration of safe tool use 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 which you feel uncomfortable doing. Volunteer feedback and input is always welcome and is treated with respect and enthusiasm by the Volunteer Officer. Volunteers can also request a reference from our Volunteer Officer.



Commitment:

This role is flexible to suit everyone. Volunteers can decide how much or little time they commit. As the tasks are more sporadic, we try to fit around the volunteers who are able to join us rather than having a set day. You will always be given at least 2 options of when the task will take place and we will work with you to arrange something that suits!

Skills, qualities and abilities needed:

No specialist skills are needed (though certainly welcomed if you have any!). Most conservation tasks are simple and well demonstrated by the task leader. Having an interest in the natural environment and a willingness to learn new skills is important. Flexibility and enthusiasm is essential as well as the ability to work closely with others. Tasks vary on their physical fitness and ability levels. If you are unsure whether you will be able to do the tasks, please don't hesitate to call our

Conservation Extras! Volunteer

Volunteer Officer to find out more about the physical demands of the activity. Volunteers can always refuse tasks and demands they find unrealistic or that they feel uncomfortable with.

What to bring:

We ask all volunteers to dress appropriately for the weather – wearing layers is the best way to prepare for the ever changing Northern Irish weather! Waterproofs and sturdy boots or wellies are essential. It is also a good idea to bring a cold drink and snack if you wish.

We provide:

The task leader will give you training in work techniques and safety before each task. BHP also provides all tools, materials and necessary safety equipment, and most importantly: tea, coffee and biscuits!

Although we would like to, we currently cannot afford to cover expenses for volunteers. Volunteers will be notified of any future changes to this policy.

Insurance:

As a volunteer you will be covered under Belfast Hills Partnership Employer's Liability insurance whilst actively engaged with a Belfast Hills Partnership task or activity.



Dock Pull
Aughrim Quarry, Sept 2015

If you want to volunteer for Conservation Extras!:

Email our Volunteer Officer at:
lisa.critchley@belfasthills.org

Or call:
02890 603 466

Get involved!

