

Role description:

The Planting Volunteer role is a seasonal role to help us out during the very busy planting seasons of Autumn and Winter. The planting will be largely hedgerow and tree planting and falls in as part of our industrial site renovation scheme and wildlife corridors project. These tasks will take place on private land and quarry sites across the Belfast Hills from Slievenacloy to Carnmoney.

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. Planting is an important part of the management in the Hills as it helps maintain, enhance and restore the sites in the hills. Everyone who is capable of a bit of hard graft and enjoys spending time outside is welcome to join us regardless of age and motivation.

Tasks and duties:

- Plant new hedgerows
- Interplant 'gappy' hedgerows
- Plant trees in quarry/landfill sites

When:

December 2016 – end of March 2017, usually on Monday mornings though this is subject to change. If the task day changes, you will be notified in advance.

Please note, due to planting in winter, the ground may be frozen on scheduled task days. The Volunteer Officer will need to be able to contact you as late as the morning of the task to postpone it. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

Location:

The tasks will be located on private land and industrial sites across the Belfast Hills, from Slievenacloy to Carnmoney.

Why volunteer:

- Make a visual impact on the landscape for years to come
- Increase biodiversity in your local area to help local wildlife
- Get to know your local environment on a new level
- Meet new people
- Explore new areas
- Keep fit outside



Who will you volunteer with:

The tree and hedge planting tasks are led by our Volunteer Officer, or another experienced member of Belfast Hills Partnership staff. You will work as part of small but lovely team of volunteers of diverse ages and backgrounds who come together to help us get all the hedging plants and trees planted before Spring 2017!

Support, supervision and training:

Thorough planting demonstrations and training will be given for each task by experienced staff. It is vital that the plants are planted correctly to ensure their survival and staff will monitor planting during the task for this reason. Staff on tasks are fully 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 and volunteers can decide how much or little time they commit. One of the planting sites is fairly specific and will require a certain amount of commitment from a group of volunteers, the Volunteer Officer will discuss this once the planting group is set up. All planting will occur during the winter up until March 31st 2017.

Skills, qualities and abilities needed:

No tree or hedge planting experience is necessary, only a willingness to learn and watch demonstrations carried out by the task leader closely. Having an interest in the natural environment and an eagerness to learn new skills is important.

Flexibility and enthusiasm is essential as well as the ability to work closely with others. Planting is a fairly physical task; if you are unsure whether you will be able to do the tasks, please don't hesitate to call our 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 winter weather – wearing layers is the best way to prepare for planting in the hills! Waterproofs and sturdy boots or wellies are essential. You may also bring water and a snack if you wish.



We provide:

The task leader will give you training in planting techniques and a safety brief before each task. BHP also provides all materials, 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.



If you want to become a Tree and Hedge Planting Volunteer:

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

Or call:
02890 603 466



Get involved!