



Friends of Ruskin Park

Wanted: Wellbeing Gardener

We are looking to work with a freelance gardener to help create a new Wellbeing Garden in Ruskin Park and support gardening activities for people with specific health needs and the wider community.

1.0 The Opportunity

You would provide services as a contractor for approximately 52 six-hour sessions spread over 15 months. The hourly rate is £20/hour.

The work schedule may change as the project develops, but we currently expect the majority to take place weekly on Fridays, with some breaks over winter months.

We are committed to championing equality, diversity and inclusion. We encourage your application whatever your age, gender, ethnicity, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation, or socio-economic background.

2.0 About the Friends of Ruskin Park (FoRP)

We are a volunteer-run charity working to ensure our park is well cared for and maintained and has a planned and healthy future. We raise money to improve the park and organise a regular programme of events and activities. We have been a registered charity since 2016 and work closely with Lambeth Council and others.

3.0 About the Wellbeing Garden

We are creating a Wellbeing Garden in Ruskin Park to support therapeutic gardening activities for people with specific health needs and the wider community. Over a one-year pilot, the garden will be developed and at least four groups from local organisations will be supported to make use of the space, with group leaders trained in basic therapeutic gardening skills, so they may continue to use the garden after the pilot ends.

4.0 The role

The Wellbeing Gardener will:

1. Help plan and plant the Wellbeing Garden, including floral, herb and sensory elements. A separate contractor will design and the build raised beds first.
2. Ensure the Wellbeing Garden is well maintained and tidy (and where relevant provide some support to the adjacent Community Garden).

3. Support at least four local groups to run their weekly therapeutic gardening sessions. The groups will be led and supervised by practitioners from local services such as NHS mental health teams, special educational needs teachers and services for supporting women who have experienced gender-based abuse.
4. Create a user-friendly written guide covering basic gardening skills, the use of tools as well as a month-by-month garden maintenance guide for future users of the Wellbeing Garden and where necessary, provide support for those who are less comfortable using the written guide.
5. Report back to the contract manager (a trustee) at FoRP monthly.

4.1 Key responsibilities

1. Providing expert advice on planting and plant maintenance to FoRP and garden users
2. Ensuring the safe use of tools and equipment (as well as maintaining tools where necessary)
3. Sourcing and ordering materials in good time, in liaison with the FoRP contract manager
4. Maintaining communications with user groups
5. Doing any necessary outreach to recruit other local groups where necessary
6. Recruiting and training volunteer gardeners through FoRP where necessary for the ongoing maintenance of the garden
7. Keeping appropriate monitoring records as agreed
8. Liaising with the Park Attendant (employed by Lambeth Council) to support other users of the space
9. Reporting back to the contract manager at FoRP on a monthly basis
10. Tracking progress and providing information for a final report to our funder at the end of the contract period

5.0 Experience and qualifications

You will have experience in delivering horticultural support and learning, in a simple, safe and engaging way. Prior experience of working with at risk adults would be helpful. We expect the candidate to have some horticultural qualification (RHS Level 2 or equivalent) and at least two years' experience.

You should be able to demonstrate experience of gardening through all seasons and be capable of designing, implementing, and maintaining an annual planting plan.

You will need to be self-motivated and able to deliver the project without substantial direction, adapting and thinking creatively with the resources available.

We are looking for someone friendly and approachable, who has good communication skills, can work with others and support volunteers where necessary.

You will need to demonstrate a positive attitude towards people from a wide range of different backgrounds, including people living with physical disabilities, mental health conditions or learning difficulties, for example.

You are not expected to hold a qualification in supporting people with complex needs and will be provided with full support.

You will need to provide your own IT equipment for any admin work. All other work will be delivered at the Wellbeing Garden.

We expect you to have experience of health and safety requirements/risk assessments appropriate to gardening groups. An enhanced DBS check will be undertaken in advance of beginning the project.

6.0 How to apply

Please email a recent CV and a covering letter outlining why you would like this contract and what you can bring to the project to:

info@friendsofruskinpark.org.uk

The deadline is Sunday 14th August 2022.

Please provide contact details for at least two references.

We will contact you to arrange an interview if you are successful at this stage.