

Individual Volunteering Guidelines



This protocol is designed to support individuals, ad hoc. groups or pairs to undertake volunteering activities such as litter picking, weeding, pruning, and species monitoring/recording. Anyone supporting parks by volunteering must ensure their actions compliment the site management plans (if in place) and adhere to Park Byelaws.

Individual Volunteering in Parks

Whilst group volunteering has resumed after the Covid-19 pandemic, we know that many people wish to volunteer independently on an ad hoc basis to help maintain their own wellbeing, improve their park and enjoy time outdoors. Bristol Parks therefore maintain support for this option, for individuals or household groups who wish to volunteer.

We are grateful to those who dedicate their time to looking after parks and green spaces. If you are planning to do so, we advise the following:

- **Wash your hands** before and after undertaking any activity in a park or green space with soap and warm water. Use hand sanitiser if you take a break or remove your gloves whilst in the park.
- **Wear gardening gloves** to minimise the risk of touching any contaminated surfaces. Wash them after use.
- **Don't promote the time and place** you intend to undertake independent activities, to avoid an unintended group session happening without the necessary H&S trained lead and plans in place.
- **Any tools or equipment should be cleaned** when you finish using them
- **Use the regular [Bristol Parks RA templates](#)** to make sure you consider all risks associated with your volunteer activity.
- **Only undertake activities which are permitted** under [Parks Byelaws](#) and are in line with the Bristol City Council and/or Volunteer Group site management plans. If you are unsure, ask the Parks Volunteer Coordinator (ella.hogg@bristol.gov.uk)

Recommended PPE List

- Fully charged mobile phone in case of emergencies
- 1 set of gardening gloves per person
- Hand sanitiser
- First Aid Kit

If you are volunteering on your own, let someone know where you are going and when to expect you to return. Let them know when you get home.

Insurance:

Our H&S Trained Leaders will continue to be covered under Personal Accident Insurance provided they are working to agreed risk assessed activities, when working individually.

Other members of the public who wish to volunteer individually or with their household/support bubble must only undertake low level activities such as litter picking, weeding, bulb planting (**where advised by the trained Volunteer Group Leaders**). They are covered under Bristol City Council's public liability insurance, but not personal accident insurance.

If you have any questions or concerns about volunteering or PPE, please get in touch with Ella Hogg, Volunteer Coordinator, Parks and Green Spaces (ella.hogg@bristol.gov.uk)