Nature Conservation Volunteering-
Your Questions Answered

1) Where can I find out details of your volunteer sessions?
Details of our volunteer days can be found in the Do More in Redbridge guide, which is delivered to every household in the borough. Alternatively you can pick up a hard copy from libraries and other council buildings. Details can also be found on our page of the Redbridge website: www.redbridge.gov.uk/nature. We also send out a monthly email to our subscribers, this includes any ad hoc dates that have been arranged since the latest edition of the Do More guide, as well as news stories and updates on some of our projects. If you would like to be added to our mailing list please email us: nature.conservation@visionrcl.org.uk

2) Do I have to book onto a volunteer event?
No, there’s no need to book onto most of our volunteer days. Just turn up at the specified meeting point. We start promptly (usually 10am) and sometimes work a fair distance away from the meeting point so please try to be punctual as it can be difficult to find us later on. If you do have trouble finding us, call our office 020 8559 2316 and we will try to direct you.

On the odd occasion that we have to limit numbers, we will ask people to book in advance but this is always specified within the event detail.

3) Is there any minimum commitment?
No, you can volunteer as often or as little as you like. You do not have to stay for a full session either, many of our volunteers prefer to do a couple of hours in the morning and then leave early. This is absolutely fine, we’re very grateful for any time you can spare.

nature.conservation@visionrcl.org.uk
020 8559 2316
4) **Is there an age limit?**

Children over 12 are welcome to attend any of the sessions. Some sessions may be suitable for younger children but not all. Please contact the nature conservation ranger team to discuss. **Please note anyone under 16 must be accompanied by a responsible adult.**

5) **Can disabled people volunteer?**

Our tasks are varied and there are usually lighter options for anyone who suffers from a bad back, etc. Please call us to discuss in advance if you have any concerns. All rangers are trained in first aid. It is important that you make it clear to the ranger leading the task if there are any medical conditions they should be aware of. Unfortunately the sessions will not be suitable for wheelchair users.

6) **What shall I wear?**

Old clothes that you don’t mind getting mucky and sturdy footwear (work boots or sturdy trainers). Waterprofs are recommended in case of wet weather, as are sunhats when it’s hot. We provide all protective equipment including work gloves but you are welcome to bring your own if you prefer.

7) **Do you still run sessions in bad weather?**

Our sessions generally go ahead whatever the weather but in cases of extreme conditions, particularly gale force winds, we will have to cancel due to health and safety concerns. If you are unsure on the day, please call our office to check: **020 8559 2316**

8) **What about refreshments?**

We provide tea, coffee and biscuits. We also bring extra water in hot weather but we do recommend you bring a bottle of water with you and a packed lunch if you’re planning to stay for the whole session.

9) **Can I bring my own tools?**

We provide all tools and training on how to use them. If you prefer to bring your own hand tools, you can do so but at your own risk. Under no circumstances can you bring power tools.

10) **Are there any volunteer sessions at weekends?**

Unfortunately almost all of our sessions are held during the week as we work Monday-Friday as standard. There are other organisations locally that may have volunteer opportunities at weekends – contact us and we can send you details.

11) **Can you reimburse travel expenses?**

Unfortunately we cannot currently offer to reimburse travel expenses. We can lend you a parking permit for you to use during the volunteer sessions in Redbridge parks with pay & display.