

## Volunteering in Parks and Open Spaces during Covid-19 Restrictions V2

**Date: 27<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

As the national lockdown has continued to be eased we are starting to see slightly more normality in the way we work. Following on from the success of the initial return of volunteering we have now updated the volunteer protocol to allow more tasks to be undertaken. It is important that social distancing guidelines continue to be followed and group numbers must not exceed 6. If multiple groups of up to 6 people are working on site, please consider staggered start times or separate meeting locations to avoid accidental grouping.

### **Important:**

- **If you are showing any of the Covid-19 symptoms listed below or are currently self-isolating you must not undertake volunteer activities.**
- **If you belong to a high risk group we recommend that you do not take part in volunteer activities at this time.**

### **Symptoms**

- *High temperature* – Meaning that you feel hot to the touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- *New continuous cough* – coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (If you usually have a cough it may be worse than usual)
- *Loss or change of sense of smell or taste* – This means that you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

More information can be found on the NHS website [here](#)

### **Self-isolation**

- Anyone with symptoms should self-isolate for 7 days from when their symptoms started
- Anyone who does not have symptoms should self-isolate for 14 days from when the first person in your home started having symptoms.

More information about self-isolation can be found [here](#)

## How You Can Volunteer

If you would like to help then we ask you to follow the steps below:

1. **Maintain social distancing** - in line with the government guidance a maximum of 6 people are permitted to volunteer and must remain 2 metres away from each other at all times. If multiple groups of up to 6 people are working on site, please consider staggered start times or separate meeting locations to avoid accidental grouping. Please check details with group leaders before setting off for a task.
2. **Some tasks are not permitted** – Any task undertaken should be compatible with social distancing measures as well as appropriate for the season. Contact one of the wardens if you are unsure whether a task is permitted.
3. **Thorough hand washing** – Wash hands thoroughly with soap and warm water before and after carrying out any practical work. Whilst working use hand sanitiser to clean hands if gloves are removed or breaks are taken.
4. **Wear gloves** – Wear gloves at all times when carrying out any practical work. Ensure that these are washed after use.
5. **Only work in the green space when it is quiet** – Strict social distancing must be adhered to, so if the area you are planning to work in is busy making it difficult to socially distance then please go home and return at another time. If possible display a group banner, poster, or wear branded clothing to help show that the work is part of an organised task.
6. **Bring your own tools** – Where possible use own tools. For some tasks there may be a need to share tools, if tools are shared please ensure that they are disinfected after use, paying particular attention to handles and contact areas. Please do not use saws at this time as these present an increased health and safety risk.
7. **Bring your own refreshments** – To limit the risk of cross contamination please bring your own refreshments and DO NOT share these with other members of the group.
8. **Use the updated risk assessment** – We have updated the current risk for the activities that are permitted to account for the changes in working practices. This can be obtained from your group leader or one of the parks and countryside team.
9. **Transport** – If possible walk, cycle or use your own transport to reach work sites, if it is essential to use public transport or car share then please make sure you are adhering to current government safe travel guidance.

If you have any concerns or questions in relation to volunteering at this time then please don't hesitate to get in touch with either:

Sam Fosberry, Community Engagement Officer – [sam.fosberry@horsham.gov.uk](mailto:sam.fosberry@horsham.gov.uk)

Or

Ryan Allison, Volunteer Support Warden – [ryan.allison@horsham.gov.uk](mailto:ryan.allison@horsham.gov.uk)