

Conservation Volunteering

Undertaking conservation volunteering projects is a great way to widen your businesses environmental benefits, raise awareness of environmental issues and motivate staff. There are many conservation and community organisations that either accept individual volunteers or can provide conservation activity days for corporate groups. Running a conservation away day can be used as team building exercises or alternatively you can allow staff timeout of the office to volunteer on a local project as part of their benefits package. The following table provides suggestions that your company could get involved with. A database of environmental organisations can be found at www.richenvironmentnet.org.uk/get-involved.

Organisation	Contact Details	Activity details	Cost	Time of year	Commitment
Arcadia Project	francesca.morris on@richmond.gov.uk 020 8891 7399	Tree planting, hedge laying, dead hedging, reed planting, coppicing and felling of trees, boardwalk construction, bulb planting, maintenance of hedgerows, bird box building, sand martin bank construction, river cleanups.	£75 per person for corporate projects. Free for small groups.	Run projects throughout the year.	One-off and ongoing projects.
Barnes Wetland Centre	Chris Elliott 020 8409 4402 christopher.elliott@wwt.org.uk	Painting or gardening projects. Ideally 10-15 people maximum. Typical day: 10 -1pm briefing & work – WWT assigns couple of volunteers to work alongside the company volunteers. Lunch 1 – 2pm (can be purchased in café), 2-4pm Work 4pm – team taken on a short tour of the centre.	Ask for a contribution to the Wetland Centre, can be in kind e.g. if painting project, helping to buy paint or tools if they are needed.	Spring, Summer: painting projects. Spring, Summer and Autumn: Gardening.	One-off and ongoing projects.
BTCV	Zannthie Bennett 0207 843 4275 z.bennett@btcv.org.uk	Usually 10-30 people. Tree planting, dry stone walling, hedge-laying, woodland or other vegetation and habitat management, creation of a nature garden in a rural area, school grounds or other site. These will vary to match organisation's requirements, the season and the needs of the community and green space.	£75 per person depending on the bespoke package.	All year round	Usually one day events

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Richmond BTCV	s.hawkins@btcv.org.uk 0208 891 4295	Winter: bramble bashing (clearing brambles from grassland), hedge planting, reed bed maintenance, hedge weeding, bulb planting. Summer: path maintenance, removing Himalayan balsam, school garden stuff. See website for current activities. www.btcv.org.uk/cgi-bin/office_opps_ind.cgi?ref=108&region=lo .	Individuals can volunteer for free. Corporate group bookings can be made at £75 per person.	All year round with lots of winter activities.	One-off and ongoing projects. BTCV can help build a long term relationship with a school or another project.
Kew Gardens	Janice Phair Corporate Account Manager 0208 332 3223 corpvoluteering@kew.org	Clearing conservation areas and planting beds. Ideally 15-20 people but can accommodate more. If large group would need ample notice to ensure there are enough activities.	Package of a volunteering day costs £60 per person includes lunch & some goodies.	All year round.	One-off and ongoing projects.
London Wildlife Trust	Sarah Wilshaw Head of Fundraising and Marketing London Wildlife Trust 0207 803 4273 swilshaw@wildlondon.org.uk	Ideally 20 people maximum. October – March: undergrowth clearance and coppicing. Spring: Hedge planting, bird box building Summer: meadow cutting and raking, visitor centre maintenance Autumn: Reedbed cutting, pond clearance Winter: Tree coppicing Habitat creation. Typically the day will run as follows: 9.30-10am – Welcome, tea & coffee, introduction (tea & coffee provided by LWT) 10am – Health & safety briefing 10.30 – Start task 11.30 – break 12.30 – 13.30 Lunch (provided by volunteers) 13.30 – 16.00 Continue task (break part way) 16.00 - Finish task and clear up. Crane River Valley – local project, conservation work possibly available.	£50 per person includes materials needed for the task (Tools, equipment, protective materials, etc). Staff time for preparation and management on the day This cost is negotiable depending on group numbers, provision of equipment or 'work in kind' and requirements.	All year round.	One-off and ongoing projects.