

 **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: Grounds - Gardening**

**Why do we need you? Why volunteer with us?**

We’re WWT, the charity for wetlands and wildlife. We’re on a mission to restore wetlands because they are a wondrous solution to our world's problems. Together we will unlock their power – and help nature burst back to life. Because when wetlands flourish, all life will flourish.

*We lead the way, bring life, and inspire connection.*

At WWT, we shape unforgettable experiences. By working as part of the Grounds Volunteer team you will assist with the maintenance of all aspects of gardening within the grounds at Washington to exhibit our waterfowl and mammals from around the world to the highest standards. This will help to provide our visitors with a great day out and encourage them to engage with and support our work to save wetlands for wildlife and people.

We believe that the best way for people to understand and connect to wetlands is to experience them, so we awe-inspiring nature up close at Washington Wetland Centre, visitors can explore unique wetland habitats and the amazing array of birds and mammals that inhabit them. Our volunteers help to welcome and inspire visitors and get to experience looking after our unique habitats and heritage.

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**Who will be responsible for your role?** Grounds Warden

**Where will you be based?** WWT Washington

**How much time will it take?** Friday 10:00 - 16:00

**What will you be doing?**

* Assisting with development and maintenance of visitor centre grounds.
* Assisting with planting, weeding and pruning.
* Helping us maintain our visitor infrastructure to a high standard including path clearance, and furnishings.
* Welcoming and engaging visitors.
* Ensuring the safety, welfare and enjoyment of the visiting public.
* Promoting the work of WWT to all visitors.

**Wetlands for the Win! How will you benefit?**

Looking for valuable work experience to gain relevant skills or wanting to spend more time outdoors? Or both?

Look no further! Securing a volunteering position with us plays a crucial role in saving wetlands for wildlife and people and gives you a chance to

* Work within an internationally important wetland site.
* Learn new, transferable skills.
* Gain valuable work experience, especially in a conservation environment.
* Gain a fantastic and inclusive volunteering experience to talk about to a potential employer.
* Make a real contribution to the conservation work of WWT.
* Gain free entry to all WWT wetland centres throughout the UK on presentation of your WWT name badge.
* Get a WWT Uniform.
* Have a great discount in WWT shops and cafes.
* Receive induction and training.
* Make new friends and become part of a welcoming and inclusive community.
* Experience the physical and mental benefits of the outdoors.

**Who are we looking for?**No formal qualifications are required. However, this role will suit you if you have formal or informal experience or understanding of gardening and conservation. You will need to:

* Be practical and physically able.
* Enjoy volunteering as part of a team.
* Are happy engaging with visitors.
* Be independent and able to work with little supervision under the direction of the grounds manager.

 **General notes:**This position may require helping out on other days in addition to rota days but this will be infrequent and will be agreed with your head of department and will be subject to your availability.

We regret that we are not able to reimburse expenses incurred for travel to the site.

This position is entirely voluntary and is therefore unpaid. Any offer of a volunteer placement is not intended to create a legally binding contract between us and any agreement may be cancelled at any time at the discretion of either party. Neither of us intends any employment relationship to be created either now or at any time in the future.

**How to Apply:**

We celebrate inclusivity and diversity amongst our volunteering community and encourage applicants to state any disabilities they have for provided support.

Full details of this and other roles can be found at [www.wwt.org.uk/volunteer](http://www.wwt.org.uk/volunteer).

Contact us at Volunteering@wwt.org.uk to state what support you need either in locating the information or filling out the application process so we can cater for your additional needs.

**Date reviewed:**  January 2023