

Leicester Environmental Volunteers



Conservation

leicester.gov.uk/parks-volunteering





Wild about Leicester

We have a range of sites across Leicester that are important due to their local wildlife and designation for nature conservation. They help support rare wildlife and need to be managed sensitively. We are looking for volunteers to get involved with conservation work on our local nature reserves and local wildlife sites and help us to manage and improve the range of habitat types.



All aspects of conservation management are covered including coppicing, tree planting, pond work and meadow management. Volunteers, in groups of up to ten, will be given guidance by a staff member but will be able to work at their own pace and according to their own abilities. The tasks are carried out by our Nature Conservation Team at Leicester City Council as part of the Wild about Leicester Project, the work changes regularly, guaranteeing that volunteers will see new sites and learn new skills. The conservation days are held once or twice a month between 10am and 3pm.



Conservation Champions

This project works closely with our Nature Conservation team to ensure that the city's Local Nature Reserves' long term value for ecology is maintained.

The scheme undertakes a range of nature conservation enhancement tasks across a variety of city-based local nature reserves in line with seasonal restrictions and each sites Nature Conservation management plan.

The range of tasks includes:

- Pond improvements & management
- Meadow management
- Woodland and coppice management
- Pathway edging
- Litter management
- Scrubland management
- Invasive plant management
- Laid hedge management
- Furniture management
- Tree planting station management
- Tall herb management
- Glade management

The project provides a free mini bus service for volunteers. The bus picks up and drops off from a convenient city centre location, and takes volunteers to where the task will take place.





Conservation on Aylestone Meadows

Aylestone Meadows is a much beloved, large green area of Leicester where you can completely forget that you are still in the city! Great for rambling, dog walking and spending time with the family, it is a fantastic site, rich in wildlife, with an expansive scope for habitat management. Join us on regular monthly volunteering opportunities for an interesting range of tasks, all designed to keep the area rich in biodiversity and improve many of the habitats.

Tasks will include:

- Tree thinning
- Coppicing (Willow and Hazel)
- Pathway creation/management
- Bramble clearance
- Meadow cutting
- Hedge laying
- Pond clearance
- Ditch clearance

Aylestone Meadows Appreciation Society (AMAS).

AMAS is committed to promoting, enhancing and protecting Aylestone Meadows.

Anyone who shares our aims is welcome and indeed encouraged to join as a member, to come along to our activities and to join our **Facebook group**.

For more information visit the AMAS website
aylestonemeadows.org.uk



Conservation at Watermead Country Park

Everyone in Leicester knows that Watermead Country Park is the place to go to appreciate stunning nature, beautiful sunsets and enjoy relaxing summer picnics next to the lakes. But the Park is also home to species-rich meadows, carefully rotated coppiced willow, community woodland, and, of course the wide open lakes that define the area.

On regular volunteering opportunities, we will be working to improve the paths and boardwalks, thinning out the woodlands, working on the willow coppicing rotation and helping to manage the meadows on site. Come along to learn new skills, make new friends and get some fresh air, all alongside some wonderful wildlife, from newts and kingfishers to even woodpeckers in the community woodland.

