

## Leicester Environmental Volunteers



# Water Based

[leicester.gov.uk/parks-volunteering](http://leicester.gov.uk/parks-volunteering)





# Shared Waters – Island Castaways

The Shared Waters Island Castaways project helps improve the various islands across Leicester.

Work is varied, but will involve a short boat ride to an island in need of TLC. Volunteers will be involved with tasks including coppicing, scrub clearance, nesting site creations and improvements, assisting with bank erosion control, creation of landings or general tidying up.



No prior boating or swimming experience is necessary as trained Volunteer Leaders will always be nearby to give guidance and buoyancy aids will be provided. Come along to help improve the islands for the wildlife and learn new skills, as well as to paddle or sit and enjoy the ride on some beautiful lakes.





# Shared Waters – Puddle Ducks

Leicester City Council manage numerous ponds across the city that all require careful management for nature conservation. This project will teach the methods and practices of successfully protecting the wildlife living within a pond, at the same time as maintaining an important feature of Leicester's parks.

## Tasks might include:

- Removing invasive or introduced species that could damage water quality or harm the pond environment.
- Cutting back overhanging vegetation sheltering the light to the pond and effecting plant growth.
- Removing excess vegetation, which might be depleting water levels.
- Cutting waterside vegetation away from the land.

No experience is necessary and all tools and safety equipment will be provided. Some tasks may involve standing in the water up to mid-calf depth. For deeper depths we provide waders. Volunteers are of course very welcome to remain on the bank and work from dry land.





# Shared Waters – Riverbank Crew

Come join the crew by volunteering to look after the riverbanks in Leicester. This project covers a variety of waterside tasks including:

- Litter picking along the water's edge to remove rubbish that might otherwise blow into the water and potentially cause a blockage;
- Tidying up waterside walkways;
- Repairing bank erosion and many other tasks.



# Shared Waters – Willow Brook

Willow Brook flows from the east of Leicester and enters the River Soar in Leicester City centre. This interesting brook varies greatly in its course. It starts in Thurnby Lodge as a small, pretty brook within a park and as it draws closer to the city, it is contained in a concrete flood relief channel that quickly carries storm water away from residential homes into the River Soar.

Why not come and help keep the water flowing? We need volunteers to remove litter and blockages from the brook and help to save residents from the effects of flooding. The majority of the channel we work in is concrete lined with a small flow of water in the centre. This concrete channel flows under the roads and is big enough to drive a truck through but that means it's big enough for people to dump rubbish as big as a double mattresses!





# Green LifeBoat Project

Litter in our waterways is unsightly, it reflects badly on our city and washes downstream to blight other communities. Since 1995, volunteers have been helping to remove debris from the water, working on a variety of boats; some which require a team of up to 8-10 volunteers to paddle, some use engines and we even have a working narrow boat! Using these boats, volunteers will be involved with removing anything from crisps packets to bed mattresses and bicycles, to assist the clearing of the waterways.

In May 2017 we increased our fleet with the launch of Kingfisher, a 35ft river barge designed and built to maximise volunteer numbers and increase waste collection from the water. Kingfisher's size and power will help with the removal of larger heavier items.

You name it, we've removed it! Come join us on this mission! The type of craft we use will be selected dependent on the area and the volume and type of litter, but each one provides a unique view of the city and a great way to spend days off while helping keep the rivers clear of litter and reduce blockages and flooding!

