



# Friends of Ruskin Park

Wanted: Wellbeing Gardener

**We are looking to work with a freelance gardener to manage the Willow Garden in Ruskin Park and support gardening activities for people with specific health needs and the wider community.**

## 1.0 The Opportunity

You would provide services as a contractor for approximately 48 six-hour sessions spread over 12 months. The hourly rate is £22/hour.

The majority of work will take place weekly on Fridays, with some breaks over winter months. If a new user group is recruited, some work may be required on another day (to be mutually agreed).

**We are committed to championing equality, diversity and inclusion.** We encourage your application whatever your age, gender, ethnicity, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation, or socio-economic background.

## 2.0 About the Friends of Ruskin Park (FoRP)

We are a volunteer-run charity working to ensure our park is well cared for and maintained and has a planned and healthy future. We raise money to improve the park and organise a regular programme of events and activities. We have been a registered charity since 2016 and work closely with Lambeth Council and others.

## 3.0 About the Willow Garden

The goal of the Willow Garden in Ruskin Park is to support therapeutic gardening activities for people with specific health needs and the wider community. The garden is currently supporting two groups from the South London and Maudsley NHS Trust to make use of the space, with group leaders trained in basic therapeutic gardening skills, so they may ultimately use the garden unsupervised.

The focus of the Willow Garden is growing vegetables and some fruit, but the groups also use our sensory garden where we have herbs and other plants. Groups carry out a range of other horticultural related activities, from composting to seed collection.

## **4.0 The role**

The Wellbeing Gardener will:

1. Ensure the Willow Garden is well maintained and tidy (and where relevant provide some support to the adjacent Community Garden).
2. Support the two local groups to run their weekly therapeutic gardening sessions.
3. Continue to develop support materials including a user-friendly written guide covering basic gardening skills, the use of tools as well as a month-by-month garden maintenance guide for future users of the Willow Garden and where necessary, provide support for those who are less comfortable using the written guide.
4. Report back to the contract manager (a trustee) at FoRP monthly.

## **4.1 Key responsibilities**

1. Providing expert advice on planting and plant maintenance to FoRP and garden users
2. Ensuring the safe use of tools and equipment (as well as maintaining tools where necessary)
3. Sourcing and ordering materials in good time, in liaison with the FoRP contract manager
4. Maintaining communications with user groups
5. Doing any necessary outreach to recruit other local groups where necessary
6. Recruiting and training volunteer gardeners through FoRP where necessary for the ongoing maintenance of the garden
7. Keeping appropriate monitoring records as agreed
8. Liaising with the Park Attendant (employed by Lambeth Council) to support other users of the space
9. Reporting back to the contract manager at FoRP on a monthly basis
10. Tracking progress and providing information for a final report to our funder at the end of the contract period

## **5.0 Experience and qualifications**

You will have experience in delivering horticultural support and learning, in a simple, safe and engaging way. Prior experience of working with at risk adults would be helpful. We expect the candidate to have some horticultural qualification (RHS Level 2 or equivalent) and at least two years' experience.

You should be able to demonstrate experience of gardening through all seasons and be capable of designing, implementing, and maintaining an annual planting plan.

You will need to be self-motivated and able to deliver the project without substantial direction, adapting and thinking creatively with the resources available.

We are looking for someone friendly and approachable, who has good communication skills, can work with others and support volunteers where necessary.

You will need to demonstrate a positive attitude towards people from a wide range of different backgrounds, including people living with physical disabilities, mental health conditions or learning difficulties, for example.

You are not expected to hold a qualification in supporting people with complex needs and will be provided with full support.

You will need to provide your own IT equipment for any admin work. All other work will be delivered at the Willow Garden.

We expect you to have experience of health and safety requirements/risk assessments appropriate to gardening groups. An enhanced DBS check will be undertaken in advance of beginning the project.

## **6.0 How to apply**

Please email a recent CV and a covering letter outlining why you would like this position and what you can bring to the role to:

[info@friendsofruskinpark.org.uk](mailto:info@friendsofruskinpark.org.uk)

The deadline is Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2024.

Please provide contact details for at least two references.

We will contact you to arrange an interview if you are successful at this stage.