



Role Description

Volunteer role:	Volunteer Gardener
Based at:	Sitewide, Homerton University Hospital Homerton Row, London, E9 6SR
Days/times:	tbc
Volunteer Supervisor:	Nature Recovery Ranger
Main purpose:	To help with practical, outdoor tasks associated with the green space development program at Homerton Hospital.

Background

Homerton Hospital is embarking on a series of projects to redevelop and regenerate the green spaces across their sites, to support the mental and physical wellbeing of staff, patients, and community groups and improve biodiversity. Gardening support is needed to create, establish, and maintain a variety of green spaces such as meadows, vegetables patches, ornamental beds, and hedgerows, for the benefit of all the hospital community as well as for wildlife.

Duties

1. To support general garden maintenance across the site, to help maximize the positive impact and appearance of pre-existing green space. This will involve tasks such as watering, weeding, seed sowing, and pruning. All tasks will be undertaken following sustainable, organic practices.
2. To help with the implementation and establishment of new garden projects across the Trust's various sites. This will involve practical tasks such as building raised beds, transporting compost, and planting.
3. To liaise with the Garden Team and Nature Recovery Ranger to support in long term planning of the upkeep of the site and ensure that all green space developments are environmentally friendly and in the best interest of staff and patients.
4. To act as an ambassador for the hospital on the positive impact of green space on physical and mental wellbeing and the importance of sustainable gardening practices.

Person Specification

Garden Volunteer

Essential

- ◆ Aged 18 or over
- ◆ Able to commit reliably to at least 2 hours a week for a minimum of six months
- ◆ Some knowledge of basic horticultural tasks would be helpful (though some training will be provided).
- ◆ A friendly and approachable manner and good verbal communication skills
- ◆ A commitment to improve the patient's experience of their time in hospital
- ◆ An interest in the importance of nature- friendly gardening
- ◆ A willingness to undertake a variety of physical, practical tasks
- ◆ A willingness to work outside, sometimes in inclement weather.
- ◆ Basic knowledge of plant care and identification
- ◆ A commitment to the trust's equal opportunities and diversity policies
- ◆ Volunteers must adhere to the Homerton's volunteer guidelines, including rules on confidentiality, health and safety, safeguarding adults and children and manual handling
- ◆ To be willing to receive training in customer care, communication skills and any other areas as appropriate to the volunteer role

General information

- ◆ Volunteers should not undertake duties outside this role description without checking first with their Volunteer Supervisor.
- ◆ A volunteer can offer emotional support and empathy but must under no circumstances offer advice or a medical opinion on a patient's treatment or assist with anything of a clinical nature.
- ◆ Volunteers are reminded of the importance of confidentiality at all times. They must under no circumstances discuss patients' affairs with any person other than the relevant staff.

- ◆ Volunteers are complementary to paid staff and must not be used to replace roles that are usually undertaken by hospital employees.