

Friends of Eastfield Park

www.foep.eastfieldpark.com



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VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

The Friends of Eastfield Park (FoEP) offer various opportunities for groups of volunteers to carry out work in Eastfield Park for a day, half day or over longer periods if desired. The tasks available depend on the aptitudes and interests of the volunteers and whether or not they can offer financial help with the projects they carry out.

The simplest projects involve litter picking and general tidying up. We can provide all the equipment needed for these and they could last anything from one hour to a number of days.

More ambitious projects usually involve some form of gardening or path improvements.



Wildflower garden created by Thomson volunteers.

In 2015 a team from Thomson Holidays created a wildflower garden from scratch and a group of managers from Lloyds Bank extended an insect-friendly garden, cleared an overgrown area in front of a ha-ha (sunken wall) and weeded and planted a rock garden. In 2016 a team from Nationwide Building Society cleared informal pathways, created a hibernaculum (refuge for animals) and a log wall (habitat for insects) and weeded and planted part of a rock garden. The same group of managers from Lloyds Bank filled in holes on a children's play mound, extended the cleared area in front of the ha-ha and weeded and planted another part of the rock garden.

Every year our small gardens get overgrown with weeds and require work to get them looking their best. Informal pathways become obstructed with bushes and branches that need cutting back. We have a good stock of garden tools (supplied by Barclaycard volunteers) but we do not always have the funds to buy plants. Any group that can provide plants (preferably native species) would be most welcome.

For those interested in wildlife we can suggest habitat creation projects but these need to be carefully thought out and planned. Some of the work we have done previously has been destroyed by vandals within a few weeks. Other special 'one-off' projects can be carried out if groups can help provide some of the necessary resources for their completion. The culvert illustrated here was built by WNDC volunteers in 2012. The FoEP provided the pipe and the volunteers provided the tools, cement and labour.



Culvert built by WNDC volunteers in 2012.



Nationwide volunteers working on the rock garden in 2016.

VOLUNTEER GROUPS SINCE 2010

Groundwork Northamptonshire	October, 2010 November, 2010 August, 2011
Barclaycard Volunteers	May, 2011
WNDC Volunteers	October, 2011 October, 2012
Thomson Holidays Volunteers	April, 2015
Lloyds Bank Managers	September, 2015 November, 2016
Nationwide Volunteers	October, 2016

Students from Northampton College have also carried out litter picking and minor improvements to the Park every year since 2012.

For those who want to carry out a much larger project over a period of time involving planning and possibly fund raising, we could attempt the complete restoration of one of the ponds. We already have provisional permission for doing this but require funding and a lot of volunteer time.