

Friends of Eastfield Park

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VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES (2020/2021)

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 skills 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 whole day. More ambitious projects usually involve some form of gardening, conservation or path improvements.



Wildflower garden created by Thomson volunteers.

Back in 2015 a team from Thomson Holidays created a wildflower garden from scratch. Since then, the garden has been extended into a small seeded meadow which is currently being extended into a much larger planted meadow, all with the help of local volunteers.

Also in 2015, a group of managers from Lloyds Bank extended an insect-friendly garden, cleared an overgrown area in front of the ha-ha (sunken wall) and weeded and planted a rock garden. In 2016 a team from Nationwide Building Society cleared informal pathways, created new habitats, and weeded and planted part of the rock garden. The 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.

In 2017 the Nationwide team dug over and weeded a large area at the back of the rock garden, filled in hazardous holes in the parkland area, spread wood chippings on an informal pathway, cleared vegetation along another pathway, removed branches from a fallen tree and tidied up a wood pile from trees cut down on the lake embankment the previous autumn.

In 2019 volunteers from Mars-Wrigley raked up grass cuttings from a mown meadow and cleared undergrowth from the lake embankment.

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.

For those interested in wildlife we can suggest habitat creation projects but these need to be carefully thought out and planned. Other special one-off projects can be carried out if groups can help provide some of the necessary resources for their completion.



Nationwide volunteers clearing a pathway in 2017.



Mars-Wrigley volunteers raking up mown grass in 2019

VOLUNTEER GROUPS SINCE 2015

Thomson Holidays Volunteers	April 2015
Lloyds Bank Managers	September 2015
	November 2016
Nationwide Volunteers	October 2016
	June 2017
Mars-Wrigley Volunteers	October 2019

During 2017 and 2018 groups from local churches also helped with practical work in the Park.

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

There are also potential projects for those who want to carry out work over a longer period, possibly involving planning, publicity, fund raising or research into the Park's history or wildlife. Students could, for example, make a promotional video about the Park or the work of the FoEP.