

Accessible Green Space Development Officer

Salary: Band 8 - £21,817.80 to £23,490.60 per annum (FTE £36,363 - £39,151 per annum)

Hours per week: 22.2, to be worked in accordance with the flexible working hours' scheme and the needs of the Service. Some evening and weekend working and attendance at meetings and events may be required.

Location: Civic Offices

Contract type: 2 year fixed term contract

The Project

Portsmouth City Council are delighted to have been awarded significant funding to ensure a greener future. Nature Positive Portsmouth is a project that looks to deliver nature recovery at scale, climate resilient green infrastructure and improved connection to nature for health and wellbeing in the City. The project focuses on developing the plans, partnerships and ways of working to effect transformative change and leave a legacy of a project pipeline and identified funding opportunities. The long term goals of Nature Positive Portsmouth are:

- Resilient biodiversity
- Implementation of nature-based solutions for climate change effectively (specifically SuDS and trees)
- Equitable access to nature and benefits from nature for health and wellbeing

This post is funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund through Nature Towns and Cities, a partnership between the Heritage Fund, Natural England and the National Trust.

What is the role?

The climate and nature crisis demonstrates the need to act as one council, collaborating internally and externally with partners and stakeholders, to develop and deliver creative and realistic solutions that are ambitious, delivered at pace and at a city-wide scale to achieve significant benefits for the public and nature.

Nature Positive Portsmouth is an ambitious project funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund through the Nature Towns and Cities Programme. Nature Positive Portsmouth looks to enable the necessary transformation that will enable Portsmouth City Council and its partners to deliver nature recovery at scale and embed green infrastructure for nature-based solutions across Portsmouth.

The role will be focused on understanding how under-served communities can increase their access to existing green space and how these spaces can deliver more benefits for a climate resilient Portsmouth. As well as developing a pipeline of physical improvement projects the post-holder will test a range of community engagement activities that widen community access and use.

The Accessible Green Space Development Officer will focus on existing green space and play parks within the city. They will build on evidence from the Open Spaces Assessment (2018), Parks and Open Spaces Strategy (2023) and Greening Strategy (2023) to work with local

communities to assess barriers to accessible green space, assess climate resilience and multifunctionality within green space and develop a pipeline of costed projects that address the climate and ecological crises and deliver social justice.

The successful candidate will work with Council Officers to support the development of a strategic approach to unlocking new investment for green spaces and fostering community engagement and support. It is envisaged that specific works areas led by the Accessible Green Space Development Officer could include:

- Consulting with local communities through community wellbeing hubs to gain a greater understanding of who uses parks and open spaces and how
- Developing an understanding of barriers to access
- Working with targeted groups / communities to deliver a series of engagement programmes that increase awareness of parks and their opportunities and address access barriers for some - thereby embedding park use for all
- Reviewing e.g. volunteer policies / guidance and other relevant documentation and creating a playbook to support utilisation of space by different groups and understand impact of use e.g. 5 ways to wellbeing framework
- Working with other officers to develop a pipeline of projects for future investment in accessible green space drawing on different tools and developing a standard approach for costing and scoring
- Supporting the delivery of nature-based intervention pilots / green social prescribing on council-owned land and working with Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
- Identifying opportunities to strengthen the connection between green space and other cultural offers in the city
- Providing support to community groups looking to unlock hidden green space for community use ie schools

The role will focus on the neighbourhoods of Paulsgrove and Portsea in particular.

Who is the person?

You need:

- Relevant professional qualification (s) and experience working in parks and open spaces.
- Experience of community engagement, stakeholder management, green social prescribing and volunteering or working with volunteers.
- Relevant experience at this post's level with expertise in biodiversity and green/natural infrastructure.
- Experience of developing costed plans.
- Experience of working collaboratively and consulting - with the public, and partners.
- Excellent collaborative and influencing skills to establish strong links into the community and develop partnership working.
- Ability to provide clear and coherent advice and defend that advice when necessary.
- Ability to understand and analyse information from a wide range of disciplines, with good attention to detail.
- Excellent verbal and written skills, demonstrating an ability to clearly communicate to different audiences and an aptitude for producing reports.
- Organised and methodical approach to work.
- Demonstrated ability to work both independently and as an effective team member.
- A strong knowledge of the value of accessible green space for health and wellbeing.

- An understanding of the risks that climate change presents in parks and open spaces.
- A knowledge of biodiversity and habitat management and understanding of ecological concepts and nature-based solutions.
- A knowledge of frameworks e.g. Natural England's Green Infrastructure framework, the Green Flag Award.

The ideal candidate will also have experience in data handling including the ability to use GIS, a good understanding of the social and economic issues affecting communities in Portsmouth, and experience of supporting the development of community groups. although these are not essential.

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