

Volunteer Role description: Compost

Volunteer

About Bankside Open Spaces Trust (BOST)

Bankside Open Spaces Trust is an environmental and volunteering charity. In 2025 we mark 25 years of protecting, preserving, and enhancing parks, gardens and other amenities in London's SE1 and surrounding areas.

We were set up in 2000 with the aim of improving people's health and wellbeing by making where they live and work greener and more beautiful. We manage and maintain open spaces, welcome volunteers from both the community and the corporate sector, run regular gardening groups, support park steering groups, organise and take part in public events and educational projects, and offer advice to others. We collaborate closely with local residents and businesses to champion green spaces.

Thousands of people enjoy our open spaces every day. Each of our sites is unique, with its own atmosphere, identity, and sense of place. Our spaces include Red Cross Garden, Marlborough Sports Garden, Waterloo Millennium Green and Tate Community Garden.

Compost Volunteers

We're looking for volunteers with a keen interest in sustainability, organic gardening, and soil health to help us manage and improve our composting systems. This is a hands-on role ideal for those curious about how compost works and how it supports thriving green spaces.

Previous experience with composting is helpful but not essential, we welcome anyone eager to learn and research the topic. Some of the

Registered in England & Wales.

Registered office: Red Cross Garden, 50 Redcross Way, London, SE1 1HA. Charity number 1085454.

tasks can be quite physical, so a good level of fitness would be beneficial.

Recruitment

Please email our Volunteer Coordinator at volunteer@bost.org.uk, if you are not already a volunteer with us, we will send you an application form. The application form asks for details of two references where at least one should be someone who knows you in a professional capacity, e.g. a previous or current employer or volunteer supervisor, a teacher, probation officer or support worker. A reference cannot be someone related to you. If you are having trouble finding a suitable reference, contact the Volunteer Coordinator. Referrals from other agencies are also welcome.

Potential volunteers will then be invited for an informal chat with our Volunteer Coordinator, either in person or via phone or Zoom. This is an opportunity for you to find out more about us and the role and for us to find out more about you. We will then work out if this is the best role for you if we have space or whether we can suggest an alternative role or organisation that would be more suited to you.

Commitment & hours

- 2–3 hours per week, ideally between 10am–12pm/1pm, Monday to Friday
- Core days: Tuesdays or Fridays (to be discussed upon)

Main Responsibilities

1. Attend a trial session with a short induction from our trained staff
2. Support composting activities such as turning piles, monitoring temperature, sorting materials, and maintaining bins
3. Learn and apply best practices for composting and soil health
4. Follow Health & Safety guidelines and instructions from staff
5. Be friendly and respectful to other volunteers, staff, and the public, and uphold BOST's policies

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What we provide

This is a voluntary role and no salary will be paid, but in return for your time you will:

- Full induction and training
- Opportunity to deepen your knowledge of composting and sustainable gardening
- Be part of a supportive, eco-conscious team
- Enjoy time outdoors in central London
- References for long-term volunteers

Reimbursement of travel expenses is also available for those for which it would be a barrier to volunteering.

Other Volunteer Roles Available

- Crossbones Warden
- Garden volunteer / Pond Volunteer / Compost Volunteer
- Events Volunteer
- Ecohouse Volunteer
- Living Space Repair Ranger Volunteer
- Gardening Club Volunteer Project Assistant
- Trustee

Contact Us

For more information on these roles or on anything related to volunteering please contact our Volunteer team – volunteer@bost.org.uk / 020 7403 3393.