

**Draft Terms of Reference for the  
London Parks Volunteering Research Project (LPVRP) Advisory Group  
Agreed and adopted on xx**

**1 Aims**

The advisory group will oversee and advise on the development and delivery of the London Parks Volunteering Research Project.

**2 Target Audience**

Parks managers/landowners in London  
Volunteering organisations in London

**3 Definitions**

**Who:** Volunteering includes, individual adults (16+ with parental consent), groups (corporate & non corporate), Friends Groups,  
**Not** children

**Where:** London parks, green spaces, green & blue corridors.  
**Not** housing land, allotments or city farms, schools, hospitals,

**What:** practical work, advice, support, GreenGyms, healthy activities  
**Not** 'punative' volunteering, payback projects.

**4 Background**

The scope of this project & the following statements relate to London's parks & green spaces

- Recent research carried out on behalf of the LDA<sup>1</sup> recommended:
  - Diversifying the volunteer base
  - Strengthening the volunteering infrastructure
  - Developing the evidence base
  - Preparing for the Olympics
  - Ensuring a strategic approach
- Volunteering is currently under utilised, uncoordinated & undervalued.
- The benefits of volunteering, e.g. health, social, etc are undersold.
- The opportunities for volunteering are potentially enormous.
- The barriers to developing & delivering volunteering need to be identified & overcome.
- Volunteer training needs to be developed strategically and funded to support the growth & development of volunteering.
- We currently do not have an overall picture what type of volunteering is taking place & where it is done.

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<sup>1</sup> London Volunteering Health Check: All fit for 2012? Report for the LDA by Institute for Volunteering Research with Greater London Volunteering, November 2008.

- A volunteering strategy does not exist.

## 5 Objectives of the advisory group

- To advise on the project brief (to be written by Natural England based on 2 & 3 of these TOR.
- To involve as many landowners of **parks, green space & green/blue corridors in London**: boroughs, The National Trust, The Royal Parks, Royal Historic Palaces, Lee Valley Regional Park Authority, Kew Gardens, British Waterways and others so that the work can be representative.
- To involve as many providers of environmental volunteering in addition to those that are landlords
- To explore the potential to co ordinate volunteering in London's parks and green spaces between a range of partners.
- To maximise partnership work and investment into volunteering across London.
- To ensure widespread engagement among partner organisations.
- To lay the foundation for a volunteering strategy to take the project forward.
- Once the research has been completed we hope to be able to identify gaps & opportunities, for example:
  - i. increasing the numbers of people that have the opportunity to engage in volunteering and
  - ii. improving the opportunity for people to find the best volunteering opportunities to suit them and therefore maximise volunteering satisfaction and development.

## 6 Membership

The Advisory Group will include:

Organisation	Representative
BTCV	Matt Waller
Business in the Community	Sarah Chowdhry Daniel Aukett
CABE space	Nicola Mathers
City Action	Davina Pilkington
Community Service Volunteers	Jason Wood Zoe Humphrey
Greater London Authority	Andrew Jones Lisa Pook
Groundwork	Anita Konrad
London Parks & Green Spaces Forum	Tony Leach Anna Woollen
London Wildlife Trust	Sharon Coleman Leah McNally
National Trust	Christine Walmsley
Natural England	Nicola Harper Mary Wiggins Rachel Cook
NHS	John Harkin
RSPB	Amy Symons
Thames 21	Debbie Leach

## **7 Role of Members**

Members will be responsible for:

- Advising on the direction, brief and priorities for the research project
- Providing expert input, advice and funding (where agreed)
- Monitoring and reviewing progress of the project
- Ensuring their organisation and stakeholders are engaged and updated on progress

## **8 Funding Partners**

The project will give credit to funding partners by using their logos on materials.

## **9 Governance**

The Advisory Group will report their work to the London Parks and Green Spaces Forum and partners will be responsible for disseminating information within their own organisations.

## **10 Frequency of Meeting**

Proposed dates:

Feb 2010: interim findings/review

April 2010: presentation of findings with recommendations.

Communications will take place by email at intermediary times.

## **11 Review**

The project and Terms of Reference of the Advisory Group should be reviewed in April 2010.