

**FAIRMOUNT PARK**

**CONSERVANCY**



### **Natural Lands Volunteer Leadership Program**

The Natural Lands Volunteer Leadership program provides training and support to park users who want to become park leaders! Volunteer Leaders complete an intensive six-week training, followed by 20 hours of volunteer service. After graduating from the program, Volunteer Leaders work with FPC staff to lead volunteer projects in Philadelphia's natural areas, with a special focus on East and West Fairmount Park, Cobbs Creek Park, and FDR Park.

#### **Ideal Candidates**

We are looking for volunteers who want to go above and beyond to protect and restore nature in Philadelphia and make sure our natural areas are welcoming and accessible to all. Ideal candidates will be interested in leading volunteers and working with others to do hands-on work, including invasive plant removal, tree planting and maintenance, and trail maintenance.

**Previous experience volunteering in Philly's parks and knowledge of land management practices are not required.** We welcome applicants who are new to natural lands management and working with volunteers. We also encourage residents of our partner communities (Parkside, Strawberry Mansion, and other neighborhoods bordering Fairmount Park; Cobbs Creek; and FDR Park users) to apply.

Ideal candidates will uphold Fairmount Park Conservancy's [mission, vision, and values](#), especially those around environmental justice.

Finally, ideal candidates will also be able to complete all training sessions (see below for dates and times) and commit to providing a minimum of 20 hours of volunteer service throughout the year.

### **Benefits, Commitments, and Requirements**

Volunteer Leader trainees will receive:

- Over 20 hours of expert training on natural lands and volunteer management
- The skills and resources to lead volunteer workdays
- Support and guidance to fulfill the 20-hour service commitment
- Recognition in our annual report and annual meeting, as well as on our social media channels
- FPC swag, including a t-shirt, fanny pack, sweatshirt, and bandanna

Volunteer Leaders trainees commit to:

- Completing all training sessions
- Providing 20 hours of additional volunteer service throughout 2021
- Tracking and reporting volunteer service
- Providing feedback on the program
- Upholding the mission, vision, and values of Fairmount Park Conservancy

Requirements for participation and graduation:

- Participants must be 18+ years of age
- Upon acceptance into the program, Volunteer Leader trainees will be required to:
  - Submit criminal and child abuse clearances
  - Become members of Fairmount Park Conservancy
  - If able, contribute \$100 to cover training costs (sliding scale available)
- To graduate from the program, Volunteer Leaders must:
  - Complete the 20 hours of training
  - Complete basic training in First Aid and CPR
  - Participate in diversity, equity, and inclusion workshop
  - Complete an additional 20 hours of volunteer service by the end of 2021

### **Training & Membership Fees**

There is no fee to apply. If a candidate is accepted into the program, they will be invited to make a financial contribution towards the cost of their training and Fairmount Park Conservancy membership on a sliding scale. **We are committed to making the Volunteer Leadership program accessible to all regardless of their financial capacity**, and we will work with those accepted into the program to make sure the fees and membership dues do not prevent them from participating.

- Option #1: \$35 - basic membership only; training fees waived

- Option #2: \$100 - training fees only (for current FPC members)
- Option #3: \$135 - training fees and basic membership (for new and renewing FPC members)
- Option #4: \$235 - training fees and basic membership, plus covering the fees for a fellow trainee

### **Training Schedule & Topics**

The training series will focus on understanding Philadelphia's park system, basic land management and ecological restoration practices, working with volunteers, and safety and reporting.

Six virtual workshops will be conducted via Zoom on Tuesday evenings from 5:30-7:30pm, starting March 2 through April 6. Three in-person workshops and field trips will be held in East and West Fairmount Park every other Saturday from 10:00am-1:00pm. Completion of all workshops is required, but make-up opportunities will be provided.

**Tuesday, March 2, 5:30-7:30pm**  
Philly Parks & FPC 101  
*Virtual*

**Saturday, March 27, 10:00am-1:00pm**  
Restoration & Management Techniques  
*In-Person*

**Tuesday, March 9, 5:30-7:30pm**  
Natural Lands Overview  
*Virtual*

**Tuesday, March 30, 5:30-7:30pm**  
First Aid Training  
*Virtual*

**Saturday, March 13, 10:00am-1:00pm**  
Trolley Trail Field Trip  
*In-Person*

**Tuesday, April 6, 5:30-7:30pm**  
Project Planning, Safety, and Reporting  
*Virtual*

**Tuesday, March 16, 5:30-7:30pm**  
Parks and People  
*Virtual*

**Saturday, April 10, 10:00am-1:00pm**  
Leading a Volunteer Workday: Trolley Trail Planting  
*In-Person*

**Tuesday, March 23, 5:30-7:30pm**  
Restoration & Management Techniques  
*Virtual*

### **Volunteer Service**

Upon successful completion of the training, Volunteer Leadership trainees provide a minimum of 20 hours of volunteer service throughout 2021, which could take the form of participating in and helping to lead volunteer workdays with FPC staff, supporting volunteer work in partnership with a Park Friends group, or working on an independent project.

**How to Apply**

To apply to the 2021 Natural Lands Volunteer Leadership program, please fill out the [application](#) by **Friday, January 29, 2021**. For a paper application form or to apply over the phone, please contact Lindsey Walker (information below).

[Apply Now](#)

Applicants will be notified about the status of their application by February 12.

**Contact**

For questions, please contact Lindsey Walker, Volunteer & Environmental Program Manager, at [lwalker@myphillypark.org](mailto:lwalker@myphillypark.org) or leave a message at (215) 607-3489.