

PLANNING AND CONSERVATION TRUSTEE

The London Gardens Trust (LGT) is looking for a Planning and Historic Gardens Conservation Trustee to join the Board. We want to provide the best possible strategic leadership and support to LGT to really make an impact. We want to make sure our Director, Committees and Groups can rely on us to help them to take the organisation forward. Would you like to be part of that, providing expertise in Planning and Conservation of Parks and Gardens?

We now really need to strengthen possibly the most important thing we undertake: our response to planning and conservation issues – making sure we can drive forward our strategic intention to become the trusted voice of London’s parks and gardens.

We would therefore particularly like to hear from you if you have experience of:

- Working within, or knowledge of the Planning system (paid or voluntary)
- Responding to planning applications
- Landscape / Heritage conservation issues (preferably for landscapes but not essential)
- Working with ‘Friends’ groups / volunteers (desirable only).

We have a very small dedicated group of skilled and not so skilled but passionate Planning & Conservation Working Group members, and we have employed a specific staff member to recruit volunteers and take forward our planning and conservation agenda across London. We want to make sure we can make the very best of this opportunity with guidance from our Trustees. We are also keen to hear from you if you are interested in the role of Trustee with the joint lead for our Planning and Conservation Working Group.

You could be the difference we need to make a greater impact! And if not you, what about your keen friend or colleague?

The Organisation

We’re in a really exciting and busy phase, taking firm control of our strategic direction and focusing on what we need to do to become the voice of London’s parks and gardens. We have drafted a realistic but ambitious Strategic Plan to bolster our financial resilience, draw the various strands of the organisation together, and apply our resources intelligently to achieve our aims. We are now turning this into our operational plan. Our Board members have a range of skills, including marketing and communications, fundraising, volunteer management, landscape history and events management.

The Commitment

You would be appointed as a Trustee and Director of the Trust, and also be a member of the Planning & Conservation Working Group.

You will hopefully become in time a co-chair of the Planning and Conservation Working Group (alongside the current chair), to spread the load and boost capacity of this group. The Group meets 4-6 times a year and keeps an eye on planning applications affecting parks and gardens through a rota system of our members.

This is a key role in the operation of the Trust.

The Board meets 6 times a year; usually January, March, May, September and November, currently using Zoom. As we transform the Trust, we hold annual Board Awaydays to bring all Trustees together for training, discussion and consideration of particular strategic issues. This is part of our commitment to ensuring that the Board is fit for purpose and doesn't rest on its laurels.

Between meetings, we ask that you make sure that you read papers that are sent to you, comment appropriately, and participate in discussions and activities.

Trustee appointments are for an initial term of three years, renewable three times to a maximum term of nine years, when Trustees must stand down for at least a year before standing for re-election. This is part of our commitment to ensuring that the Board regenerates and remains fresh.

If you are not a member already, all Trustees are expected to become members of the Trust.

The Offer

You can expect a warm and friendly welcome. Trustees, volunteers, and members have varied interests, experience and knowledge and you are bound to find yourself having all sorts of interesting discussions with kindred spirits, passionate about our parks and gardens. Our Board meetings are business-like but friendly and chaired to ensure that all Trustees feel able to participate.

You will receive an appropriate induction to the Trust, the rules which guide us, and the expectations on Trustees, both legal and as part of undertaking this role.

As a new Trustee, you can also be linked up with an existing Trustee Board Buddy, who can guide you through your early months and introduce you to key people.

This is an excellent opportunity to bring your skills, knowledge and experience to make a difference to London's parks and green spaces.

If you are interested in the role, please send a CV and covering letter outlining why you are interested in the position and what you think you can bring to the role to Maureen Nolan at maureen.nolan@londongardenstrust.org by 15 January 2021. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to attend an interview in mid to late January.

If you would like to chat about the role first, do get in touch with Sally Prothero, Chair of the Planning & Conservation Working Group: sally.prothero@londongardenstrust.org or our Director, helen.monger@londongardenstrust.org