

Trustee vacancies

London Parks & Gardens (LPG) is expanding its Trustees. We want Londoners passionate about our green spaces and heritage.

If you're up for the challenge, we'd welcome your help in steering the charity at an interesting stage of its development. We are actively looking to expand the diversity of our Board, but knowledge of planning, digital systems or parks management would enrich our abilities. As a Trustee, you will join us in setting our strategic direction, and help the Director, Committees and Groups move forward.

We want parks to be safe, healthy, and welcoming spaces where anyone can feel at home. Parks are the public spaces where people, nature, culture, and heritage come together in unique and refreshing ways, embracing the new while valuing the old.

Our main funding comes from our big annual event, London Open Gardens, where spaces normally closed to the public open their gates or allow visitors access to little known gardens such as Nomura's sixth floor terrace, the size of eight tennis courts overlooks the City and the Thames from Angel Lane.

We also organize guided and leisure walks, and deliver presentations about the people, events and social changes which shaped our urban landscape. London Parks and Gardens is also the guardian of a digital archive of the Capital's green spaces. Our records tell the history of London's growth and its communities, through good times and bad.

We want to strengthen the most important thing we do, which is our response to planning and conservation issues. We are a small charity but our determination to safeguard and grow greenspace has seen us fight and win legal battles in the High and Appeal Courts against the odds.

We'd love to hear from anyone who shares our passion in being active protectors of our heritage parks, champions for new parks, and friends of all public spaces. You could be the person we need to make a greater impact, or perhaps know someone perfect for the role?

Skills we are keen to expand:

We would like to strengthen the Board's skills in:

- Planning and conservation (for example: knowledge of the Planning system or responding to planning applications)
- Parks management (maintenance, community engagement and financing)
- IT, database management, and/or digital delivery (For our digital archive, website development and/or social media feeds)

The Organisation

We're in an exciting and busy phase, taking firm control of our strategic direction and focusing on what we need to do to become the trusted voice of London's parks and gardens. Our Board members have a range of skills, including marketing and communications, fundraising, volunteer management, landscape history and events management.

The Commitment

The Board meets 6 times a year; usually January, March, May, September and November. The meetings are mostly virtual but we are incorporating some face to face meetings where possible. There is also an annual Trustee Awayday where we consider strategic issues in more detail. 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 you to read papers sent to you, comment appropriately, and participate in discussions and activities.

Trustee appointments are for an initial term of three years, renewable twice 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.

The Offer

Our Board meetings are chaired to ensure all Trustees can participate fully in the governance of the charity and all that entails. You will receive an induction to the Trust and our systems. We provide guidance on the rules which govern us and all charities, both legal and as part of undertaking this role.

As a new Trustee, you will be supported by an existing Trustee, who will guide you through your early months and help you into the role.

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

Applying

Please send a CV and covering letter to our Board Secretary, Maureen Nolan, outlining why you are interested, and what you can bring to the role. The email address is maureen.nolan@londongardenstrust.org. The deadline for applications is 31 May 2023.

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to attend an informal interview in early/mid June.