

Friends of Grove Park – Volunteer Engagement and Development



Friends of Grove Park (FOGP) funded a part-time Volunteer Coordinator, designed to be the main point of contact for their volunteer community and to grow the number of events and activities offered in the park. They focused on improving the volunteer experience and developing projects and training suggestions put forward by them.

Some excellent courses were held, including Tai Chi, yoga, family craft, creative workshops, and two community music events. Volunteer celebrations and BBQs were also held to make the volunteer community feel appreciated and part of a close community.

UKSPF Achievements

6 volunteer projects completed

714 extra people engaged over the project

Wider impact

Volunteer hours increased to 5621 from 4257 and look set to continue rising. The number of volunteers has also grown, including engagement with a group of 7 young people who are struggling in mainstream education and come to work with FOGP every Monday, and a new group of administrative staff from Weston College who come to volunteer for workplace wellbeing. Baytree School have also been in contact about bringing their SEND learners to the park for a careers talk and are considering planning some work experience sessions for more sustained engagement.

Two of FOGP's volunteers who were long term unemployed, one for over 10 years, have now left them for paid employment and said they felt that their time with FOGP had directly prepared them for dealing with the work place and helping them hone new skills.

Friends of Grove Park feel that their reputation in the community is growing and that their events are now always really well attended. They have been asked to run some activities with Super Culture which has really helped to raise their profile and has given them extra engagement opportunities.