



Horsham
District
Council

Join us in Horsham Park for a spot of gardening?

**Friends of Horsham Park
Wednesday morning volunteer
gardening and conservation group**



Autumn daffodil planting

When: Wednesday mornings from 9.30-12.30

Where: We meet by the entrance to the Human Nature Garden by Jubilee car park off Albion Way. Parking permits are available for the duration of the activity.

Frequently asked questions

How do I join in? If you would like to come along and try it out, please contact: Sally Sanderson, Chair of Friends of Horsham Park so we can welcome you and understand what you want to get out of volunteering. Contact Sally either by emailing:

chair@friendsofhorshampark.co.uk or calling: 01403 258167/0771 4100 826.



Weeding and splitting up plants in the wedding cake tree bed

Does the session go ahead whatever the weather? If the weather is foul or it is icy, the session may be cancelled – but you choose whether it is too cold, hot or wet for you to join in. We aim to look after our volunteers so if it is very hot, we work in the shade and may stop after the coffee break.

Do I have to do the whole session? No, you can stay for as long as you like. Some people enjoy the full session but for others it can be too tiring, or they are too busy. We have a coffee break at around 11.30 so some people go after that. We have a notice board telling you where we will be working if you arrive after we have started.



Do I need to be a gardener? You don't need to be a skilled gardener. You'll learn from the HDC Park's team what to do. If you have any gardening or conservation experience – great: you'll be able to help others who may not be sure whether something is a plant or a weed.

Cutting back a rambling rose in the maze

What do I need to wear? You will need to wear thick-soled shoes or walking boots to protect your feet from thorns. Otherwise, just comfortable outdoor/gardening clothes. If it is sunny, it may be helpful to wear a sunhat or cap.

We can provide gardening gloves, but bring your own if you prefer.

Do I need to bring tools? We will provide all the tools. If you like to use a kneeling aid, please bring that with you as we don't have any kneelers.

What will we be doing? We do both gardening and conservation work in the Park. In summer the focus is on gardening tasks such as cutting back, weeding and planting. We try to do different tasks each week so there is some variety. In the winter the focus is on conservation projects to create better habitats for wildlife in the park. Each week there is a choice of tasks from the more strenuous for those who want to keep fit to other lighter tasks. For safety, as well as for fun and to support each other, we always work in groups of at least three people together.

How fit do I need to be? Lots of research has shown that two hours a week outdoors has a big impact on health and well-being. So, whether you are fighting fit or trying to get fitter or happier, come along and we will aim to match tasks to what you want to get out of the session.

Do I need to come with my carer?

If you have a carer, we do ask for your carer to come along with you – you will both be welcome.

Can I bring children? Some of our volunteers like to bring their children during school holidays. They are welcome as we love to encourage the next generation to look after our Park. However, if you bring your children you will need to be responsible for looking after them as we do the activities.



Creating the bug hotel

Who are the Friends of Horsham Park?

We are all volunteers who aim to enhance, promote and protect our much-loved Park. **For more details see our website: www.friendsofhorshampark.co.uk**

To enhance the Park, we set up a weekly **volunteer group for gardening and conservation activities**. This is in partnership with HDC's Parks and Countryside team and is supported by Denne Neighbourhood Council.

The aim is to bring more colour (subtle not garish!) to Horsham Park and create habitats to encourage wildlife. We do things that the contractors maintaining the Park are not able to do. For example, the Friends have:

- planted 2000 daffodil bulbs
- created a bee-friendly bed and bug hotel
- improved the wedding cake tree and tennis court beds
- cleared old shrubs as stage 1 of a pond conservation project
- rescued shrubs and trees, including the giant Redwood by North Street entrance, from weeds and self-seeded saplings
- cleared lots of weeds and brambles!



Clearing overgrowth around the pond

We have exciting plans to do more!

What will you get out of it? We aim for all our volunteers to get a sense of achievement from the morning – as well as having a sociable time with people who love the Park. Debbie couldn't put it better when she describes what she gets out of coming along:

"I really enjoy my morning volunteering in Horsham Park. It's a great way to meet new people and to keep fit at the same time! I get a huge sense of satisfaction by seeing the difference we make."