



## Lead Food Grower

### About us

We are a group of local people who've created a vibrant community garden in the heart of Southwark. Situated at the east end of Burgess Park, we are a large open site with lots going on. Volunteer led, we run a wide range of activities including beekeeping, permaculture, chicken keeping, growing and maintenance of the garden.

Last year our growing project sold produce to a local business, set up a garden stall with a 'pay as you can' system and donated 20-25 bags of fresh produce to the Peckham Food bank. We want to build on this, increase production and share skills via a simple traineeship with keen local gardeners who will work with you over the season.

A Permaculture Association Land Centre, we have a forest garden, hugel mounds and aim to integrate permaculture throughout the garden. We're working towards becoming a charity and developing stronger structures to enable us to integrate better with other local groups and help the garden meet the needs of everyone in the community.

We've recently crowdfunded for a healing yurt and a partner group will be offering alternative therapies from the garden.

We don't currently have a paid staff structure, so apart from grant funded freelancers, all management is by the voluntary garden leadership team.

This year, we have three paid gardeners running our sunday sessions on a rota, bringing skills to the garden to ensure we maintain to a high standard.

More about us here [www.burgessparkfoodproject.org.uk](http://www.burgessparkfoodproject.org.uk)

## About the role

Rate of pay £120/day

May - Nov 2019 26 weeks delivery plus extra days for set up / reporting. (ie 30 weeks in total)

The job will take place on **Thursdays**

- This is a part time role for **1 day / 7 hours per week ie 9.30 - 4.30**. A key role at the garden, we are looking to fund it on a more permanent basis and for further hours in future. 1 hour per session will be to cover your admin.
- You will lead a regular weekly session for volunteers at GWG with the focus on overseeing our food growing programme.
- You'll oversee and lead up to 4 local trainees who'll support you in growing and harvesting produce.
- You'll oversee harvesting and distribution of produce, liaise with local businesses and orgs, and organise the team to deliver.

## Responsibilities

- Lead food growing at the garden with input from trainees and volunteers, oversee growing and work with volunteers to plan ahead.
- Organise a weekly gardening session for trainees in the morning and open to volunteers in the afternoon.
- Help develop planting plans, crop rotations, work schedules, seed purchases.
- Collect info we can share on social media to promote what we do
- Manage a small budget for seed purchases etc and highlight further items needed to purchase.
- Be an ambassador for the garden - meeting and greeting visitors.
- Liaise with our sunday gardeners to hand on tasks, and with the voluntary management group who oversee the garden.

## Person specification

### Essential

- At least 3 years experience of food growing and gardening with community groups. You'll need good knowledge of soil care, composting, crop rotation, intercropping, and be happy thinking through irrigation challenges, managing pests and troubleshooting. You'll manage our growing plan across a minimum of 10 large beds (approx 80m<sup>2</sup>, with the addition of two polytunnels and additional spaces).
- Strong communication / people skills, familiar with working collaboratively with a range of different people, including volunteers, families, those with English as a second language, and people with additional needs and able to delegate tasks appropriate to different skill levels and physical ability.
- Ability to organise time, tasks and people to ensure we maximise what we can grow and harvest.
- Have a good understanding of, and commitment to diversity, equal opportunities and making gardening accessible to all.
- Knowledgeable, and with good experience of safe working practices.
- A well motivated and confident self starter, able to work on own initiative, prioritise tasks and meet deadlines.
- Familiar with googledocs file sharing, excel, word etc

### Desirable

- Local, with good knowledge of local networks, organisations and groups
- Broader knowledge of the food growing scene and horticulture in London
- Knowledge of permaculture and its application in soil care, polyculture growing and more.
- First aid certificate or willingness to train for one
- Passionate about community gardening and food growing.

### We offer

A supportive work environment reflecting the friendly and diverse nature of the voluntary community group and its existing skills and structures.

Opportunities to grow and develop the project with us, this could include supporting the group in writing funding bids to secure the role long term.

Opportunities to help develop other projects on site

### Other information

- This is a freelance role where you will be responsible for your own tax and NI.
- We will expect you to have the legal right to work in the UK.

**Application** Please respond with a short cover letter (no more than one side of A4) outlining your suitability for the role, and your CV. The letter should clearly set out how your knowledge and experience meets the requirements of the job specification. Please provide the contact details (including email address) for two references, one of which should be your most recent employer.

Deadline for application **midnight, Friday 10th May** Send application to Sue Amos at [burgessfoodproject@gmail.com](mailto:burgessfoodproject@gmail.com). Any questions can be sent to the same email.

Interviews will be held on the morning **Saturday 17th May** We would expect the successful candidate to start immediately.