

Trainee food grower vacancy - Glengall Wharf Garden

64 Glengall Road, Peckham, SE15 6NH

www.burgessparkfoodproject.org.uk



Glengall Wharf Garden is seeking part time trainee food growers for the 2019 season. A voluntary role, this is a fantastic opportunity to gain practical experience and knowledge of growing vegetables on a small scale, nurturing crops from seed to harvest over a full growing season.

This role would suit anyone with an interest in growing food to sell, urban food growing or running growing sessions at other projects.

We are looking for a team of up to 4 enthusiastic, committed, hands-on people who will help us develop food growing at the garden, in return for learning a wide range of skills across the growing season.

We especially want to work with people from our local area, sharing skills that will help them develop their own growing spaces.

About us

We run a thriving community garden in Peckham, on the edge of Burgess Park. A Permaculture Association Land Centre, we promote organic growing and maintain much of the garden naturally using permaculture techniques to develop the hugel mounds, forest garden and other areas. Ponds, bees and sometimes chickens complement the project. A resource for local people, we hold open days, events, courses, social evenings and more with an aim to get everyone involved. Growing food is at the heart of what we do and we hope to grow more produce, more varieties and have more food to share with the local community!

About the Traineeship

The traineeship will run from the end of May to October.

Training sessions are one day per week on Thursdays from 10am - 11pm, then supporting volunteers 2-4. Everyone participating is welcome to a shared garden lunch at 1.

This is a hands-on practical role, which will involve some physical work in all weathers and quite a bit of getting your hands dirty. Most of the learning will be informal and on the job, but there will be an additional two hour session each month to focus on specific topics in more detail and ensure we cover all aspects of growing.

We would also welcome support at other events or sessions at the garden, and there is room for developing other projects/activities outside of the training sessions if you wanted to.

Trainees will be involved in all aspects of helping to run the Grown in Peckham food growing sessions at the garden, including:

- Working closely with the grower to produce vegetables (and some soft fruit). This will include planning, propagating, planting out, watering, making compost and building soil fertility, harvesting, weed & pest management and anything else that needs doing.

- Supporting general garden volunteers in the afternoons, to care for the garden, manage veg growing and harvesting, and ensure a safe working environment.
- Working with the grower and food coordinator to harvest veg to deliver to a local food bank and restaurant, and possibly helping with the deliveries.

During this traineeship, you can expect to learn about:

- Organic veg growing for urban market gardening, with a focus on leafy salad crops.
- Crop planning and selection.
- Soil fertility, crop rotation and composting.
- Cultivation from seed to harvest, including propagation and pest management.
- Produce selection and packing for your market.
- Coordinating community garden sessions with small groups of volunteers.

Person specification

Essential

- Commitment for the whole growing season, may -october. This is so that you can learn the full range of growing skills across the whole season, and so that we have the support we need at the busiest times.
- An interest in and commitment to organic growing.
- Good time management - punctuality and an ability to focus on the task at hand
- Willingness to work well as part of a team, and to support and share skills with other volunteers
- Good communication skills: ability to maintain a positive, approachable attitude, and to talk to people from a variety of different backgrounds
- An adequate level of fitness and a willingness to work outside in all weathers

Desirable

- Knowledge of the local area/community in south east London
- Some experience of gardening or growing veg

The traineeship is unpaid, but trainees will receive a shared lunch at the garden and seasonal veg every week.

To apply for this traineeship please send an email to Sue Amos at burgessfoodproject@gmail.com explaining briefly (no more than one page) why you would like to undertake this traineeship, how you meet the recruitment criteria and why you think you would be right for the role, including details of any relevant experience that you have.

The deadline for applications is 12 noon on midnight, Friday 10th May and an informal interview / volunteer session for all successful applicants will take place on a thursday once we have recruited the lead grower.

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