

Volunteering

A way to learn new skills, access training opportunities and progress onto employment

The Park Champion Programme provides people with the opportunity to get involved in a range of roles and opportunities on the Park. Whether volunteers are interested in sharing their knowledge of the local area, their passion for the London 2012 legacy, or learning new skills and meeting new people, the programme offers training and support to get involved and be the face of the Park. For Marta, the Park Champion programme offered her the chance to progress into a full-time paid role looking after the world famous Parklands.

Marta's Story

Marta lives locally in Newham and first joined the Park as a Conservation Volunteer. She had been out of work for nearly two years and spent a lot of time looking for volunteering opportunities which would help her meet new people and gain experience which could lead to paid work.



Full Name: Marta Surowka | **Borough:** Newham
How she first got involved: Through a volunteering as Park Champion with the Conservation, Orchard Leader and Garden Volunteers
Starting situation: Unemployed for over two years
Current situation: In paid work with the Cleaning team on the Park

Through the Park Champion Programme, Marta progressed through 3 different volunteer roles all related to gardening, conservation and horticulture. She learnt about surveying, pruning, weeding, parkland maintenance and orchard tree care.

After a year of trying new things, building skills and experience through volunteering, Marta applied for, and was offered a seasonal contract with The Landscape Group, the Park's grounds maintenance partner.



Marta said:

“Working on the Park gives me a great sense of achievement at the end of every day! I love working outdoors and even when the Park is busy and we're working hard it's a peaceful and beautiful place to be. It keeps me fit and healthy and I'm proud of where I work. My confidence has grown so much, I used to be shy and lacking in confidence to speak to anyone, but in this team you've got to communicate and get on with it! This job has really enabled me to make progress in my life; it's given me financial independence and confidence.”

