



We're recruiting to our Board! We want to provide the best possible strategic leadership and support to LPGT to really make an impact. We want to make sure our Director and her staff can rely on us to help them to take the organisation forward. Would you like to be part of that?

You don't have to have experience in this field already – perhaps you have knowledge and skills from different areas – but if you'd like to offer your perspectives and commitment, we'd like to hear from you. Neither do you need to have experience as a Trustee – we'll offer induction, mentoring and training.

We had an extremely successful recruitment campaign to our Board last year – exactly the dynamic, interested, and skilled people the organisation needs, and we're building our Board very well. However, we now have a very important role to fill – we need trustees who can help us all to develop our communication skills as an organisation, internally and indeed externally, and guide us through developing our political influence. We would therefore particularly like to hear from you if you can boost the Board in any of these areas:

- Publicity, marketing and media
- Campaigning
- Internal communications

We are also keen to hear from you if you are interested in the role of Trustee with the lead for our Research and Publications Working Group – this would be particularly suitable for trustees with the skills listed above.

You could be the difference we need to make an impact! And if not you, what about your keen friend or colleague?

The Organisation

We're in a really exciting and busy phase, taking firm control of our strategic direction and really focusing on what we need to do to become the voice of London's parks and gardens. We've already recruited our first paid Director and she has been building a strong staff team to take us forward. We have drafted a realistic but ambitious Strategic Plan to bolster our financial resilience, capitalise on our hugely successful annual event, Open Garden Squares Weekend, draw the various strands of the organisation together, and apply our resources intelligently to achieve our aims. We are now turning this into our operational plan.

As well as our Director, we employ 4 part-time staff, supported by volunteers, and based at Duck Island Cottage in St James's Park, serenaded by all kinds of waterfowl and of course the pelicans.

The Commitment

The separate Trustee Role Description sets out the basic expectations on Trustees of the Trust.

The Board meets 6 times a year; usually January, March, May, AGM in June, September and November. As a Trustee, we would hope that you can attend a minimum of 4 of these, although of course we hope that we all manage to attend most of them. Currently we meet in the Farringdon/Chancery Lane area.

As we transform the Trust, we hold annual Board Development days to bring all Trustees together for training, discussion and consideration of particular strategic issues. All Trustees will be expected to attend. This is part of our commitment to ensuring that the Board is fit for purpose, and doesn't rest on its laurels! We are aiming for October this year.

Between meetings, we ask that you make sure that you read papers that are sent to you, comment appropriately, and participate in discussions and activities in line with your skills and/or specialism. Some Trustees are part of the Trust's Working Groups, perhaps as Chair of these groups, and these are key roles in the operation of the Trust.

We also ask that all Trustees attend at least one staff meeting at Duck Island Cottage in a year to meet the staff and gain an understanding of the day-to-day running of the organisation.

We have fixed terms for Trustees – a maximum service of 3 terms of 3 years, ie 9 years, before Trustees will be expected to stand down for at least one year before seeking re-election if desired. This is part of our commitment to ensuring that the Board regenerates and remains fresh.

If you are not already, all Trustees are expected to become members of the Trust!

The Offer

You can expect a warm and friendly welcome. Trustees, volunteers, and members have varied interests, experience and knowledge and you are bound to find yourself having all sorts of interesting discussions with kindred spirits, passionate about our parks and gardens. Our Board meetings are business-like but friendly, and chaired to ensure that all Trustees feel able to participate.

You will receive an appropriate induction into the basic mechanics of the organisation, the rules which guide us, and the expectations on Trustees, both legal and as part of undertaking this role.

As a new Trustee, you can also be linked up with an existing Trustee who can guide you through your early months and introduce you to key people. We are developing our Trustee Handbook and seeking out training opportunities for Trustees to make sure we keep honing our skills.

You will be part of setting the direction of the organisation through discussions to roll out our Strategic Plan. A basic understanding of such processes would be helpful but all parts of the organisation will be guided to make their contribution. We also have existing trustees with strong skills in these areas.

This is an excellent opportunity to bring your skills, knowledge and experience to make a difference to London's parks and green spaces.

We're recruiting now! **Please email your CV to office@londongardenstrust.org by Tuesday 28th August with a short covering email highlighting your interest in joining the Board.** We shall be holding informal interviews in early September, depending on candidates' availability, with a view to new trustees joining us for our Board meeting on 20 September or for our Board Awayday in October. If you'd like to chat about the role first, do get in touch with me, Verena, Vice Chair, on verena.mcaig@londongardenstrust.org.

We look forward to hearing from you!