

# Volunteer with Parks Victoria

Discover more about your local park by becoming a volunteer or joining a “friends group”. Volunteering is a great way to meet people. You can get involved in important projects to help conserve and protect our natural environment.

## Become a volunteer

Volunteering in parks is a great way to get involved in our natural environment. There are many benefits of volunteering such as learning more about plants and wildlife, gaining new skills, being in the outdoors and socialising.

Research has shown that volunteering, especially with nature is great for your mind, body and spirit – *Healthy Parks Healthy People*.

## What does a volunteer do?

Parks Victoria’s volunteers conduct a range of activities including:

- seed collecting and plant propagation;
- fencing;
- garden bed maintenance;
- litter collection;
- GPS monitoring and data collection;
- track inspections;
- administration;
- research and survey work;
- communication and awareness raising;
- visitor information; and
- nature rambles and guided walks.

## Anyone can volunteer

There are volunteer activities for every age group, nationality, skill and ability type, and you can work as an individual or work with a group.

Children involved in activities must be supervised by an adult or a qualified supervisor, teacher or Parks Victoria staff member.

Volunteers can join a regular group or just participate occasionally.

## How do I get involved?

It is easy, just call Parks Victoria’s Volunteer Coordinator on **13 1963**.

## Join a friends group

A friends group is a team of people with an interest of supporting a particular park, conservation reserve or species of native flora or fauna.

There are more than 300 different friends groups helping Parks Victoria to maintain and protect one of the world’s finest networks of parks. Friends groups vary in size, activities and structure. Groups usually meet and volunteer weekly or monthly but some volunteers are in the park every day. Some groups have weekly activities, many have a monthly activity and visitors are always welcome to attend.

Friends groups, whilst being autonomous and independent, operate in partnership with Parks Victoria. This is a cooperative, mutually supportive relationship which enables friends groups to deliver some amazing and highly valuable work in parks.



## Campground Host Program

Campground hosts are volunteers stationed at popular camping sites during peak holidays providing camper’s with a friendly welcome, up-to-date park information and fun activities.

Full training and induction is provided by Parks Victoria and hosts gain invaluable experience in park and visitor management.



## For further information

Parks Victoria  
Information Centre  
**Call 13 1963**

or visit the  
Parks Victoria website  
[www.parkweb.vic.gov.au](http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au)

Welcome to your parks  
Parknotes are also available in  
the following languages:

Amharic  
Arabic  
Bosnian  
Dari  
Chinese  
Croatian  
Dinka  
Dutch  
English  
Filipino  
German  
Greek  
Hindi  
Hungarian  
Indonesian  
Italian  
Japanese  
Khmer  
Macedonian  
Maltese  
Nuer  
Polish  
Russian  
Samoan  
Serbian  
Sinhalese  
Somali  
Spanish  
Tamil  
Tigrinya  
Tongan  
Turkish  
Ukrainian  
Vietnamese

## Caring for the environment

Help us look after your park  
by following these guidelines:

Please take rubbish away with  
you for recycling & disposal

All native plants & animals  
are protected by law.

Please do not disturb them  
in any way.

## Healthy Parks Healthy People

*Visiting a park can improve  
your health, mind, body and  
soul. So, with over four million  
hectares of parkland available  
to all Victorians, why not  
escape to a park today!*

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## Sea Search

Sea Search is a volunteer monitoring program in Victoria's marine national parks and sanctuaries. Volunteers can explore and learn about the diversity of marine plants and animals found in Victoria's marine protected areas while adding to the scientific knowledge of the parks.

Sea Search is a program managed by the People and Parks Foundation and sponsored by Parks Victoria and ExxonMobil. Community groups learn scientific skills and flora and fauna identification methods.

For information, contact 03 8627 4890 or visit the website <http://peopleandparks.org>



## Conservation Volunteers Australia – Park Champions

Park Champions is a partnership between Conservation Volunteers and Parks Victoria which offers you the opportunity to volunteer in some of Victoria's most beautiful places.

As a Park Champion you can volunteer one day a week in and around Melbourne or you can spend a week with a team of volunteers in some of Victoria's most famous national parks.

Explore and enjoy these parks when you go away with a team of volunteers to one of these magnificent National Parks.

- Great Otway National Park.
- Grampians National Park.
- Alpine National Park.
- Cape Otway Lightstation.
- Great Dividing Trail.
- Great Ocean Walk – which starts in the Great Otway National Park and goes to Port Campbell National Park while overlooking the 12 Apostles Marine National Park.

## Healthy Parks Healthy People

Parks are natural settings where we can escape from the crowds, noise, stress and pollution of the city.

Research shows that visiting a park can improve your health in body, mind and spirit.

Parks are places where we can be challenged and improve our fitness. They are also places where we can relax with friends or family, or on our own. Contact with nature can calm, heal and inspire us.

## Corporate Volunteering

Corporate volunteering, managed by the People and Parks Foundation, is one way that organisations can become involved in 'Corporate Social Responsibility Programs'. Corporate volunteering involves organisations releasing their employees to undertake volunteer activities during regular working hours (generally while still receiving a wage).

Some organisations will also promote out-of-hours volunteer activity in which their employees may participate. Activities are great for team building days where corporate volunteers can be involved in planting, mulching, propagation, rubbish collection and weeding activities.



## Bilingual Park Tour Guides

Newly arrived refugees and communities around Melbourne learn more about their local parks and environment with help from Bilingual Park Tour Guides. The volunteer guides educate others about native flora and fauna. This is a fantastic way for culturally and linguistically diverse and recently arrived communities to feel a greater connection to the Australian environment.

Visit [www.parkweb.vic.gov.au](http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au) to find information and maps for many of the parks where you can volunteer.