

Help biodiversity and become a conservation volunteer on North Bull Island

The North Bull Island Nature Reserve is unique, having several nature conservation designations for the habitats and species it supports, as well as being designated as a special amenity area for its aesthetic and recreational value. North Bull Island is managed by Dublin City Council and is an integral part of the Dublin Bay UNESCO Biosphere (www.dublinbaybiosphere.ie). The island is used daily by walkers, bathers, kite-surfers, beachgoers, bird-watchers, nature enthusiasts, and many others.

Dublin City Council's vision for North Bull Island reflects the vision for the Dublin Bay Biosphere, and the expressed wish of the community, which is to promote the ecological and cultural values of the island together with sustainable amenity and recreation to ensure the island's protection. The conservation volunteer programme is regarded as an important element to achieving this vision whilst assisting in the achievement of the management objectives for the Nature Reserve. Activities that the conservation volunteers have performed to date include:

- Communicating with visitors to the island.
- Leading walks and talks on the various flora and fauna of the island.
- Taking part in surveys of species and habitats.
- Increasing community involvement in, and awareness of, the management objectives of the island.
- Assisting in practical conservation tasks, such as Invasive Species removal.
- Promoting the principles of 'Leave No Trace'.

Volunteers will be expected to commit to a minimum of two days a month (13 hours), either on a weekend or weekday, for a twelve month period. Shifts are normally 10:30 am to 5 pm but there is flexibility provided the total commitment is reached. **There is also a requirement for volunteers to complete Garda vetting** for the role (which will be arranged through Dublin City Council).

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer please complete an application form and submit to biodiversity@dublincity.ie or post to: Lorraine Bull, Biodiversity Officer, North Bull Island Conservation Volunteer Programme, Parks & Landscape Services, Dublin City Council, Block 4, Floor 0, Wood Quay Civic Offices, Dublin 8, D08 RF3F.

Personal Attributes

We are seeking self-motivated, outgoing people who are able to communicate to a wide and varied audience. Volunteers must be over 18 years and comfortable in working outdoors; enjoy meeting and working with people, and providing assistance in a polite and constructive manner.

While no formal qualifications are required, volunteers must have a love of nature and should have an understanding of the conservation and management objectives for the island. Volunteer candidates must also demonstrate competence in interpersonal skills, organisation and teamwork.

Any previous experience or knowledge in the following areas would be an advantage: facilitating/ leading groups; working with young people; history/ ecology of North Bull Island; field experience of ornithology/botany/marine ecology; volunteering or citizen science; teaching or customer care.

For further information, please contact Lorraine Bull, Biodiversity Officer, at Email: **biodiversity@dublincity.ie** or check out the following information on our website:

<https://www.dublincity.ie/residential/parks/dublin-city-parks/visit-park/north-bull-island>

<https://www.dublincity.ie/discoverycentre>