

# Ealing Parks Foundation

**Do you live, work or visit the London Borough of Ealing?** Do you want to be part of an organisation that works with local communities to enhance Ealing's 140 plus parks and green spaces, that promotes biodiversity, volunteering and park-based activities for all ages and abilities?

**The Ealing Parks Foundation (EPF)** is London's very first Parks Foundation; we are seeking to recruit up to four new Trustees, plus a youth ambassador, to expand the existing team of six, to help with our growth and expansion, and to take advantage of many new opportunities open to a charitable organisation.

**EPF welcomes applications from all ages and backgrounds** as we are looking to diversify our board. It is not necessary to have previous board experience; more important are the skills, qualities and lived experience that the person is able to bring.

**The Foundation is still a relatively new organisation.** EPF had its first board meeting in January 2020, was granted charitable status by the Charities Commission in July 2021; and despite the difficulties of setting up and operating during the pandemic it has successfully managed a number of projects including a parks based nature programme funded by the government's HAF (Holiday Activities and Food Programme) for children on Free School Meals; a borough wide survey of park users; an outdoor photographic exhibition and launch event.

## What's Involved?

Trustees are the people who lead the charity and decide how it's run; they are responsible for making sure that it's doing what it is set up to do.

- Trustee positions are voluntary and unpaid
- Reasonable expenses may be claimed in line with the Foundation's Expense Policy
- Trustees currently meet monthly either virtually or face to face in central Ealing or at locations around the borough, usually on weekday evenings
- Preparation time is required before each meeting as is time for follow up actions
- There are several sub-groups that meet when required; each trustee is expected to be involved in at least one relevant group; these also meet virtually or face to face in the evening or during the day, according to trustees' availability

Trustee roles are currently both strategic and 'hands on', as EPF is in effect still a startup organisation. But as we progress the plan is for trustees to be less hands on and with fewer meetings. Our aim is to eventually employ staff to take care of administrative and other matters.

## **What Skills, Qualities and Experience are Needed?**

We are particularly seeking a trustee with financial management/knowledge of bookkeeping/finance/accountancy to act as Treasurer. We are also seeking a Trustee who would be interested in taking on the role of Board/Company Secretary

We are also seeking individuals with skills such as

- Fundraising, Human resources,
- Biodiversity, environmental issues, parks management and planning regulations
- Technology, Marketing, Education
- Health and wellbeing, recreation and sports development
- Retail, hospitality or tourism

It will be helpful, but not essential, that applicants live/work in the borough of Ealing; ideally they should show a knowledge of and commitment to the borough's parks and green spaces.

## **Equality Diversity and Inclusion**

We welcome applications from everyone regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, socio-economic group, disability or faith. As those from ethnically diverse backgrounds and younger age groups are currently underrepresented on the Trust Board, applications from those candidates are particularly encouraged. We also welcome individuals who use/ have connections with the communities/ parks/ green spaces of Acton, Greenford, Hanwell, Northolt, Perivale and Southall

But of course, THE most important thing is your passion for the parks and green spaces in the London Borough of Ealing.

EPF is also interested in recruiting an additional **Youth Trustee/Advisor** to bring a different perspective to the future work of EPF. To apply for this role you should be 16 or over.

## **What's in it for You?**

Becoming a trustee with Ealing Parks Foundation will give you the opportunity to:

- Contribute skills and lived experience to supporting community and environmental projects to have a positive impact on Ealing's parks and green spaces.
- Give you a voice in your community
- Join a friendly and motivated board of trustees
- Gain hands on and strategic board experience in a range of projects and initiatives

## **About Us**

Ealing Parks Foundation (EPF) is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity (Charity No 1195171). The Foundation was initially sponsored by the Parks Department of Ealing Council. Now established, we are an independent organisation with most Trustees being from the local community, including a local Councillor.

The London Borough of Ealing is one of London's most recent and diverse boroughs with over 300,000 residents. It comprises seven towns, which all have their own character and needs: Ealing, Acton, Hanwell, Greenford, Northolt, Perivale and Southall. There are an impressive 140 parks and green spaces that reflect the character of their area. 23 of the borough's parks have Green Flag awards.

The Foundation was formed in answer to the diminishing amount of public funding available for the enhancement of parks. While the Council continues to fulfil its statutory responsibilities there is no doubt that due to lack of funds it has become increasingly difficult for them to carry out non-statutory enhancements. This is at a time when more people than ever are using their local parks.

EPF wants to ensure that our parks and green spaces are a good fit for our local communities, while responding positively to the challenges of climate change and the need for more biodiversity and encouraging residents to be active citizens; this is an ideal time in which to offer more support for our parks through fundraising, advice and facilitating practical action.

## **EPF Objectives**

- Enhance the community by supporting parks and green spaces and allowing them to thrive
- Realise the full potential of Ealing's parks and green spaces for everyone to enjoy
- Contribute towards maintaining an excellent quality and appropriate quantity of parks and green spaces
- Ensure that parks and green spaces have a positive influence on well-being
- Promote activities that engage and empower local communities to actively care for their parks and green spaces
- Create and promote opportunities for learning, participating and volunteering, through innovative schemes
- Protect and enhance wildlife, heritage and biodiversity
- Celebrate our parks and green spaces

## **Legal requirements**

Candidates must be able to fulfil the statutory obligations of a Trustee including:

- Ensuring the Charity is carrying out its purposes for the public benefit
- Complying with the Charity's governing document and the law
- Acting with the Charity's best interests
- Managing the Charity's resources responsibly
- Acting with reasonable care and skill
- Ensuring the Charity is accountable.

## **Timescale**

We will be recruiting during February and March with a view to holding interviews in April 2022.

## **How to Apply**

If you would be interested in one of these Trustee roles, please fill in the attached application form and personal statement.

The application pack can be downloaded from [www.EalingParks.Foundation/Trustee](http://www.EalingParks.Foundation/Trustee)  
The Foundation will hold an online information session during March 2022.

