

Volunteer at Roma Street Parkland



What you can do as a volunteer

Get involved in a broad range of activities such as visitor assistance, guiding, gardening, train driving and train conductor on the Parkland Explorer trackless train. Roma Street Parkland volunteers work together with Parkland staff in the promotion and maintenance of the parkland gardens and operating the Parkland Explorer.

Volunteers have an option to:

- provide guided tours of the Parkland for small groups of people
- staff the Parkland Information Booth located in the Spectacle Garden
- provide information to visitors during special events or activities
- carry out gardening duties throughout the Parkland
- provide special assistance during major events at the Parkland including the Multicultural Festival, Seniors Week and the School Holiday Fun program.
- operate the Parkland Explorer trackless train as a driver and conductor

Volunteers will not be expected to work in heavy rain or in extreme temperatures.

Volunteers are an integral part in assisting in running projects throughout the year including National Seniors Week and Heritage Week as well as other major events including Multicultural Festival and School Holiday Fun program.

“ When I was retiring from full time work seven years ago, I knew how much volunteering can be a worthwhile activity both for the volunteer and for those you serve. With a life long interest in gardening and botany, volunteering in a garden setting seemed the answer, so I came to the Parkland. Here I enjoy the company of other volunteers through our shared interest. To anyone who loves a garden, come and share your love at the Parkland with its flora, fauna, art, quiet areas, wide open spaces and a host of community activities.

– Les, Volunteer Guide



What does a volunteer guide or visitor assistant do?

- Provide information and assistance to visitors of the Parkland, including assisting visitors during events.
- Conduct guided walks for small groups and provide other visitor services.
- Undertake general administrative duties or special projects/duties as required.
- Provide a brief report including the number of visitors participating in each guided walk and other visitor services.

What does a volunteer gardener do?

- Carry out general maintenance gardening such as weeding, deadheading, thinning, pruning, cultivating annuals, mulching, push mowing, hand watering, sweeping, raking, fertilising and any other agreed tasks.
- Work in pairs using supplied gloves and hand tools*

* Volunteer gardeners are not required to operate equipment which requires a license or a permit to operate.

What does a train driver and conductor do?

- Perform the duties of driving the trackless train on the specific routes throughout the Parkland.
- Perform the duties of the conductor on the trackless train by assisting passengers of all ages to enjoy the experience of the train ride.

What does a special event volunteer do?

- Provide information and assistance during events to visitors of the Parkland.
- Assist the Event Coordinator with activities related to the Parkland's School Holiday Fun program and other events conducted by the Parkland.
- Conduct tours of the Parkland for special guests, dignitaries and visitors as required.
- Undertake general administrative duties or special projects/duties as required.



What you get out of being a volunteer

As a volunteer you will benefit from the social interaction and self fulfilment received while working at Roma Street Parkland. You can also gain experience and skills in the area you have chosen to volunteer in.

Volunteering can be a great way to gain some hands on experience for those studying horticulture or event management. Volunteering can also be rewarding for semi-retired or retired people looking for interesting and meaningful work.

Volunteer outings

The Parkland volunteers enjoy a number of outings throughout the year which help the team to bond and maintain high morale and motivation. As the outings are usually to other attractions, the volunteers get to experience new guiding techniques by viewing a tour in another venue by other tour guides. The outings are also a way for the Parkland to show the volunteers its appreciation for their continued support.

The following are some of the outings that our volunteers have enjoyed.

Bartons Rose Farm

The outing to Bartons Rose Farm at Kalbar was proposed to maintain the volunteer's enthusiasm, teamwork, motivation and continued learning. This location was suggested by one of the volunteer gardeners.

Volunteers enjoyed roaming around the gardens and indulging in a Devonshire tea on the homestead's veranda. It was a lovely way to spend a day in the garden.



The volunteers taking in the sights at Bartons Rose Farm

Brisbane Botanical Gardens and Maritime Museum

The 1 hour tour of the City Botanical Gardens was conducted by a trained volunteer guide who included information on horticulture and history of the area.

This was followed by a tour of the Queensland Maritime Museum. The volunteers found this tour interesting as it focussed on the rich maritime heritage of Brisbane. The volunteers got a special treat by being taken behind the scenes into areas of the dockyards the public cannot usually visit.

Both venues have brought their guides into the Parkland for a guided walk and our guides really enjoyed visiting another well known Brisbane tourist spot. The volunteers can now recommend these venues to locals and tourists alike with a warm familiarity of having just visited them.

Mount Tamborine 'Springtime Festival' Garden trail

This location was suggested as a good place to visit for training by the volunteer guides.

The Parkland guides had previously taken volunteers from the Mount Tamborine Botanical Gardens on a guided walk through Roma Street Parkland.

Parkland volunteers enjoyed this reciprocal trip to Mount Tamborine as it completed the exchange of knowledge and experiences, it was a great opportunity for the Mount Tamborine volunteers to share 'their world'.

The volunteers took away lots of gardening ideas and cheap fruit and veggie produce from the outing. The volunteers really enjoyed exploring the private gardens and discussing with each other the various planting choices.



Peter and Peter enjoying a day out at Mount Tamborine

Recognition

Volunteers at Roma Street Parkland have been recognised for their achievements by winning awards for their involvement in special projects, including the specialised guided walks. The Parkland was particularly proud to be a winner at the Disability Action Week Awards 2008. The volunteers and staff also received a High Commendation at the QBuild Excellence Awards in the Client Service Excellence category.



Volunteers receiving their award at Disability Action Week Awards 2008

Volunteers also receive recognition during National Volunteer Week. International Volunteers Day is another opportunity to recognise the valuable contribution of our volunteer's. For more information on both International Volunteers Day and National Volunteer Week visit www.volqld.org.au.



The 2008 volunteers recognition function

“ I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteer gardeners and guides here at Roma Street Parkland, for their overwhelming enthusiasm and positive energy that they show towards the visitors, staff and towards each other each day. You are an integral part of the Parkland!

– Anita Wilkinson,
Volunteer Coordinator

How to become a volunteer

Step 1

Register your interest by filling out application form included in this pack

Step 2

Submit form to the Volunteer Coordinator:

Postal address	Address
PO Box 13146	1 Parkland Boulevard
Brisbane George St Qld 4003	Brisbane Qld 4000
Email address	Fax number
rsp@romastreetparkland.com	(07) 3006 4546

Step 3

Your application will be considered and suitable applicants are invited for an interview.

Step 4

You will receive a letter indicating if you are successful in your application.

Step 5

Successful applicants are invited to attend training.

Step 6

Put on your new Roma Street Parkland uniform (including a shirt, jumper, hat and ID) and start volunteering!

Information sessions

Regular information sessions are held throughout the year. Check out the online 'What's on calendar' or phone the Administration Office on 3006 4545 for session times.

Training

Training dates are scheduled one day per week for four weeks, usually on a weekday. These four training days will be from 9.30am–3.30pm. Morning tea and lunch are provided each day of the training course. Volunteers should also conduct independent learning activities (such as walks around the Parkland, research and reading).

For more information about the Roma Street Parkland volunteer program, or for a copy of the Volunteer Policy contact the Administration Office by calling (07) 3006 4545

Volunteer application form

Contact details

Title Name

Address

Work or home number Mobile number

Email

Volunteer information

What position are you applying for?

- Volunteer guide/visitor assistance
 → Which days and hours would you be available (number the sessions in order of preference with 1 as your first choice)

Availability	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
9am-1pm							
10am-3pm							
12pm-4pm							

- Volunteer gardener
 → Which days and hours would you be available (number the sessions in order of preference with 1 as your first choice)

Availability	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
9.45am-2.45pm					

- Volunteer train driver and conductor
 → Which days and hours would you be available (number the sessions in order of preference with 1 as your first choice)

Availability	Fri	Sat	Sun	Public holidays	Private charters (weekdays)
9.30am-12.30pm					
12.30pm-3.30pm					

- Special event volunteer
 → Will you be willing to work on an on-call basis?
 Yes No

Why are you interested in becoming a volunteer at the Parkland?

What skills can you bring to the Parkland?

Training

Before you can operate as a volunteer at Roma Street Parkland you will need to undertake an in depth training program.

Would you be happy to undertake a four day training course?

- Yes
 No

Volunteer meetings

Volunteer meetings are held on a regular basis to update you on projects and activities within the Parkland.

Are you able to allocate time to attend regular meetings?

- Yes
 No

Referee

Provide contact details of a referee (a non-family member is preferred)

Title Name

Address

Work or home number Mobile number

Email

Signature

Date

Privacy notice: Roma Street Parkland (Department of Public Works) is collecting the information on this form to enable it to administer the volunteer program at Roma Street Parkland. Your personal information will not be disclosed to any other party unless authorised or required by law.