

Risk assessment – Gardening

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| Date of assessment: | Produced by: |
| Review date: January 2019 | Barry Gunter |

Volunteer Gardening

- All volunteers should report to the activity lead person and 'sign in' at commencement of the work activity
- Where possible ensure that at least one person within the volunteer group attending the activity has a mobile phone, in case of an accident or illness
- All volunteers should wear appropriate clothing for the tasks, gloves and footwear together with any other items highlighted in the RA below
- Everyone to wash hands thoroughly as soon as possible after any gardening activities and before taking any food or drink.
- Any wounds should be covered and then redressed after cleaning and disinfecting if there has been any contact with water.
- Volunteers should carry out a personal inspection for cuts, ticks etc.
- Volunteers should report any hazardous items to the Council or Police as outlined within the risk assessment.
- All hand tools and equipment are to be removed from the area on completion of the work activity.
- Rubbish to be collected up at the end of the activity and removed, unless prior arrangements have been made for collection. eg collection of surplus compost when filling high street tubs
- Any bags / receptacles containing sharp material, eg broken glass, are clearly identified.
- Volunteers need to self-assess each task before taking part in line with their own limitations, for example back concerns, angina – lifting/weather conditions
- All volunteers to report back to the group lead at completion of the work party, or prior if departing earlier than the intended work party completion.

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| What hazards are present or may be generated? | Who might be harmed by the hazards and how? | What control measures/ precautions are in place to eliminate or reduce the risk? | Is the residual risk acceptable? | | If no to the previous question, what additional control measures/ precautions are needed to manage the risk? | Additional control measures implemented: | | |
|---|--|---|----------------------------------|----|--|--|-----------------|---------------|
| | | | Yes | No | | Action by whom? | Action by when? | Date complete |
| Dog Faeces | Volunteers Toxocara canis | Volunteers are to not remove any dog faeces from the site, unless bagged and are using a litter picker provided. Wash/clean hands before eating/smoking etc. | Yes | | None | | | |
| Animal Manures | Volunteers Microbial Contamination (potentially pathogenic) | Where possible avoid the use of fresh manures. Wear protective gloves, Wash/clean hands with water or antiseptic gels at the end of the task and before eating/smoking etc. | Yes | | None | | | |
| Chemicals used in the garden | Volunteers Inhalation , skin or eye contact | Adopt environmentally sensitive approach where possible avoiding the use of chemicals. If chemicals are to be used, then manufacturer storage and use guidelines should be followed | Yes | | None | | | |
| Composting and mulching | Volunteers Airborne particles, Flies, vermin | Where suitable protective gloves and in dry conditions a face mask to avoid the risk of airborne particles Reduce risk of airborne particles by wetting loose mulch before applying | Yes | | None | | | |
| Fallen Leaves | Volunteers Slips, Trips litter within leaves | Use tools appropriate for the task such as plastic leaf/grass rakes. Wear suitable protective gloves, be aware of possible hazards from discarded needles, broken glass and other sharp objects | Yes | | None | | | |

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| Sharps (eg syringes) /broken glass – | Volunteers Cuts, lacerations, puncture wounds and possible infection | Volunteers are not to touch/remove any syringes Please report syringe location to the NSC (01934 888 888) to notify Glendale who will remove accordingly. Use of suitable gloves Use of litter pickers to remove broken glass and other sharp items Place in box, bucket etc to reduce injury during transportation. Ensure all participants have current tetanus cover Seek medical attention if required | Yes | | None | | | |
| Highways (carriageway and footway, roundabouts) Vehicles Bicycles Plant and Machinery | Volunteers Collision with moving traffic / plant | Work will be carried out predominantly within open spaces/parks, the pathway networks, and central areas of roundabouts. If gardening takes place in the vicinity of a highway then volunteers may only work from the footway (pavement) Wear hi vis vest or jacket and work away from the carriageway edge. Where available ensure roads are crossed at pedestrian crossings, and where not available due care should be taken of traffic approaching from both directions | Yes | | None | | | |
| Bushes/hedge rows | Volunteers Abrasions puncture wounds, eye injuries | Where gardening is required under shrubs and hedgerows individuals must be aware of the potential danger of branches at eye height. Gloves to be worn to prevent skin scratches, appropriate clothing to be worn. Protective goggles may be required subject to the task to be carried out and the nature of the bushes / hedge rows. | Yes | | None | | | |

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|--|---|---|-----|--|------|--|--|--|
| Ponds, Lakes, Slipways, Ditches, Marsh and other water margins | Volunteers Microbiologic al infection e.g. Weils disease Immersion | Cover cuts and abrasions with waterproof plasters If you come into contact with water hands must be washed before eating//smoking etc. Volunteers should not be gardening at ditch edges, if required then this work should be covered by a specific risk assessment. | Yes | | None | | | |
| Dogs off lead | Volunteers | Some areas within north Somerset are agreed areas for people to exercise their dogs off lead. Volunteers to be aware of their surroundings and dogs within the area. Should not approach unknown dogs without permission from owner | Yes | | None | | | |
| Heavy or awkward items | Volunteers Pulled muscles, strains or sprains | Do not move if too heavy for one Person. Share the load with others if safe to do so | Yes | | None | | | |
| Weather conditions | Volunteers Hypohermia heat stroke sun burn Dehydration Etc Slipping | Ensure suitable clothing is worn for the weather conditions Use of sun block Maintain hydration levels Paths that become slippery when wet or are subject to frost should not be used. | Yes | | None | | | |
| Cliffs and steep slopes | Volunteers Falls leading to fracture strains, sprains | Designate safe working area Consider weather conditions e.g poor visibility high winds etc | Yes | | None | | | |

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| Dangerous plants, insects and other irritants, e.g. Giant Hogweed | Volunteers | Wear appropriate protective clothing Be aware of dangerous plants and potential adverse health effects Check for ticks if working within grassy areas. If tick located follow medical advice (http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/socialcare/health/staying-well/be-tick-aware/) | Yes | | None | | | |
| Use of hand tools | Volunteers Cuts strains | Instruction in use Ensure enough space for the correct use of the tool Use appropriate protection if required Volunteers to use equipment provided and in the way instructed as relevant | Yes | | None | | | |
| Use of gardening tools | Volunteers Members of public Injury trips and falls | Work area should be kept tidy, do not leave tools obstructing pathways. Ensure all tools are collected up, area inspected at end of work activity. | Yes | | None | | | |
| Step Ladders | Volunteers Injury due to falls | Where practical use other methods of access. Consider use of long reach hand tools. Steps to be use for short duration work only, inspect steps before use for signs of damage. Ensure steps are used on stable ground. Use 2 nd person to hold steps during use. Do not work off top step. | Yes | | None | | | |
| Lone Working | Volunteer No one is aware of accidents or if illness occurs | Use a 'buddy' system Ensure before starting work that you inform your 'buddy' where you will be working and the expected time of return. If you have a mobile phone ensure you carry it and it is charged up. | Yes | | None | | | |

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