



Volunteer with us!

CONTACT: Volunteer@ediblegardenproject.com

Thanks so much for your interest in working with us! This package outlines some of the volunteer positions that we have available. Please read the descriptions and let us know what appeals to you most.

A Bit About the Edible Garden Project:

The Edible Garden Project (EGP) uses food as a platform to transform community, address urban environmental, health, and social issues, and empower citizens of all ages to get their hands in the soil and learn to grow their own fruits and vegetables. We grow and share fresh local produce, create community around healthy eating, and create opportunities folks to have fun in the dirt! We believe that everyone deserves to access good food with dignity, and to fall in love with fresh picked produce.

Our core initiatives include:

Sharing

We operate Sharing Gardens across the North Shore that grow fresh vegetables for those most in need in our community, we pick up produce at the end of weekly Farmer's Markets, support garden plots in social housing, and inspire folks to grow an extra row to share from their own veggie patch. We also work to develop new community gardens and urban farms, and advance policies supporting urban agriculture in our municipalities. 5,500 lbs was shared in 2014!

Farming

We operate a half-acre farm, Loutet Farm, on public park land. Loutet Farm is a sustainable social enterprise that facilitates social, environmental, economic and educational benefits for the community, and is the first step in building a plant to plate local food system on the North Shore. It's located at East 14th Street and Rufus Ave. We grew and sold \$42,000 of farm produce in 2014!

Teaching

People of all ages are excited to learn how to grow their own food, or to share what they know with the community. We support food-growing gardens in childcare centres, teach in elementary schools, and offer the GardenSmart Workshops series. We taught over 900 children and 800 adults in 2014!

Sharing Gardener

The EGP stewards nine organic garden plots on the North Shore, called Sharing Gardens. As a member of a Sharing Garden group, you will be working with a team of 3-5 people to manage one of these gardens. This includes planning, maintaining, harvesting, and delivering produce throughout the entire season, from March until November.

Main Roles (as a team):

- Develop the annual garden plan
- Planting and weekly maintenance (weeding, pruning, mulching, watering, etc),
- Harvesting and delivering the fresh produce
- Meeting regularly as a group with the Community Coordinator to plan, learn, and share knowledge

Skills & Qualifications:

- Basic organic gardening experience an asset, but not required
- Work well with others and in a team environment
- Ability to work outdoors in various weather conditions
- Excellent interpersonal communication skills

Commitment:

- An average of 1-4 hours per week – dependent on the season and the number of people on your team
- Flexibility in when you contribute your hours (evenings, weekends, etc), with a commitment to contribute & communicate with the team

Benefits:

- Opportunity to learn significantly about growing food organically
- Opportunity to meet and build relationships with expert gardeners
- Lots of fresh air and exercise!

Locations:

- Lonsdale & 2nd North Vancouver
- Queensbury & 4th North Vancouver
- Old Lillooet & Lillooet Rd, North Vancouver
- Keith & Mahon (Queen Mary Community Garden), North Vancouver
- Bridgman and 16th, North Vancouver
- 13th and Gordon, West Vancouver

Workbees – Loutet Farm or Sharing Gardens

The EGP hosts regular drop-in workbees on Thursday and Saturday mornings, and the last Wednesday afternoon of every month. The workbees take place at either Loutet farm or at one of our Sharing Gardens. Great for beginner gardeners and all ages are welcome! Expect to have a great time with others from your community, learn from our farmer and gardeners, and get a sense of what growing food on a larger scale looks like.

Main Roles: tasks vary depending on the time of year, but you can expect to:

- Weed
- Make compost
- Prepare beds for planting
- Plant seedlings
- Mulch and move woodchips
- And much more!

Skills & Qualifications:

- No gardening experience required!
- Work well with others and in a team environment
- Ability to work outdoors in various weather conditions
- Good interpersonal communication skills

Benefits:

- Meet neighbours and build relationships with people also interested in growing food
- Learn food gardening skills, and get hands on experience
- Fresh air and exercise

Commitment:

- Workbee dates are posted on the website calendar. Drop in some Saturdays (10am), Thursday mornings (10am) or last Wednesday (4:30pm) of the month (April – October)

Loutet Farm – Harvest and/or Market Assistant

Join Farmer Gavin and the Market Team to prepare for and operate the Farm Gate Market at Loutet Farm! You will learn how to harvest veggies and participate in creating an inviting and fun market atmosphere.

Main Roles:

- Harvest produce from the farm – the day before or on market day
- Preparing produce for the market
- Set up and take down of market tables
- Selling produce

Skills & Qualifications:

- No experience necessary
- Ability to handle cash
- Food Safe level 1 an asset
- Excellent communication and customer service skills

Commitment: Market assistants are scheduled every month according to volunteers' availability

- Market only: Saturday mornings (9a– 12:30p) or Wednesday afternoons (3p – 6:30p), from May-October
- Harvest only: Friday and Wednesday afternoons, Saturdays 8am, from May - October

Benefits:

- Letter of reference at the end of the season (October)
- Fun atmosphere and great way to meet your neighbours
- Learn about harvesting, preparing, and selling produce for market

School Garden Program

Inspire school children to explore in the garden, learn how to grow fresh food, and make nutritious snacks to share with their family. Volunteers with the School Garden program will receive training, work on small teams with students and educators, and enjoy a fun and supportive environment.

Main Roles:

- Work in small groups with children on educational and interactive activities in school gardens or at Loutet Farm

Skills & Qualifications:

- Experience working with children
- Some gardening experience an asset
- Enthusiasm and energy!

Commitment:

- Available once or twice a month on Thursdays or Fridays during school hours – Feb-June & Sept-Nov. 2015. Schedule TBA

Benefits:

- Letter of reference at the end of the season (September)
- Opportunity to work with children in experiential and outdoor education

Events

The EGP hosts a variety of events each year that raise funds and contribute to the community. Many events take place at Loutet Farm, including the annual Farm to Feast dinner.

Main Roles:

- Assist with set-up, take-down, and event operations (i.e. host refreshment table, be a farm tour guide, help with kids activities, etc)

Skills & Qualifications:

- Ability to work in various weather conditions and maintain a positive outlook
- Ability to lift equipment
- Outgoing and friendly personality
- Punctual and reliable

Commitment:

- Ability to commit to two events a year (aprox. 4 hours per session)

Benefits:

- Letter of reference at the end of the season (October)
- Participate in fun community events
- Experience volunteering with a non-profit organization

Sharing the Bounty - Harvest Delivery

Every weekend from May through September we pick up fresh local produce from vendors at the Farmer's Market and deliver it to a local social housing development. We're looking for friendly and helpful volunteers to pick up and drop off donated produce, and help distribute it to residents once a week.

Pick-up/Delivery Main Roles:

- Pick up produce from farm vendors at the Farmers Market (location dependent on the day of the week)
- Deliver the produce to lower Lonsdale area

Skills & Qualifications:

- Access to a vehicle and a valid drivers license OR a bicycle and strong legs (you can borrow our trailer)
- Friendly outlook and comfortable meeting new people
- Punctual and reliable
- Ability to lift bins of produce weighing up to 50lbs.

Commitment:

- Ability to commit to produce delivery at least one Saturday per month from 3:00pm-4:00pm – May to October

Benefits:

- Letter of reference at the end of the season
- Opportunity to meet and build relationships with local farmers
- Experience volunteering with a non-profit organization

Distribution Main Roles:

- Sort and arrange produce on tables
- Ensure that everyone gets a fair share
- Help clean up tables at the end of the shift

Skills & Qualifications:

- Friendly outlook and comfortable meeting new people
- Punctual and reliable
- Ability to lift bins of produce (weighing up to 50lbs)
- Interest and knowledge of how to cook simple recipes with produce we're distributing, and share this with residents.

Commitment:

- Ability to commit to at least two evenings a month May to October.

Benefits:

- Letter of reference at the end of the season (October)
- Opportunity to meet and build relationships with local farmers
- Experience volunteering with a non-profit organization

Edible Garden Project Ambassadors

The EGP is invited to attend lots of local and sustainability focused events throughout the year, and we have an amazing team of volunteers to help us share what we're doing, provide resources, and get people involved

Main Roles:

- Assist with set-up, take-down, and event coordination
- Promoting the EGP and our programs
- Educating people on local food and food security issues (training provided).
- Assist Community Coordinator to create innovative activities and outreach materials

Skills & Qualifications:

- Excellent customer service skills
- Passion for local food related issues (urban ag., food security, etc)

- Ability to work in various weather conditions and maintain a positive outlook
- Ability to lift equipment and assist with set up and take down of tabling equipment
- Outgoing and friendly personality

Commitment:

- Ability to commit to two events a year (aprox. 4 hours per session).

Benefits:

- Letter of reference at the end of the season (October)
- Networking opportunity for people interested in local food and sustainability issues
- Develop customer service and outreach skills in a fun environment
- Experience volunteering with a non-profit organization

Blog Contributor

Our blog is a place where people come to learn about events in the community, opportunities to support advancing urban agriculture, and to pick up tips and tricks of organic gardening. We're looking for people with a passion for communication & food issues to join our team of blog contributors.

Main Roles:

- Researching issues related to food security, urban agriculture, social and environmental justice issues related to food, local events, or gardening tips -> wherever your interest lies!
- Writing and editing content for our blog on any of the above topics

Skills & Qualifications:

- Excellent written communication and editing skills
- Highly self directed, and able to work independently
- A strong interest in food security and social/environmental justice issues
- Ability to write engaging content – blogging or editorial experience an asset
- Familiarity with WordPress an asset
- Knowledge of social media tools and SEO an asset

Commitment:

- One post every week ideal – approximately 1-2hrs commitment per week

Benefits:

- Letter of reference at the end of the season (October)
- Training in Wordpress available
- Opportunity to develop content for your portfolio and experience writing for a public audience
- Experience volunteering with a non-profit organization

Frequently Asked Questions:

1) How do I keep track of all the volunteer opportunities and events going on?

There are lots of ways to stay in touch:

- Check our online events calendar regularly - <http://www.ediblegardenproject.com/events-calendar/>
- Join our newsletter and receive a monthly update including all upcoming events and volunteer opportunities. Sign up here: <http://eepurl.com/beyuU>
- “Like” us on Facebook and follow our posts and updates
- Follow us on Twitter @the_egp

2) Can I bring my kids?

Of course! We don't offer childcare for volunteers, but kids are always welcome to join in with the activities under your supervision. We can usually find fun things for them to do, and you'll be surprised by how willing they are to dig in and help.

3) How long are the workbees?

Workbees are usually 1.5-2 hrs long. You're welcome to leave early or come late as your schedule permits.

4) What do I need to bring?

We provide tools, work gloves, and any materials we may be working with. You just need to bring your enthusiasm, weather appropriate clothing, and a water bottle. Closed toe shoes are required at the farm and in the gardens.

5) Where are you located?

Our office is located at the North Shore Neighbourhood House – 225 East 2nd Street, North Vancouver. Check out the map on our website of all our garden locations.

6) I really want to get involved, but my schedule doesn't allow me to commit to regular volunteering.

That's totally ok! We have weekly opportunities for people to “drop in” and garden with us. We'll always be there, and when it suits your schedule you can join us.

At the end of the day if you don't feel happy, satisfied, inspired, like you learned something new, or have some dirt under your fingernails, then something is not right! We're happy to work with you to find the right fit, and we're always open to hearing your ideas too.