

Volunteer Park Walks Leader Position Description

Parks Victoria protects and enhances over four million hectares of diverse parks, about 17 per cent of Victoria. Parks Victoria's vision is to be a world-class park service ensuring healthy parks for healthy people. The Healthy Parks Healthy People approach to park management underpins the Park Walks program by promoting an opportunity to encourage more people to walk for their physical, social and mental health and wellbeing.

The Park Walks program designs and promotes a range of regular walks including short, introductory level walks in picturesque parks and medium length walks which are more challenging.

Role purpose

Lead community walks that help people improve their physical, social and mental wellbeing through regular activity in nature.

Tasks and responsibilities

Volunteer Park Walk leaders

- Lead a 45-90 min walk once per week/fortnight/month (depending on location and roster)
- Plan safe, enjoyable routes using provided guidance.
- Welcome and support participants, including first-time walkers.
- Share basic park information and promote a friendly, inclusive atmosphere.
- Monitor safety by identifying hazards and notifying rangers.
- Record attendance and feedback for each walk.
- Work in pairs with another trained volunteer.
- Provide friendly social interaction with the park visitors

Volunteer Park Walk leaders do not

- Enforce Park regulations
- Enter hazardous situations
- Act as a care provider
- Be required to transport park visitors in their vehicles

Skills & Qualities

- Friendly, welcoming attitude
- Comfortable engaging with diverse communities
- Have an interest in parks, conservation and/or nature
- Have excellent communication and interpersonal skills

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- Reasonable fitness and enthusiasm for walking
- Reliability and teamwork

Benefits to volunteers

- Improved physical and mental wellbeing through regular walking
- Training and induction provided by Parks Victoria
- Opportunities to learn about nature and cultural landscapes
- Meet new people from a broad range of backgrounds and support community health

Requirements

- Attend Parks Victoria training and induction program prior to placement
- Hold a **Volunteer Working with Children Check** (free through The Department of Justice.)
- Wear supplied uniform (high-vis vest, polo, hat)
- Provide own transport
- Carry a charged mobile phone while volunteering
- You will be required to be physically active with an appropriate level of fitness and health expected to comfortably complete the walk.

Supervision

Park Walk volunteers will meet relevant Parks Victoria staff before they start in their role and will be provided with contact details in case of any emergencies.

All Volunteer Park Walk Leaders work in pairs in line with Parks Victoria volunteer procedures.

Where the Role Operates

Volunteers may join an existing group or help establish a new one with support from a local coordinator.

Walks take place across parks throughout Victoria. For current walk locations visit <https://www.parkconnect.vic.gov.au/park-walks/>

Regulations

No domestic animals such as dogs, cats, birds etc can accompany you into any parks detailed in the National Parks Act 1975, S.R. No. 115/2013. Assistance Dogs such as Guide Dogs are allowed into parks, please discuss this with the program supervisor if this is applicable to you.

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You must provide your own transport to and from locations. Note that public transport is not easily accessible at most locations.