

Job Description

Title:	Bankside Urban Gardener – Maternity Cover
Remuneration:	£18,912 per annum (pro rata) + pension contribution
Hours of work:	[Full-time: 35hrs/week] 8am-4pm Better Bankside. We will consider part time, a job share, or individuals/companies with relevant experience
Location:	Better Bankside, Bankside Community Space, 18 Great Guildford Street, London SE1 0FD
Duration:	Fixed term – Maternity cover till 13 th October 2017
Reporting to:	Bankside Urban Forest Manager

This is a fantastic opportunity to help maintain a network of small green spaces, delivered through our Bankside Urban Forest initiative, across the neighbourhood, for one of the UK's foremost Business Improvement Districts. We welcome applications from all sections of the community.

About Better Bankside

Better Bankside is a Business Improvement District (BID) in Southwark, London. Its aim is to make Bankside a thriving place to work, live and visit and, ultimately, the 'best neighbourhood in the world'. Better Bankside was formally established in 2005 and was the third BID in the UK and the second in London.

A Business Improvement District (BID) is an independent, business-owned and led company, which seeks to improve a given location for commercial activity. Better Bankside's members are the 600+ companies in the BID area (between Hatfields in the west and London Bridge in the east, and south from the River as far as Union Street, Borough Station and Webber Street) who pay its annual 'levy'. Many of these are heavily involved in the governance of the company.

Job Overview

The Bankside Urban Gardener will perform key gardening tasks within the remit of Better Bankside's area to maintain and improve the green infrastructure in Bankside's public realm. The role will involve establishing sound horticultural practices in the cultivation of these spaces, including improving the spaces for conservation and wildlife, reducing the use of water and pesticides and championing good practice.

Also to provide opportunities for Bankside businesses to participate in small scale greening projects by leading volunteer working days and events, and continue to champion gardening and greening in Bankside.

Responsibilities

Maintaining Green Spaces

- Containers on street – weekly visits, watering as needed through dry spells, weeding, replanting as needed

- Green Walls - Weekly site visits to visually inspect the installations on Stoney Street and Southwark to ensure avoidance of problems
- Rain Gardens (Green Roof Consultancy) - watering, weeding and further planting if needed
- Street trees - Monthly visual inspection of street trees in the BID area on an ongoing basis – to identify problems, and to undertake remedial work associated with a Tree Warden role
- Tree Pit Planting - Maintain existing sites at Great Guildford Street, Union Street, Ewer Street, Great Suffolk Street, Webber Street and Hopton Street.
- Identification of further sites in tree pits for further planting to increase biodiversity and incorporate planting for pollination in Bankside.

Advocacy and volunteering

- Grow the network of Better Bankside gardening volunteers through developing a programme of interesting and informative lunchtime volunteering opportunities.
- Lead the twice monthly lunchtime volunteer sessions for Bankside businesses, enabling them to actively engage with nature during their working days.
- Where appropriate, produce supporting information for volunteer sessions including information about tasks being undertaken.
- Lead on coordinating the judges' visit for the annual London in Bloom Awards.

Conservation and sustainability

- Refine and maintain a management regime for planting in Bankside which is holistic, reduces the need to use water, reduces or eliminates the use of pesticides and promotes good horticultural practice

General Duties

- Use and maintain a range of horticultural equipment.
- Deal with members of the public in a professional customer focused manner.
- Undertake any other responsibilities, that are suitable for Urban Gardener, may be asked by the relevant supervisor.
- Ensure that all work undertaken meets Better Bankside standards.
- Ensure that Health & Safety rules and procedures are followed, including undertaking risk assessments for the regular volunteer sessions.
- Ensure that work and behaviour while at work is in line with BB's Diversity and Equal Opportunities policies.

Person specification

The ideal candidate has minimum of 3 years' hands on experience in garden and grounds maintenance, excellent communication skills and able to lead by example. It is essential you have strong plant knowledge, ability to identify plants and a good awareness of pruning requirements for various plant types.

Also essential are the ability to identify common pests and diseases and a good working knowledge organic gardening principles. Self-motivation, ability to plan and prioritise daily workloads and capability of consistently adhering to safe working practices and company guidelines form part of the role.

Required experience and education

- Level 2 Diploma in Horticulture or relevant qualification (Essential)
- At least 3 years' hand-on experience working as a gardener (Essential)

- Experience of managing volunteers (Desirable)

Required skills and competencies

- Ability to work well as part of a team (Essential)
- An interest in gardening, urban greening and regeneration (Essential)
- Confident in dealing with the public (Essential)
- Ability to follow detailed instructions, and interpret plans (Essential)
- Ability to organise own workload and use own initiative (Essential)
- Self-motivated and able to motivate others (Essential)
- Physically able to undertake manual tasks when required (Essential)
- A positive and enthusiastic attitude towards work (Essential)
- Excellent communication skills (written and verbal) (Desirable)
- Confident user of MS Office software packages: Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook (Desirable)
- A full clean driving licence (Desirable)
- Understanding of Business Improvement Districts (Desirable)

How to apply

To apply, send:

- Your **CV** describing and listing tasks of relevant educational, extra-curricular and employment experience
- **Cover letter** (max. 2 sides) outlining
 - o Why you want the role
 - o How your skills and experience match the person specification, including details of a recent gardening project that demonstrates the skills required for this type of role
- Completed **Better Bankside equal opportunities** monitoring form

to Rahima Begum, Office Manager: rb@betterbankside.co.uk or Better Bankside, Bankside Community Space, 18 Great Guildford St, London SE1 0FD.

Closing date: Tuesday 30th May 9am. Interviews: 2nd June

Start ASAP

Incomplete applications will not be considered. Applicants must be able to demonstrate the right to work in the UK. We regret that owing to the high level of response expected we will not be able to contact unsuccessful applicants.