



Volunteering & COVID-19

A Guide to Permissible Activities

July 28th, 2020

Updates will be made in alignment with Public Health recommendations

General Safety Guidelines

Staying safe and healthy:

- Wash your hands before you leave your home and immediately once you get back.
- Carry hand sanitizer with you and use it often.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Always maintain 2 metres (6 feet) of space between yourself and other people, with the exception of your '10 person social bubble' and be considerate of the comfort and safety of others.
- Be extra cautious and diligent about safety, particularly around potential hazards.
- Plan your trip and pack carefully to avoid unnecessary trips to local stores (i.e. extra water, food, a change of clothes, bug and sun protection, hand sanitizer, trowel & toilet paper) and ensure you've communicated your plan to someone in advance.

Do NOT volunteer:

- If you're feeling unwell. Stay home until you're fully recovered.
- If you're self-isolating, either because you've traveled outside Nova Scotia/ the Maritimes or because Public Health told you to.
- If you're a senior or if you're immuno-compromised, you should avoid volunteering roles that involve interacting with other people or that could put you at risk.
- If you don't feel comfortable to do so, for any reason.

How the Nature Trust is Reopening Volunteering

The Nature Trust is implementing a careful, phased approach to reopening our volunteer activities. We are conducting risk assessments for all volunteer activities and asking ourselves the following questions: Can we do this activity and easily meet provincial guidance? What additional measures are required? Can we implement this reliably and easily? Are there new risks to the volunteer activity that arise from these measures? What further measures are needed? Can we do this task now?

Our reopening plan is designed with these questions, and the comfort and safety of you and of the broader community, in mind. Please be aware that further restrictions may be put in place if/when another wave of Covid-19 occurs.

Phase 1

Phase 2

Phase 3



These activities are currently permitted keeping in mind the General Safety Guidelines listed above are being observed. Please contact us with any questions or need for clarification.



Property Guardians : Monitoring sites you know, anywhere in the province. Light stewardship work, such as garbage collection (please wear gloves and disinfect hands when finished) and vegetation pruning and other low-risk trail maintenance.

Bird's Eye View & Other Field Volunteers: Visiting sites you know, anywhere in the province.

Remote Volunteering: Board of directors/committees, work from home projects, social media support, volunteer writers.

Office Volunteers: Garden work only. Please arrange visit ahead of time by coordinating with Christina (office@nsnt.ca). Washroom and access to the building may be limited due to staff working from home. You may bring your own tools to limit contact with shared items.

Permitted with Caution Volunteer Activities

Phase 3

*These activities are currently permitted **with caution**. Please consult with staff prior to visiting a new site to determine if it is safe to do so.*



Property Guardians: Visiting sites that are new to you. Visiting sites with staff for monitoring or one-on-one training. Group training*.

Bird's Eye View & Other Field Volunteers: Visiting sites that are new to you. Visiting sites with staff for data collection and monitoring.

Not Permitted Volunteer Activities

Phase 3

*These activities are currently **NOT** permitted. They are higher risk activities and will not be permitted until risk can be sufficiently mitigated or a vaccine is widely available.*



Property Guardians: Complex stewardship tasks like tree removal. Group volunteering tasks (such as stewardship work parties).

Office Volunteering - In-person independent volunteer work at the office such as database work and special projects. Group volunteering (such as mailings). In person board/committee meetings.

*Please note we have reinstated Property Guardians training as of July 24th). We require small group sizes to accommodate social distancing and the comfort and safety of staff and trainees. For training details, or to RSVP to a training session, contact Ryan.