

CASE STUDY



Mudchute Volunteering Day

The volunteering day took place on Tuesday 17th March at Mudchute Park and Farm. The event brought together professionals from several organisations to support the farm, and contribute to the local community through practical volunteering activities.

The purpose of the volunteering day was to assist Mudchute with general day-to-day tasks involved in running a working farm. Activities included outdoor maintenance, such as repairing fences and gardening tasks, helping the farm maintain its grounds and facilities.

A total of 21 participants took part in our volunteering day. The organisations represented included DOC Cleaning, Simply Washrooms, CBRE, Knight Frank, and clients at NT. Of the 21 attendees, six were from DOC, including Jeff Silver, our Head of ESG, who organised the day, and Luke Smith, one of our Operations Directors. The day was marked by strong collaboration between different companies and clients, providing an excellent opportunity to participants to connect.

Mudchute Park and Farm

Mudchute Park and Farm is one of the largest city farms in Europe. Set across 32 acres of countryside in the heart of East London, Mudchute is a community charity and has been recognised as the first Rare Breed City Park and Farm. The farm is home to over 100 animals, including pigs, sheep, goats, llamas, and more.

Mudchute plays an important role in the local community by providing free access to green space, farm animals, and educational experiences in the middle of a densely built urban area. The farm offers residents the chance to connect with nature, learn about agriculture and animal care, and participate in community activities.

As a charity with a relatively small staff team, it relies on volunteers to help carry out much of its day-to-day work. Thanks to this small team of staff and numerous volunteers, the farm is able to stay open 365 days a year.



Morning Activities

The day began with attendees arriving and taking the opportunity to introduce themselves over tea and coffee. They were welcomed by the Farm Manager, and some other staff members who provided an overview of the site, along with key information about the farm and a health and safety briefing.

Volunteers were then divided into two groups, each assigned to different areas of the site. This approach encouraged collaboration while allowing teams to focus on specific projects that would deliver meaningful improvements. One group was guided to the wetland area to begin work on restoring the pond, while the other was taken to the on-site nursery to carry out essential maintenance tasks.

In the wetland area, volunteers worked together to cut back an overgrown bramble bush that had completely taken over one pond, through a strong team effort, they gradually cleared the area, eventually revealing the old pond. This task was physically demanding, but highly rewarding, as the team could clearly see the immediate impact of their work. Meanwhile, the nursery group focused on dismantling sections of old fencing, carefully removing materials in preparation for new installations.



Testimonial



It was such a brilliant day – a proper mix of hard work and good fun, all centred around giving something back at Mudchute Farm. It felt great to be able to roll our sleeves up and help get through jobs that would usually take up valuable time and resources. Cutting down that huge bramble bush was no small task, and I definitely felt it the next day!

What really made it though, was the company and the weather – both absolutely brilliant, which always helps. It was a great reflection of how much we value our longstanding partnership with DOC. Days like that really bring to life what strong collaboration looks like beyond just the day-to-day and the office, especially when it's tied to something meaningful.

Samantha Stocks
Director
Simply Washrooms



Afternoon Activities

Once both groups had made significant progress, they reconvened in the communal area for a well-earned lunch. This provided a valuable opportunity for attendees to rest, reflect on the morning's achievements, and continue building connections with colleagues and peers from different organisations.

Following the break, both groups returned to their respective areas to continue their work. The wetland team shifted their focus to clearing and restoring the surrounding pathways, removing weeds and debris to improve accessibility. Meanwhile, the nursery group concentrated on clearing overgrown paths and installing new fencing, helping to create a safer, more structured environment for future use. By the end of the day, both teams had made a tangible and lasting contribution to the site, demonstrating the positive impact that can be achieved through collaboration and shared effort.

To conclude the day, attendees were taken on a guided tour of the grounds by Tom Davis, Farm Manager. The tour offered a valuable insight into the wider site, its ongoing projects, and the difference made through initiatives such as this volunteering day.

Creating Lasting Impact

The volunteering day had a truly significant and lasting impact on the local community, with volunteers dedicating their time, energy, and skills to a wide range of essential maintenance and gardening tasks. Their work went beyond simply tidying and clearing areas, it directly contributed to the preservation and enhancement of a cherished community space.

By clearing overgrown vegetation, restoring pathways, and installing new fencing, the volunteers helped maintain the farm and park to a high standard, ensuring it remains accessible, safe, and welcoming for visitors of all ages. Days like this are vital in supporting the ongoing operations of the park and farm, allowing it to continue running efficiently and thriving as a hub for both education and recreation. The dedication and effort of volunteers help to sustain the site, ensuring it can continue to serve the community and provide a safe, enjoyable and inspiring environment for everyone who visits.

Beyond the practical outcomes, the event provided a valuable opportunity for collaboration. Bringing together clients, partners, and DOC colleagues in a hands-on practical setting fostered strong relationships and encouraged teamwork. Participants worked side by side, learning from each other and building connections that extend beyond the day itself.

The day also offered significant benefits in terms of employee engagement. Staff had the chance to step away from their usual roles and contribute directly to a community-focused initiative, gaining a sense of accomplishment and pride from seeing the tangible results of their efforts.

For many, it was an opportunity to experience the real-world impact of their contributions and to connect with colleagues, clients, and partners in a setting outside the usual workplace environment.

Testimonial

“ The volunteering day at Mudchute Park and Farm was an incredibly rewarding and memorable experience for everyone who took part. From start to finish, the day was filled with a real sense of purpose and teamwork, and it was clear that everyone enjoyed getting involved.

Providing hands-on support made a tangible difference and gave us an insight into the day-to-day challenges the organisation faces. It was inspiring to see how vital volunteer contributions are, and how the time and effort given by ourselves and others can make a real impact in helping the charity operate at its full potential.

Jeff Silver
Head of ESG
DOC Cleaning



Our Beyond Cleaning Ethos

Importantly, the initiative aligned with our ESG and Beyond Cleaning priorities, demonstrating the organisation's commitment to creating social, environmental, and community impact beyond its core services. By supporting community organisations, engaging employees in volunteer work, forstoring collaboration with clients and partners, and delivering social value, the initiative reflects the strategy's focus on generating positive outcomes for society.

Through participation in days like this, volunteers help maintain and enhance the park and farm, and play a crucial role in sustaining a space that benefits the wider community.

About DOC Cleaning

DOC Cleaning is a family-owned business with over 50 years of experience delivering professional cleaning services, with a portfolio spanning cultural landmarks, corporate headquarters and commercial spaces across the UK. As we continue to grow, we remain committed to building trusted partnerships, investing in our people and innovating for a cleaner, more sustainable future.

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