Become a Citizen Science Volunteer at Center Rog!

Center Rog is establishing a new citizen science volunteer group to monitor the development and impact of new habitats in Park izbrisanih. Led by Zarja Muršič from the Citizen Science Network, the group will explore how design can support biodiversity and create better living conditions for different plant and animal species in urban environments.

The initiative is connected to **More than Refuge**, a project by French designer **Guillian Graves**, who is currently participating in Center Rog's *Designer in Residency* programme. As part of his residency, Graves is developing new habitats designed to support biodiversity in urban environments.

Guillian Graves is the founder of the Paris-based studio Big Bang Project. His work draws on biomimicry, a design approach that looks to natural systems for inspiration when developing new solutions. The project will be presented to the public at **Rog Expo 2026**, which will be on view from 26 November 2026 to 27 February 2027 in the Big Hall at Center Rog.

The first step towards joining the volunteer group is to complete the online registration form. Those who register will then be invited to an introductory meeting on **Saturday, 6 February 2027, at 11.00 at Center Rog**. During the meeting, we will introduce the project, explore the principles of citizen science and discuss opportunities for participation. No previous knowledge or experience is required.

What will we be researching?

The project includes **micro-refuges for different animal and plant species**, including bats, solitary bees, lichens, insects and hedgehogs, as well as **nutrient-releasing structures** that will be installed in the soil of Park izbrisanih. These structures are designed to gradually release nutrients with the help of rainwater, improving conditions for soil-dwelling organisms.

Through systematic observation and data collection, the volunteer group will investigate how these interventions perform over time, which species use them and how they affect the local ecosystem. The findings will contribute to the further development and improvement of the habitats.

What will we do?

Volunteers will take part in regular habitat monitoring, photography, plant and animal species identification, simple environmental measurements and documenting changes in the park.

Among other activities, we will monitor which species use the new refuges, observe pollinators and other organisms, and investigate changes in vegetation and soil conditions.

Together with researchers and experts, we will analyse the collected data and share our findings with the wider public. In doing so, we will contribute to a better understanding of the long-term effects of design interventions in urban ecosystems.

Who can join?

We welcome anyone interested in nature, ecology, design, research and community engagement. We particularly encourage applications from:

- Students of biology, agronomy, landscape architecture, design and related disciplines;
- Nature enthusiasts and members of natural history societies;
- Members and users of Center Rog's production labs;
- Local residents and regular visitors to Park izbrisanih;
- Anyone interested in gaining new skills and contributing to a better understanding of urban ecosystems.

No previous experience is required. Under the guidance of Zarja Muršič, participants will learn basic citizen science methods, how to observe nature and use research equipment, and develop the skills needed to carry out observations and collect data independently.

How will volunteering work?

Volunteer activities will take place primarily outdoors in Park izbrisanih, next to Center Rog, with occasional activities in Center Rog's production labs.
Participation will be flexible, depending on individual interests and availability. Some tasks will require as little as 20 minutes per month, while others may involve a greater time commitment or participation in seasonal research activities.

Following the introductory meeting, we will establish the volunteer group and develop a shared activity plan. Regular habitat monitoring will take place primarily between April and October 2027.

Participants will receive introductory training, the necessary equipment and ongoing expert support.

What will you gain from volunteering?

Volunteers will sign a volunteer agreement valid for one year from the date they join the programme. With regular participation, volunteers will be eligible for reimbursement of travel expenses and meal costs (when volunteering for more than four hours per day), as well as **a free one-year membership at Center Rog**, which comes with a range of benefits.

Through your involvement, you will gain practical experience in citizen science, learn new research methods and become part of a community interested in the relationship between design, nature and urban environments.

Most importantly, you will contribute to the long-term study of Park izbrisanih. Our collective observations will help us understand which solutions work, which need improvement and how we can design more inclusive living environments for other species in the future.

How can you join?

The first step is to complete the online registration form. Once you have registered, you will be invited to an introductory meeting where we will present the project, explain how the volunteer group will operate and discuss opportunities for involvement. Attending the meeting does not commit you to further participation.

Introductory meeting: Saturday, 6 February 2027, at 11.00
Location: Center Rog, Trubarjeva cesta 72, Ljubljana, Slovenia
Registration: https://form.jotform.com/260132679893366
Further information: eva.kraljic@center-rog.si

We look forward to exploring and learning together!

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