



## Land Stewardship Manager – Position Posting (10-2019)

### Summary:

Willowsford Conservancy, Inc., a Virginia non-profit, seeks a dynamic hands-on Land Stewardship Manager for the day to day maintenance and operations of land resources, trails, and infrastructure. Located in Aldie and Ashburn, VA, the Conservancy is the long-term steward of 2,200 acres of open space within Willowsford's four villages.

Conservancy lands comprise woodlands, meadows, ponds and wetlands, agricultural land, and over 30 miles of multi-surface trails. Our mission is to "... protect, maintain, and promote the viable, long-term use of the land, integrating farming, recreation, conservation and education to enhance the quality of life for the residents of Willowsford and the greater community."

Reporting to the Executive Director, the Land Stewardship Manager is supported by three full-time employees, volunteers, and contractual labor. The position is predominantly field-based and performs hands-on work along with planning, administration and supervision. Working in a collaborative team environment, the position requires comprehensive field experience in land management, arboriculture, invasive and native species management, habitat restoration, arboriculture, trail maintenance, and related operations management, outreach and education.

The Land Stewardship Manager will be a strategic thinker who participates in long-term planning, implements strategies and best management practices, who enjoys working with the public, and brings a passion for the Conservancy's mission and principles of conservation, stewardship sustainability.

### Responsibilities

#### Land Management

- Develop and implement land stewardship plans and projects to meet ecological, recreational and economic objectives.
- Perform day-to-day land management activities focused on improving the ecological health of Conservancy open space and providing residents with quality outdoor education and recreation experiences. Perform routine maintenance such as tree health assessments, removal of downed and hazardous trees, habitat restoration, trail trimming and mowing, and installation and maintenance of infrastructure (kiosks, signage, fencing, minor construction work).
- Safely operate and maintain equipment.
- Supervise employees, contractors, volunteers and interns.
- Develop and manage budgets and assist with grant applications.

- Monitor and manage conservation threats such as over browsing by deer; invasive species; and harmful practices like open space violations or off-road vehicle use.

#### Community Outreach

- Develop and lead education and outreach activities.
- Develop education and wayfinding tools and materials.
- Represent the Conservancy to stakeholders; develop effective partnerships with agencies and organizations.

#### **Qualifications**

- BS degree in Natural Resources Management, Forestry or a related field and 5 years' professional experience in natural resource management. Certified Arborist and Forester credentials preferred.
- Significant experience in operations management, crew leadership, and all aspects of land stewardship management.
- Current on relevant issues and methods such as sustainable forestry, meadow and grassland management, wetland and water resources, wildlife management, and outdoor recreation.
- Hands-on experience in land management, arboriculture, trail maintenance, and native and invasive species management; VA Certified Pesticide Applicator's license or willingness to obtain license.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills.
- Ability to set goals, resolve problems, and implement plans. Ability to effectively manage work schedules, projects, budgets and contracts.
- Knowledge of NOVA flora and fauna; strong field ID skills for native and invasive species.
- Proficiency in safely operating equipment and tools, including chain saws, mowers, tractors, hand tools and common forestry tools.
- Proficiency with MS Office, data and records management, GIS/GPS software and equipment, and ArcGIS software.
- Good driving record and valid driver's license.

#### **Working Conditions:**

- This position predominantly works in the field in all weather conditions and all times of the year, and requires heaving lifting and physical exertion, driving and hiking in uneven terrain, operating land management equipment, and working comfortably for extended periods in rugged outdoor conditions. Occasional evening and weekend work required.

#### **Salary and Benefits**

The salary is commensurate with experience. Benefits include medical and dental coverage, FSA, 401(k) retirement plan, paid vacation and holidays.

#### **How to Apply**

Please submit a resume, cover letter and salary requirements to [info@willowsfordconservancy.org](mailto:info@willowsfordconservancy.org) by November 22, 2019.

[www.willowsfordconservancy.org](http://www.willowsfordconservancy.org)