



Westchester Land Trust

| | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Job Title: | Conservation Technician | Position Type: | Part-time, Temporary, Non-Exempt |
| Location: | Bedford Hills NY | Reporting To: | Director of Stewardship |

Background & Overview

The non-profit Westchester Land Trust (WLT), founded in 1988, is the leading land conservation organization prioritizing the entirety of Westchester County and eastern Putnam County and was one of the first land trusts in the nation to be accredited through the independent Land Trust Accreditation Commission. WLT has protected 9,000 acres across 260 conservation easements, nature preserves, and other lands. We have a professional staff of 9, and all work together as a team to achieve WLT’s mission to protect and to steward our region’s priority conservation lands.

WLT is seeking a Conservation Technician to support our conservation work, with a strong focus on field-based land stewardship and management on our preserves. This position is an excellent entry point to the conservation field and offers broad exposure to all aspects of a land trust combined with the opportunity to develop deep practical skills.

Work Locations: Field/Outdoors: Up to 80% of the work will be outdoors on WLT’s preserves and easements across Westchester and eastern Putnam County. Indoors: About 20% of the work will be indoors and includes report writing, trainings or meetings, or when inclement weather prevents safe field work. Indoor work can either be at the WLT office or a WLT-approved remote location per company policy.

Tasks: 60% preserve maintenance and stewardship; 15% easement monitoring; 15% conservation work support; 10% volunteer coordination;

Transportation: Must have reliable personal vehicle for travel to/from office. You will have priority access to the WLT work truck for travel between the office and field sites.

Duties and Responsibilities

- Ensure safe and enjoyable preserve visitor experience through timely maintenance or repair of infrastructure including trails and trail blazes, foot bridges and stepping stones, parking lots and kiosks, through mowing, weed whacking, or other aesthetic upkeep;
- Install or maintain our growing portfolio of ecological restoration projects; tasks include fixing or installing deer enclosure fencing, surveying and removing invasive plants, and planting or maintaining native plants;
- Monitoring of WLT preserves and easements in accordance with *Land Trust Alliance Standards and Practices* and WLT’s Land Policy Manual;
- Managing the day-to-day use and maintenance of our stewardship tools and equipment;
- Interact with the thousands of people who hike or walk on our 15 miles of preserve trails;
- Documentation of field work through memos and photos to support our robust record keeping procedures;
- Cultivate and grow WLT’s support base by helping with our Sugar Hill Farm garden, educational programs, fundraising events, volunteer days, field walks, and more;



Westchester Land Trust

- Submit content to support WLT communications including social media, newsletters, and other outreach material;
- Assist other WLT staff with projects as needed.

Requirements

- Valid NYS Driver's License
- High School or college student with strong interest in land management, ecology, botany, recreation management, horticulture or related field;
- Experience with land stewardship or closely related activities;
- Willingness to learn to safely use power equipment like weed whackers and hand drills; chainsaw use and safety experience is preferred;
- Ability to identify common native and invasive plants;
- Interest in learning and quickly becoming proficient in relevant skills;
- Enthusiasm and dedication to the conservation field;
- Comfort working independently or in teams;
- Proven ability to successfully complete projects in field conditions;
- Willingness to prioritize safety and situational awareness in the field;
- Facility in communicating with people of all ages and backgrounds.
- Ability to walk several miles per day over rough terrain in all weather conditions;

Compensation: \$20/hour

Job Term: Up to 900 Hours: 3 Days/Week, 24 Hours/Week, April 2022 through December 2022. Given the independent nature of some of the work, there is potential for flexibility in weekly scheduling, and we welcome a discussion about that. The need for very occasional weekend or evening work may arise, but being able to accommodate that is not a condition of employment.

To apply: Please send cover letter and resume to info@westchesterlandtrust.org. No phone calls please. Applications without a cover letter will not be reviewed. Applications will be accepted until position is filled.

Westchester Land Trust is an equal opportunity employer and acts in accordance with applicable law in all of our hiring and employment practices. All mandated COVID-19 safety guidelines will be followed.

Date: 3/23/2022