



Position Title: Land Management Associates (2)

Location: La Crosse, WI

Supervisor: Land Manager

Time Commitment: Part-time, temporary (25-30hrs/wk).

Term: 12 weeks (October 15 – January 15); possibility for extension.

Wage: \$15/hr.

Position Description: Mississippi Valley Conservancy is seeking two (2) part-time, seasonal Land Management Associates to assist in implementing habitat restoration projects on the 3,500 acres of public nature preserves that the Conservancy owns. Projects may include timber stand improvement, brush removal, prescribed burning, invasive species control, leading volunteer work days, chainsaw and brushsaw operation, herbicide application, and equipment maintenance with approximately 95% of time spent in the field on restoration projects. Some evenings and weekends will be required and working on uneven and steep terrain is guaranteed.

Key Responsibilities in Land Management:

- Ecological restoration of local habitats including bluff prairies, oak savanna, forest, and wetlands.
- Management and maintenance of Conservancy lands including: brush removal, tree removal, herbicide application, firebreak construction, trail maintenance, prescribed burning, invasive species control, and timber stand improvement.
- Maintenance and repair of chainsaws, brushsaws, pumper units, and other equipment as needed.
- Assist and lead volunteer work days with community volunteers and groups on restoration projects.

Essential Job Functions and Abilities:

- Proficiency and experience safely using chainsaws, brush cutters, herbicide sprayers, pumper units, backpack pump cans, shovels, rakes, etc. for extended periods of time.
- Ability to accurately identify habitat types as well as native and invasive plant species.
- Ability to work well with partners, staff, and community volunteers.
- Willingness and ability to perform physical labor and strenuous work outdoors in adverse weather conditions and rugged terrain for extended periods of time.
- Ability to pass an arduous level work capacity pack test for wildland firefighters (walk 3 miles in fewer than 45 minutes carrying a 45 pound pack).
- Ability to drive and back-up a large pick-up truck with a trailer; tractor; UTVs and other vehicles.
- Able and willing to travel daily to Conservancy lands within nine counties.
- Ability to maintain and repair chainsaws, pumps, sprayers, other equipment and a shop facility.
- Willingness and ability to work evenings and weekends.
- Ability to problem solve when equipment breaks or things don't go according to plan

Minimum Qualifications:

- Prior field experience using chainsaws and brushsaws.
- Plant identification skills for both invasive and native species.
- Strong tree identification skills.
- Possess a valid driver's license and dependable vehicle.
- Experience managing prairie, forest, riparian and wetland habitats.
- Experience in the use and maintenance of chainsaws, pumper units, brush-cutters, sprayers, mowers, ATV's and other field equipment.
- Experience in invasive species control methods and herbicide use.
- Successful candidate will be highly motivated, hardworking, physically fit, flexible, and detail-oriented.
- A commitment to the Conservancy's vision, values, and conservation goals.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Undergraduate in progress, bachelor's degree, or higher in natural resources, biology, environmental science or related field.
- Demonstrated ability with species identification and land management planning.
- Experience implementing prescribed burns.
- Knowledge of flora, fauna, and geology of the Driftless Area.
- A solid understanding of and experience with ecological restoration principles.

To Apply: Submit a cover letter, resume and a list of 3 references to Land Manager Levi Plath at levi@mississippivalleyconservancy.org. Position closes September 13, 2019.