



Stewardship Director Job Description

The Western New York Land Conservancy is seeking a full-time Stewardship Director. The Land Conservancy is a regional, not-for-profit land trust that permanently protects land with significant conservation values in Western New York for the benefit of future generations. We envision a future in which open spaces, working lands, wildlife habitat and scenic beauty are cherished and protected as part of the landscape and character of Western New York. The Land Conservancy service area is the eight counties of Western New York.

The Stewardship Director is the primary staff member responsible for land protection programs. The Stewardship Director works with staff, board members, and community partners to identify priority lands and develop strategies for protection; uses conservation easements and land acquisitions to meet land protection goals; oversees stewardship of conservation easements and owned preserves; helps raise funds from grants, donors and foundations to support land protection operations; and enhances community awareness of conservation issues and the Land Conservancy's mission through public outreach.

Specific Responsibilities:

- Serve as the primary contact for conservation work with our municipal program partners in the Towns of Clarence, Amherst, Marilla, Elma and Eden.
- Oversee work on the Niagara Escarpment grassland and oak savannah habitat restoration projects.
- Assume primary responsibility for monitoring all 65 Land Conservancy properties (easement and fee).
- Help develop, review and implement management plans for 12 fee properties.
- Work with the Executive Director and the board to address potential and actual violations in accordance with accepted policies and procedures.
- Manage conservation easement files, insuring that duplicate records exist digitally and in hard copy.
- Evaluate new property land protection inquiries.
- Work with appraisers, attorneys, and other advisors to develop new conservation easements with support from our legal advisors and the Executive Director.
- Supervise volunteers and interns that assist with monitoring and stewardship projects.
- Assist Executive Director with board and committee responsibilities as they relate to stewardship including reports for the Conservation Committee, long range planning and donor development.

Qualifications:

- BA or degree in related field.
- Proficiency with Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Outlook).
- Experience working with landowners on resource management issues and/or legal issues is preferred.
- Experience with land trusts, planning & conservation biology is very desirable.
- Experience with GIS and GPS is very desirable.

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

- Committed to and passionate about land protection and environmental work.
- Ability to communicate effectively, both verbally and in writing with landowners, the public, media, professional colleagues and government entities.
- Knowledge of the theories, practices, principles and techniques of land conservation and stewardship.
- Ability to work independently and collaboratively with a high level of accountability and attention to detail. Ability to meet deadlines and manage multiple tasks.
- Ability to be diplomatic and to maintain patience, humor and confidentiality.
- A team player with strong interpersonal skills.
- Resourceful problem solver.
- Ability to perform strenuous physical activities such as hiking in steep terrain.
- Willingness to use a personal-vehicle for work-related travel and work flexible hours, as needed.
- Experience with and knowledge of natural systems. Ability to identify plant and animal species in the Western New York area preferred.

Compensation will be commensurate with experience and skills

The Stewardship Director reports to the Executive Director

To Apply

Please email a cover letter, resume and contact information for three references to nancyrs@wnylc.org with “Stewardship Director” in the subject line. Applications are only accepted electronically. No calls please. The position is available immediately and is open until filled. The Western New York Land Conservancy is an equal opportunity employer.

For additional information about the Western New York Land Conservancy, please visit our website – www.wnyc.org.