NATURAL AREAS CONSERVANCY
Community Forestry Associate
Job Announcement

ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

The Natural Areas Conservancy (NAC) is a non-profit organization that was founded in 2012 to advance the restoration and conservation of natural areas for a resilient and healthy New York City. Working in partnership with the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation (NYC Parks), we seek to ensure the high-quality management of NYC's 20,000 acres of forests and wetlands. Driving the NAC's work is the recognition that natural areas are increasingly vital to sustaining air quality, improving public health, providing New Yorkers with access to nature, and strengthening our communities. Our work includes conducting scientific research, restoring natural habitats, developing tools to inform data-driven management, and increasing awareness and opportunities for the public to experience NYC's abundant nature. More information about our work is at naturalareasnyc.org.

POSITION OVERVIEW

This role will assist with forest management planning and engagement of community members in forest stewardship in northern Manhattan and the northeast Bronx.

This new position supports the advancement of management goals detailed in the 2018 *Forest Management Framework for New York City* (FMF), a 25-year roadmap to invest in and care for forests co-developed by NAC and NYC Park Informed by extensive research, the FMF's robust metrics recommend management to enhance biodiversity, adapt forests to climate change, engage community, and expand its trails system.

The **Community Forestry Associate** is responsible for coordinating a planning process and a training program for community volunteers that supports long-term natural areas forest management. The Associate will collaborate with the NYC Parks' Division of Forestry, Horticulture & Natural Resources and community groups including Park Friend's groups, faith-based groups, civic and outdoor organizations, educators and clubs to develop actionable community forest plans for park properties in Northern Manhattan and the Bronx. This 12-month, full-time role will report to NAC's Senior Ecologist and work within NAC's Research and Conservation team to meet the broader goals of active natural areas management citywide. This position will be 70% office and 30% field based.

MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES
- Under the direction of the Senior Ecologist, assist in development of forest management recommendations for Highbridge Park and Seton Falls Park including the analysis of existing park-specific data, and community input
- Communicate recommendations with local stakeholders and stewardship volunteers in northern Manhattan and northeast Bronx park communities through virtual and in-person presentations and workshops
- Collaborate with NAC and NYC Parks data managers, ecologists, and practitioners to scope and develop training and management

- Schedule, organize, track, and assist at forest management training events in Seton Falls Park and Highbridge Park in coordination with NYC Parks, and local community groups
- Facilitate, organize, and lead summer and fall community stewardship events in cooperation with NYC Parks and community leaders
- Create reports and write case studies about community engagement
- Assist in developing training modules

REQUIRED SKILLS/QUALIFICATIONS
Qualifications required to excel in this position can come from a range of both professional and lived experiences.
- Minimum high school diploma or GED and 3 years experience in land management, parks, or an ecological-related field, OR an Associate Degree or B.S. Degree preferably in biology, ecology, environmental science/studies, social sciences, land use planning, or a related field
- Urban natural area forest management skills and knowledge
- NYC Plant identification skills and knowledge of NYC natural area parkland
- Experience developing and maintaining relationships with community collaborators
- Experience in analytical, problem solving, and organizational skills including quantitative and qualitative data analysis and synthesis of ecological or social data including forest structure, composition, invasive species, social uses in parkland
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills including science communication
- Proficient in ArcGIS
- Proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel, Powerpoint and/or Google Suite
- Ability to work early mornings, evenings, and weekends as needed

PREFERRED SKILLS/QUALIFICATIONS:
- One year of professional experience in project management or community outreach
- A motor vehicle driver's license valid in the State of New York
- Access to a computer with a reliable network connection and a webcam for meetings with supervisors and partners
- Familiarity with forest ecology, ecological plot analysis, and developing and communicating forest management recommendations.
- Fluent in English and Spanish

JOB LOCATION:

NAC staff are currently working in a remote hybrid schedule due to COVID-19. The Community Forestry Associate should be willing to work from a primary office location in Manhattan when needed, and field work reporting locations will be primarily in Manhattan and the Bronx with occasional work in all five boroughs of New York City (Manhattan, Queens, the Bronx, Brooklyn and Staten Island).

COMPENSATION/BENEFITS

The NAC is offering a salary of $50,000 annually for this position at 35 hours/week, in addition to a competitive benefits package including medical, dental, 401K, and professional development.

APPLICATION

To apply for the **Community Forestry Associate** role at the Natural Areas Conservancy, please email your resume including three references with contact information and your cover letter as **one** PDF or Word document with **Community Forestry Associate** in the subject line to jobs@naturalareasnyc.org . Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until February 7, 2022. Please address any questions to jobs@naturalareasnyc.org. The deadline for applications is Monday, February 7, 2022.