

Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust Conservation Engagement Specialist



Title: Conservation Engagement Specialist

Reports to: Executive Director

Classification: Full time, exempt

Annual salary: \$48,000

Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust seeks an enthusiastic and motivated individual for the position of Conservation Engagement Specialist. The successful candidate will have a background in the natural sciences as well as exceptional interpersonal, written, oral and presentation skills including experience interacting with the public.

This is a full-time position based in Appleton, WI. The Conservation Engagement Specialist is primarily responsible for managing Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust's community conservation programming, including hosting conservation engagement activities and managing volunteer land stewards and managing land owned by the Land Trust.

Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust is a 501(c)3 nonprofit land conservation organization. NEWLT serves a twelve-county area of northeast Wisconsin, working with private landowners and collaborating with public entities to protect natural areas and to involve the community.

The Land Trust has protected over 5,000 acres of conservation land through the use of conservation easements (legal agreements that set private property aside for conservation purposes) and fee title ownership (conservation lands purchased by the Land Trust).

If you enjoy working both independently and in a cooperative team-approach in a challenging, at times fast-paced, but always rewarding, setting you may be the right person for this position.

Equity, Inclusion & Collaboration:

Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust is an equity-based employer. We value a diverse staff and an inclusive culture. We value staff that work for the good of the whole; that can affectively collaborate to achieve shared goals of the organization. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment.

Position Summary:

The Conservation Engagement Specialist is responsible for stewarding Land Trust Preserves and managing community engagement programming for Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust including interactions with the public, Land Trust members, volunteers and visitors to Preserves.

The emphasis for this position is placed on engaging members of the community in the land trust's conservation work. This person will organize field trips, work days, trainings, and other activities that involve participants and volunteers in furthering the goals of the Land Trust Strategic Plan: Conservation that Connects.

Along with development staff, the Conservation Engagement Specialist participates in fundraising and grant-writing, with focus on funding the activities and initiatives that fall within the responsibilities of this position.

The position manages Preserves in accordance with Land Trust Alliance Accreditation Commission Standards and Practices including annual monitoring, general upkeep, and using both contractors and volunteers to manage the properties to meet management plan objectives.

The Conservation Engagement Specialist is the main contact for volunteers and assumes responsibility for recruiting, onboarding, maintaining database and volunteer appreciation.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities:Conservation that Connects

Develop, coordinate, and implement mission-based environmental engagement programs, including hikes, trainings, and other activities which inform and excite land trust members and the public regarding the importance of conservation.

Develop and implement new outreach events and activities that reach a more diverse audience and provide a rewarding experience for participants.

Collaborate with partner organizations to achieve conservation and community engagement goals.

Draft compelling written materials about how to engage with the Land Trust and access and enjoy properties.

Assist with grant writing efforts to garner support for land stewardship and community engagement programming.

Managing Land

Arrange for annual monitoring for all Preserves. Review and process monitoring reports.

Build and nurture amicable relationships with neighboring landowners

Perform minor repairs to structures and signs. Coordinate ongoing land management and maintenance activities with contractors and volunteers.

Participate in planning and work cooperatively with communities, government agencies, and other stakeholders to achieve shared goals for recreation, community involvement, amenities, and education.

Participate in land management planning and plan implementation.

Assist with the resolution of trespasses, violations, disagreements with abutters, concerns from users and others pertaining to NEWLT-owned lands.

Grow a Volunteer Program

Engage volunteers to manage Land Trust-owned Preserves. Recruit, train, and supervise individual land stewardship volunteers to care for land trust properties. Communicate regularly with volunteers via email, phone, and website updates.

Identify land management and stewardship activities that groups of volunteers can assist with. Coordinate and supervise workdays. Supervise volunteer work crews in land stewardship projects.

Essential Experience and Competencies:

- Strong interpersonal, verbal, and written communication skills
- Well organized, detail oriented
- Able to set priorities and manage time as well as multiple projects and deadlines
- Upbeat, positive style
- Embraces and supports a culture of diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Able to do physical work in the outdoors in all weather conditions
- Must be able to manage confidential information with discretion and integrity

Preferred Candidates will Possess:

- Genuine care for the conservation mission of Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust
- A bachelor's degree and at least 3 years of experience in a related field
- Experience organizing and coordinating public events and leading programs
- Experience in land stewardship, trail maintenance, recreational management and/or forestry
- Natural history fluency
- Familiarity with the communities we serve

Qualifications and Skills:

- Bachelor's degree in natural resources, recreation management, environmental or natural sciences and 2 years' experience in related fields
- Exceptional interpersonal, written, oral and presentation skills
- Ability to work hospitably with people of diverse backgrounds, perspectives, and personalities, and to encourage a positive, safe, and fun working environment
- Outdoor and navigational skills
- Experience training and coordinating adult volunteers, preferably for work in outdoor settings
- Ability to work independently as well as part of a team
- Familiarity with northeast Wisconsin geography, culture and history
- Valid driver's license, proof of insurance and reliable transportation.

If you're interested in becoming a member of the Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust staff email a resume, cover letter and references to newlt@newlt.org by December 1st, 2022.