



Conservation Internship

Mississippi Valley Conservancy (the Conservancy) is a regional, non-profit land trust based in La Crosse, WI that has permanently conserved nearly 20,000 acres of blufflands, prairies, wetlands, and streams in southwestern Wisconsin. The Conservancy owns and manages 20 different properties totaling over 3,300 acres and also works with private landowners and local communities on voluntary conservation projects and environmental education in nine counties along or near the Mississippi River.

Summary of Position: The Conservation Intern will assist with habitat management and restoration of native prairie, forest, oak savanna, and wetland habitat on Conservancy-protected lands throughout southwest Wisconsin. Managing the ecological health of the natural communities throughout the Mississippi River Valley is rewarding hard work. Interns may gain skills and expertise in aspects of wildlife habitat management, including species identification, GIS mapping, timber stand improvement, prairie planting, oak savanna and prairie restoration, invasive species control, trail maintenance, and prescribed burning. In addition to the boots-on-the-ground land management and restoration experience, interns may assist with writing grants, management plans, burn plans, species monitoring and inventory, project proposals, as well as public speaking, leading public hikes, outreach events, volunteer work days, and helping with environmental education. Conservancy interns may also work with a variety of state, federal and private partners.

Duties include equipment maintenance, invasive species control, use of herbicides, tree and brush removal, prairie restoration, prescribed burning, boundary posting, supervising school and volunteer groups, coordinating work days and events, writing articles, and more. Sites and projects will be physically demanding and provide excellent hands-on experience in many facets of land management. Chainsaw and plant identification experience preferred.

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

- Working outdoors in adverse conditions (heat/cold, biting insects, etc.)
- Sincere interest in preserving southwest Wisconsin's ecosystems
- Strong work ethic & positive attitude
- Physically fit & able to work long days on steep, rugged terrain
- Plant and tree identification & experience with ArcGIS preferred
- Ability to communicate effectively, both verbally and in writing
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team
- Possess a valid driver's license and working vehicle
- Ability to use chainsaw and other power equipment preferred

Availability:

Conservation Interns will work primarily with Land Manager Levi Plath and the timeframe is ongoing year-round depending upon land management projects and priorities. Intern must be available for at least one full day a week and scheduling is flexible. The successful candidate will work approximately 8-25 hours/week dependent on weather conditions and land management priorities.

How to Apply:

Please **email** Levi Plath, Land Manager at contact below.

- A cover letter outlining your qualifications and why you want this position
- Resume
- A list of 3 references

For more information contact Levi Plath at levi@mississippivalleyconservancy.org or 608-784-3606 ext. 5