



Organization: Mississippi Valley Conservancy  
Date Posted: May 6, 2020  
Location: La Crosse, WI  
Position: Restoration Coordinator  
Full-time salaried, 40 hours a week

Mississippi Valley Conservancy (the Conservancy) is an award-winning regional, non-profit land trust based in La Crosse, WI that has permanently conserved over 21,000 acres of blufflands, prairies, wetlands, and streams in southwestern Wisconsin. The Conservancy owns and manages over 3,500 acres of public nature preserves 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.

**Position Description:** The Restoration Coordinator will be a member of a team dedicated to habitat restoration, permanent land protection, and public outreach. This position is responsible for completing habitat restoration and maintenance projects, coordinating and leading volunteers and school groups in habitat management activities, acquiring grant funding, conducting outreach for volunteer work days, providing environmental education, GIS mapping and land management planning and record keeping. Approximately 70% of time in this position will be spent in the field while 30% will be spent in the office or shop setting.

**Key Responsibilities:**

- Carry out habitat restoration projects including prescribed burning, invasive species control, timber stand improvement, prairie restoration, wetland management, access and trail maintenance and other activities.
- Work collaboratively with the Land Manager in accordance with the Conservancy's mission, strategic plan, land management plans and funding source guidelines.
- Take a leadership role within the Conservancy's prescribed burn program.
- Supervise and direct the summer intern crew and volunteers as directed by the Land Manager.
- Prepare and maintain GIS files and maps for nature preserves and new project maps as needed.
- Work with conservation partners including federal, state, and local units of governments, conservation organizations, private landowners and other partners.
- Lead and expand the Conservancy's "For the Wild" volunteer program for habitat management.
- Build successful partnerships with school groups, clubs, and other local resources to inspire a conservation ethic through habitat projects on Conservancy nature preserves.
- Connect the local community with the Mississippi Valley Conservancy mission.
- Provide public outreach in the forms of presentations, guided hikes, and other needs as assigned.
- Develop grant applications, reporting, and implementation for future habitat restoration projects.

**Essential Job Functions and Abilities:**

- Ability to traverse 400+ acre sites on foot, through steep, rugged terrain in a timely manner in remote areas all four seasons of the year.
- Enthusiasm for land stewardship and an ability to empower volunteers.
- Experience and knowledge identifying local habitat types, species and natural communities, and an awareness of general ecosystem principles and habitat management techniques.
- Proficiency in ArcMap 10.7 and handheld Garmin usage.
- Ability to work independently and to set and adhere to priorities.
- High flexibility to adjust to changing weather conditions and other field work challenges.
- Availability to work some evenings and weekends.
- Ability to function as a cooperative and supportive team member with other Conservancy staff.
- Genuine interest in community engagement and education about species and habitats.

**Minimum REQUIRED Qualifications:**

- Bachelor's degree in biology, natural resources, environmental science, environmental education, or similar field of study and 2 years of directly related professional experience in land conservation work.
- Experience managing prairie, forest, and wetland habitats utilizing ecological restoration principals, including invasive species control methods and herbicide use.
- High proficiency in the use and maintenance of chainsaws, pumper units, brush-cutters, sprayers, mowers, ATV's and other equipment.
- Ability to identify and prioritize habitat management needs.
- High proficiency in species and habitat identification.
- Possess a valid driver's license and dependable vehicle.
- Experience with prescribed burning and basic wildland fire certification (S-130/190).
- Computer and technology proficiency, including GIS mapping and GPS navigation.
- Prior experience coordinating and leading volunteer groups in habitat management activities.
- Prior experience providing environmental education to a variety of ages and audiences.

**Preferred Qualifications:**

- Burn Boss or Squad Boss experience.
- Knowledge of land trust principles and practices.
- Forestry, ornithology, or other natural resources specialty.
- First aid, CPR certification.
- Herbicide/pesticide applicator certification
- Advanced SAW, FISTA, or other chainsaw certification

**Supervisor:** Land Manager

**Compensation:** This is a salaried position with a starting range of \$32,000 to \$37,000 based on qualifications and experience. The Conservancy offers retirement and health insurance benefits, flexible work policies and a collaborative work environment. We also provide professional development opportunities. As a result, you will find a culture that supports and inspires conservation achievement and personal development.

**To Apply:** Send letter of interest, resume, and list of 3 professional references by email in Microsoft Word or PDF format to [levi@mississippivalleyconservancy.org](mailto:levi@mississippivalleyconservancy.org). Applications will be accepted until **June 15, 2020**.