Habitat Technician (2 Positions)

Mississippi Valley Conservancy (Conservancy) is a regional, non-profit land trust based in La Crosse, WI that has permanently conserved over 27,000 acres of blufflands, prairies, wetlands, and streams in southwestern Wisconsin. The Conservancy owns and manages 27 nature preserves totaling over 5,500 acres and also works with private landowners and local communities on voluntary conservation projects and environmental education in nine counties of the Driftless Area.

Summary of Position:

The Conservancy is seeking two part-time, seasonal Habitat Technicians to assist with implementing habitat restoration projects on the 5,500+ acres of nature preserves owned by the Conservancy. Projects may include timber stand improvement, brush removal, prescribed burning, invasive species control, leading and supervising volunteers and/or interns, chainsaw and brushsaw operation, herbicide application, and equipment maintenance. Approximately 95% of the work will be conducted outdoors in the field.

Some evenings and weekends will be required. Work routinely involves uneven terrain, steep slopes, and physically demanding conditions.

These positions will begin in January 2027 and extend through August 27, 2027. Beginning May 17 and continuing through August 27, the Habitat Technicians will serve as crew leaders for our summer intern crews, supervising three crew members and coordinating daily field operations.

Required Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

- Prior field experience using and maintaining chainsaws, brush cutters, herbicide sprayers, UTV's, trailers, backpack pump cans, shovels, rakes, etc. for extended periods of time
- Plant and tree identification skills for both invasive and native species
- Successful candidates will be highly motivated, hardworking, physically fit, flexible, and detail oriented
- Ability to drive and back up a large pickup truck with a trailer; UTVs and other vehicles
- 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
- Strong work ethic & positive attitude
- Experience identifying and managing prairie, forest, riparian and wetland habitats
- Ability to accurately and efficiently complete data entry and various administrative tasks as needed
- A solid understanding of and experience with ecological restoration principles
- Experience leading a field crew on land management and restoration projects
- Basic wildland firefighter certification FFT2 and experience with pumper units preferred, but not required

Details:

The Habitat Technicians will work directly with the Conservancy's Land Management Team. These positions will average approximately 25–30 hours per week, depending on weather conditions and land management priorities.

During prescribed burn season (mid-March through May 15), work schedules may exceed 30 hours per week depending on weather conditions and burn opportunities. Flexibility during this period is essential. Weekly hours may also fall below 25 when weather conditions prevent fieldwork or affect project schedules.

The positions pay $18 per hour and are expected to run from January through August 27, 2027. **Applications will be accepted until the positions are filled.**

How to Apply:

Please apply by **emailing** Levi Plath, Director of Land Management at levi@mississippivalleyconservancy.org

Applications should be sent as a single PDF containing a cover letter outlining your qualifications and why you want this position, resume, and a list of 3 references.

For more information contact Levi Plath at levi@mississippivalleyconservancy.org or 608-621-2439