



## **RESTORATION ECOLOGIST**

### **Position Description**

**Objective:** To assist the Director of Stewardship with managing NLI's preserves, developing the conservation easement stewardship program, developing management plans and growing the volunteer land management initiatives on lands owned by the Natural Land Institute primarily in northwest Illinois. Candidates with a degree in Natural Resource Management, Biological Sciences or equivalent are preferred.

#### **Responsibilities:**

- Assist with natural areas management, including seed collecting, native plantings, cultivation in greenhouse, invasive species control, prescribed burning, tree stand improvement and planning on NLI preserves.
- Annually monitor and prepare monitoring reports for NLI's conservation easements and preserves.
- Supervise staff and volunteers under the direction of the Director of Stewardship.
- Additional tasks may include bird, mammal, herptile, insect, macroinvertebrate and vegetation monitoring and inventories along with database entry and development.
- Work with volunteers on natural resource management projects at NLI properties.
- Prepare management plans, maps and exhibits for NLI preserves and conservation easements under the direction of the Stewardship Director.
- Maintain bi-monthly activity records detailing accomplishments.
- Prepare for and attend donor/public events hosted by the Natural Land Institute.
- Maintain and service facilities and equipment as needed.
- Assist with developing the conservation easement stewardship support program for NLI's conservation easement landowners (Heritage LandKeepers). Activities related to this responsibility will include outreach, planning, and creation of a management support program for landowners including information dissemination and trainings on invasive species control and prescribed burning among others.

#### **Required Skills:**

- Knowledge of northern Illinois ecosystems, flora and fauna.
- Candidate must be detail oriented, well-organized, personable, friendly and able to interact and work closely with diverse stakeholders while representing NLI.
- Candidate must hold an undergraduate degree in natural resources management, biological sciences or a closely related field, and field experience is recommended.
- Candidate must have the ability to physically implement natural resource management tasks, including walking over uneven and difficult terrain, and carrying heavy items such as seed and equipment weighing up to 50 pounds.
- Knowledge of ESRI ArcGIS and GPS receivers.
- Candidate must hold a clean driving record.
- Ability to competently and safely use and maintain equipment needed in restoration activities, including mowers, tractors, UTVs, pumps, chainsaws, clearing saws, etc.
- Ability to evaluate natural areas and make recommendations for potential land protection.



**Desirable Skills:**

- Proven ability to work on own.
- Experience working with volunteers.
- Possession of or ability to acquire an Illinois Pesticide Applicator License.
- NWCG S-130/S-190 wildland firefighter training certificates and Illinois Certified Prescribed Burn Manager certification and/or the Chicago Wilderness Midwest Ecological Prescription Burn Crew Member Training.
- Knowledge of word processing and database programs.

**Hours:** This is a full-time position anticipated to begin Monday June 17, 2019. The successful candidate will be required to work occasional weekends and evenings.

**Compensation:** Negotiable depending on education and experience.

**Benefits:** Benefits include two weeks vacation, two weeks sick leave, three personal days, and eleven holidays. NLI pays health insurance of an employee at the rate of 80% of the group premium. NLI carries worker's compensation insurance. Employees are eligible to direct funds to a tax-deferred 403(b) retirement plan.

**Equal Opportunity Employer:** NLI is an equal opportunity employer and welcomes diversity in the workplace.

**To apply:** Please send completed resume, cover letter, and three references to the attention of Zach Grycan, Director of Stewardship at [info@naturalland.org](mailto:info@naturalland.org) no later than May 20, 2019.

Website: <http://www.naturalland.org>