



Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy

PROTECTING LAND AND WATER FOR PEOPLE, FOR WILDLIFE, FOREVER.

POSITION TITLE:

Seasonal Land Steward

(2 positions)

Summer 2021

About Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy

Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy is a nonprofit, regional conservation organization working with the communities of Litchfield and northern Fairfield Counties to safeguard natural and working lands, public recreation areas, and drinking water resources forever. Founded in 1965, NCLC is the largest land trust in Connecticut, protecting 12,500 acres (and growing) of vast, connected natural areas. **NCLC's conserved lands include 21 public hiking preserves, 40 working farms, and over 3,000 acres of habitat for rare and endangered species.**

NCLC believes in connecting people to nature through public access to wildlands and free educational programming for all ages. NCLC is also a dedicated conservation partner and service provider, assisting the work of local land trusts and regional partners through funding and technical assistance for acquisitions and stewardship, as well as providing shared staff. To **strengthen the region's capacity to conserve high-quality conservation lands** and ensure the permanence of those conserved lands for the future, NCLC merged with Brookfield Open Space Legacy in 2019 and Naromi Land Trust in 2020.

In recognition of its exceptional work, NCLC is a nationally accredited land trust, and has **received the state's highest land trust award** for land preservation from the Connecticut Land Conservation Council, an EPA Environmental Merit Award for its outstanding commitment to protecting the natural environment, and a Working Lands Alliance Pathfinder Award for its significant contributions to educating the public about the importance of farmland preservation.

The Opportunity

The positions are 30 hours per week, June thru August 2021*. The positions will primarily include field work with some remote work from home or the NCLC office as COVID protocols may still be in effect. Field work will take place at NCLC preserves and at preserves owned and managed by other area land trusts. This is a unique hands-on opportunity to gain experience with land and public preserve management, trail construction and maintenance, GPS/GIS and

remote aerial imagery, and other important stewardship activities for NCLC and NCLC partner organizations. These positions are funded by a grant from the Connecticut Community Foundation and by private donors. The Stewards will be trained and managed by NCLC's professional staff.

Work will be performed outdoors in various weather conditions and on rugged terrain, as well as indoors from your home and/or the NCLC office in Kent, CT.

*Start and end dates are flexible.

Primary Responsibilities

- Trail and preserve stewardship including trail maintenance, (re)blazing, boundary posting, and invasive plant control.
- Monitoring protected properties using a provided GPS-enabled tablet and GIS software (ArcCollector) as well as monitoring with satellite imagery (Upstream Tech-LENS); completion of required documentation.
- Use of GPS, GIS, and satellite imagery for NCLC and partners.
- Trail assessment and restoration projects in field, forest, and wetland habitats.
- Data entry and processing with Microsoft Office Suite, ArcMap, image software.
- Record keeping, including weekly logs, other reporting, and self-reflection.
- Other stewardship and outreach projects as assigned.

Minimum Qualifications

- Age 18 or older.
- Demonstrated knowledge and interest in natural resources issues (related to land management, recreation, agriculture, and forestry, etc.).
- Interest in working outdoors in variable weather conditions, and at times completing physically demanding projects.
- High school diploma and one year of college level coursework in environmental studies, environmental science, education, biology, ecology, forestry, or other related field.
- Excellent interpersonal, written, and verbal communication skills.
- Strong sense of ethics, integrity, discretion, and ability to maintain confidentiality.
- Ability to work some non-standard hours, including occasional weekends.
- A valid insurable **U.S. driver's license**. Preferred: ability to drive a manual transmission company pick-up truck. Otherwise, personal vehicle mileage to be reimbursed at current federal rate.
- Preferred: experience operating power tools including a weed trimmer and/or hedge trimmer.
- Preferred: experience with ESRI ArcView software, GPS (phone, tablet, handheld).
- Preferred: trail building and public preserve management experience.

Working Conditions:

- This position will work closely with other staff members and under the direct supervision of NCLC's Assistant Director of Land Conservation and Conservation Easement Manager.
- This position will include approximately 70% field and 30% office duties.
- This position requires walking/hiking and working in uneven terrain, sometimes at remote locations, in all summer field conditions (heat, humidity, inclement weather, bugs).
- This position will involve the use of supplied tools and equipment including a laptop and computer tablet, loppers, hand saws, rakes, shovels, hammer and nails, painting supplies, a weed whacker and hedge trimmer.
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be provided such as work gloves, eye/ear protection, reflective vest, hard hat, and chaps (for power tool use).
- Safety protocols for COVID-19 have been established and are expected to be followed by all staff members.

NCLC is an Equal Opportunity Employer without regard to race, color, age, sex, sexual orientation, religion or national origin.

Please send cover letter and resume by email to info@ctland.org (preferred) or by mail:

NCLC
Paul Elconin, Director of Land Conservation
P.O. Box 821
Kent, CT 06757

Applications accepted until positions filled.
No phone calls please.