



# Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy

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

## SUMMER LAND STEWARD

### **About Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy (NCLC)**

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 13,300 acres (and growing) of vast, connected natural areas. NCLC's conserved lands include 22 public hiking preserves, 48 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. NCLC is a nationally accredited land trust with the Land Trust Accreditation Commission.

### **Position Description:**

NCLC is a collaborative and supportive work environment that encourages and inspires professional growth. NCLC's Summer Land Stewards are part-time, paid positions for college-aged students who are passionate about environmental conservation and eager to make a tangible difference in the communities of Northwest Connecticut. Summer Land Stewards play a critical role in maintaining NCLC's public nature preserves, as well as assisting on stewardship projects on NCLC's other conserved lands and agricultural properties. Summer Land Stewards are predominantly field-based and are expected to work independently with oversight from NCLC's professional staff. Continuing education is a fundamental component of the Summer Land Steward experience. Every steward is provided mentorship and opportunities for continued education through participation in ongoing research projects, technology training, and collaborative projects with partnering organizations.

### **Duties and Responsibilities**

#### *Stewardship Program*

- Trail and preserve stewardship, including trail construction and maintenance, invasive species control, and clean-up of dumping/littering
- Erosion and restoration projects in field, forest, and wetland habitats
- Use and maintenance of hand and power tools

- Participation in volunteer trail workdays and other outreach events
- Record keeping, including weekly logs, other reporting, and self-reflection

*Outreach and Partnerships*

- Work in partnership with colleagues, partner organizations, members, and the community at large to build a welcoming, successful, and respected community institution
- Foster positive relationships with neighbors and visitors to public lands
- Support the organization’s public events by attending hikes, lectures, and other programs as needed
- Provide written reports on stewardship work for use in e-newsletters, social media, and other donor communications

*Organizational Sustainability*

- NCLC’s staff operate as a close-knit team and the Summer Land Stewards may be expected to perform other duties as needed or assigned

**Reports to:**

Public Lands Manager and Director of Stewardship

**Qualifications**

*Preferred Qualifications*

- Demonstrated interest in natural resources issues (related to land management, recreation, agriculture, and forestry, etc.)
- One year of relevant coursework in environmental studies, environmental science, education, biology, ecology, forestry, or one year of related field experience
- Familiarity with trail maintenance equipment, including hand tools, leaf blower, weed whacker, etc.

*Minimum Qualifications*

- Ability to work outdoors in variable weather conditions, and complete physically demanding projects
- Excellent interpersonal, written, and oral communication skills
- Strong sense of ethics, integrity, and discretion
- High school diploma
- Valid driver’s license and use of personal vehicle for transportation amongst preserves
- Cellphone for communicating with supervisors from the field

**Salary and Benefits:**

Summer Land Stewards are an equal opportunity, part-time, non-exempt position based in Kent, CT. Each Summer Land Steward will work between 20-30 hours per week for up to 10 weeks. Hourly pay rates are commensurate with experience and range between \$16-18 per hour. Part-time employees are not eligible for paid-time off or other benefits.