



Western Reserve Land Conservancy

land • people • community

JOB POSTING URBAN GREENSPACE COORDINATOR

Western Reserve Land Conservancy has an immediate opening for an Urban Greenspace Coordinator. This full-time position is located at the organization's Thriving Communities office, 812 Huron Road East, Suite 840, Cleveland, OH 44115. This position reports to the Director of Urban Projects.

BACKGROUND

Western Reserve Land Conservancy provides the people of northeast Ohio with essential natural assets through land conservation and restoration. Headquartered in Moreland Hills, Ohio, we are the largest land conservancy in Ohio, employing over 40 people in offices throughout northern and eastern portions of the state. Our land conservation team has conserved more than 60,000 acres of natural area and working farms in 23 Ohio counties. Thriving Communities, our urban revitalization program, is nationally recognized for thought leadership on removing blight; creating land banks to find productive uses for vacant properties; and revitalizing communities through greening strategies. Our mission is funded through a combination of program revenue, government grants, consulting fees and philanthropic gifts from individuals, foundations and corporations.

POSITION SUMMARY

Thriving Communities receives part of its funding from the Saint Luke's Foundation to facilitate blight removal and the revitalization of the Cleveland neighborhoods served by the Foundation -- Mount Pleasant, Buckeye, and Woodland Hills. The Coordinator will work directly with the Director of Urban Projects to oversee the creation and maintenance of public and private greenspace within the program area, which is called the Saint Luke's footprint. This requires collecting and analyzing data obtained from property inventories conducted by the Land Conservancy. This data in conjunction with other data from Case Western Reserve University's NEO CANDO database will be used to target properties for demolition and the development of greening strategies for vacant lots.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Public Greenspace Creation

The Saint Luke's program team within Thriving Communities is currently working on five public greenspace projects within the program area. The Coordinator will collaborate with each set of project partners on the following: 1) create and manage the project budget; 2) work with the City of Cleveland on all necessary permitting; 3) work with individual designers or design firms to create and implement a plan that reflects the desires of project stakeholders; 4) work closely with the Land Conservancy's Development and Public Funding teams to create a strategy to raise adequate funding for creation and maintenance of these public greenspaces; and 5) establish a maintenance agreement with project partners and promote these spaces to the public.

Ground Work

Given the amount of population loss and subsequent demolition in the program area, large scale greening interventions are needed that are cost-conscious and are relatively easy to maintain. The Coordinator will first help map the condition of key areas of vacant land in the Saint Luke's footprint. This will help determine where resources ought to be focused. The second step is to use these maps to

incorporate into planning processes, where residents can influence the data to steer action to where it is most needed and most meaningful. The third step is to celebrate the land through stewardship activities like soil remediation and establishing plant communities.

Side Yard Disposition

The Coordinator will work with the Land Conservancy GIS team as well as the City of Cleveland and NEO CANDO to create a list of eligible property owners for side yard acquisition. Using this list, the Coordinator is responsible for contacting property owners and providing resources for the land to be transferred resulting in improvements being made.

Additional Responsibilities

- Collaborate with other Saint Luke's Program team members to monitor properties as candidates for demolition and rehabilitation. This includes working with the liaison from the City of Cleveland as well as the Cuyahoga Land Bank to track the progress of a list of targeted properties in the target area.
- Work closely with community engagement specialists as part of the City of Cleveland's Healthy Homes Initiative, which includes the sharing of property survey data and code enforcement data with local Community Development Corporations and municipal officials by incorporating this data into existing programs as well as NEO CANDO's NST database.
- Coordinate with Land Conservancy Development staff to ensure funding strategies are aligned and implemented in unison.
- Manage oversight of the Saint Luke's grant to ensure grant deliverables and project timelines are met.
- Work with the Director of Urban Projects to ensure project timelines are established and met.

REQUIRED EXPERIENCE AND CAPABILITIES

- Strong background in community engagement and development
- Highly energetic with a track record of consensus building, implementing plans, managing competing deadlines and achieving goals
- Possess strong communication skills, both written and oral
- Able to manage multiple projects concurrently and effectively
- Collaborate within multiple internal departments as well as with government officials, for-profit corporations, and non-profit organizations
- Demonstrate strong attention to detail and organization
- Travel as needed to project locations
- Possess prior experience with Microsoft Office products
- Ability to learn additional software programs is a plus
- Embrace and advocate the mission of Western Reserve Land Conservancy

APPLICATION PROCESS

Interested individuals should send a resume and cover letter to Bob Kissling, Director of Human Resources, at rkissling@wrlandconservancy.org

Western Reserve Land Conservancy is an Equal Opportunity Employer and is committed to hiring staff members who represent the rich diversity of our community. All qualified candidates will receive consideration for employment and not be discriminated against based on race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, color, religion, national origin, disability, genetic information, protected veteran's status, or other legally protected classification in the State of Ohio.