



RESTORATION TECHNICIAN

POSITION DESCRIPTION/ LOCATION

Anticipated Start Date: March 2023

The Restoration Technician position is a full-time position based in Lake Forest, Illinois. This position reports to the Director of Land Stewardship to identify, implement, assess, and perform restoration and land stewardship activities for Lake Forest Open Land's (LFOLA) properties and preserves. This position works as part of the Land Stewardship team on ecological restoration, preserve maintenance and community engagement.

JOB RESPONSIBILITIES

- The ecological restoration and preservation of natural areas owned and/ or managed by LFOLA. Based in Lake Forest Illinois, the dominant land management focus includes prairie, savanna, ravine, and wetland habitats.
- Fieldwork tasks include, but are not limited to, invasive species control by cultural, mechanical, or chemical control involving the handling, mixing and applying using various methods of application; collecting processing, and sowing native seeds and plants; annual site monitoring; prescribed burning and burn preparation.
- Site operation and maintenance duties include trail building, snow removal from lots and walkways; hiking trail maintenance; maintaining facilities and equipment in clean, safe, and efficient working order; removal of litter.
- Office work tasks include budget tracking, site monitoring reports, records of hours and activities, and other reports, data organization, and administrative tasks.
- Outreach and leadership tasks may include leading volunteer workdays; organizing and assisting volunteer monitoring activities and other programs; performing a safety orientation and supervision of daily tasks for seasonal interns and volunteers; communicating and coordinating with contractors; collaborating with other agencies and organizations; serving as a representative of LFOLA in the community including, but not limited to, public interactions, events, neighbor relations, and community partnerships.
- Participate in and lead special events and public engagement gatherings, which will occur both during the work week as well as occasional evenings and weekends.
- Participate in professional development training.
- Other duties as assigned.

POSITION REQUIREMENTS

- Bachelor's degree in a natural resources discipline or equivalent combination of knowledge of ecological land stewardship principles, current trends, and practices in conservation, land management, and natural resource preservation along with three years of work experience. LFOA will also consider candidates who hold a high school diploma, associate's degree, or certificate with three to five years of comparable work and/or life experience.
- Knowledge of the flora and fauna of the Chicago Region and/or the ecosystems of the Midwest.
- Three to five years of experience working with ecological restoration, invasive species control, herbicide application, prescribed burning, and planting preferred.
- Ability to interpret maps. Experience with GIS hardware and software is encouraged.
- Establish and maintain an effective working relationship with all organizational employees, patrons, and volunteers.
- Excellent time management and prioritization skills; ability to work proactively and independently without constant supervision.
- Demonstrate the ability to exercise sound judgment in solving problems and decision-making; ability to respond professionally to challenging
- Excellent written and oral skills; ability to communicate clearly and concisely in a professional manner.
- Ability or willingness to learn to safely use and maintain tools including but not limited to chainsaws, brush cutters, hand tools, tractors, trucks and trailers, mowers, ATV/UTV, and agricultural spraying equipment. Must demonstrate safe practices using the required PPE for each situation.
- Proficiency with standard office equipment and software such as MS Word, PowerPoint, and Excel.
- Ability to perform strenuous physical work, sometimes under adverse conditions or in inclement weather including heat, humidity, sunlight, and rain as well as environmental conditions like biting insects and hazardous plants, chemicals such as cleaning supplies, pesticides, and gasoline/oil, and machinery with moving parts and high noise levels. This includes: routine moderate lifting and the ability to carry up to 50 pounds and the ability to stand or walk for long periods over rough, uneven terrain and wet and slippery surfaces, and may include stooping, twisting, climbing, balancing, kneeling, crouching, or crawling, and visual acuity.
- Candidate must be willing and able to work a flexible schedule including occasional evenings and weekends.

We would like to note that if you do not meet all the qualifications as stated, we are interested in finding the best candidate for the job, and that candidate may be one who comes from a less traditional background. If you are interested in applying, we encourage all applicants to think broadly about their background and qualifications for this role.

LICENSES & CERTIFICATIONS

- Must possess and present a valid driver's license and ensure reliable transportation to/from work.
- Illinois Pesticide Applicators License or the ability to obtain within 3 months of employment.
- CPR/AED and First Aid Certification or the ability to obtain within 12 months of employment.
- Chicago Wilderness Prescribed Burn Training and/or NWCG Wildland Firefighter Type II training or ability to obtain soon after employment.
- Final candidates must pass a professional background investigation.

APPLICATIONS DUE BY March 1, 2023

Please submit a cover letter, resume, and references to the Director of Land Stewardship, Heather Decker at: hdecker@lfoa.org

LFOA offers a competitive salary based on experience. We provide Health Insurance options, 401k, paid time off & holidays

ABOUT LAKE FOREST OPEN LANDS

Visit: www.lfola.org

LFOLA Culture

At LFOLA we strive to engage and expand our community's commitment to land preservation and conservation.

Our mission statement states: *We are an independently funded conservation and educational organization devoted to the acquisition and stewardship of our natural landscapes, and to ensuring all generations have a meaningful, lasting connection to nature.*

As such, every team member at LFOLA is considered a leader who embraces the role they have been assigned and encourages colleagues to be their best through effective communication, collaboration, and shared values. As a small organization, we are self-starters and flexible to ever-changing circumstances. We operate from a place of integrity, trust, and personal responsibility with the goal of representing LFOLA in a positive way. We have mutual respect for one another and use discretion in all business dealings and communication.

Acknowledging Those Who Cared For The Land Before Us

Lake Forest Open Lands honors the land we are on by recognizing that the nature preserves we steward are the ancestral homelands of the Council of Three Fires: the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi. These lands were also an important place of trade for many other peoples including the Sauk, Meskwaki, Miami, Menominee, Ho-Chunk, and Kickapoo.

We offer tribute with gratitude to the land and to the people who have stewarded it throughout the generations. We acknowledge our commitment to continuing to learn how to be better stewards of the land we care for and to strengthen our relationship with all who have come before and will come after.

Policy of Non-Discrimination

LFOLA is committed to equal-opportunity employment. We are proud to maintain personnel policies based on the individual's qualifications, merits, and achievements. All decisions to recruit, hire, promote, and release from employment are made without discriminating with regard to race, color, religion, political affiliation, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status or physical or mental disabilities, or any other factors protected by law.

It is the policy of LFOLA to comply with all the relevant and applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Illinois Human Rights Act and all other applicable state and federal labor laws. LFOLA will not discriminate against any qualified employee because of that person's physical or mental disability. LFOLA will also make reasonable accommodations wherever necessary for all employees or applicants with disabilities, provided that the individual is otherwise qualified to safely perform the essential duties and assignments connected with the job and provided that any accommodations made do not impose an undue hardship on LFOLA.

