

Genesee Conservation District Position Description: Resource Conservationist

Multiple positions – Come grow with us!

POSITION SUMMARY

To further the vision of an inspired community that lives sustainably with our natural environment, Genesee Conservation District is seeking applicants to fill multiple Resource Conservationist positions. Resource Conservationists deliver education and technical assistance to landowners, producers, and residents toward the implementation of best management environmental practices. Resource Conservationists work cooperatively with federal, state, and local partners to provide connections to resources and programs, including, but not limited to: EQIP, CSP, CRP/CREP, MAEAP. These exciting and rewarding professional career opportunities are focused on conservation and environmental protection. Applicants may bring training, knowledge, education, or experience focused on soil and water conservation, watershed management, habitat and wildlife, agriculture, natural resources, environmental sustainability, forestry, urban agriculture and conservation, or other closely related backgrounds and fields of study.

GENERAL ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS (Specific functions will be assigned based on grant deliverables)

- Contacts and provides natural resources conservation information to the public, landowners, and producers
- Develops and maintains positive working relationships with colleagues and the community
- Coordinates Farm Bill and State of Michigan programs and guidelines at the local level within Genesee County. Some positions' coverage area will extend to nearby counties.
- Convene local growers to identify barriers and opportunities toward the creation of a sustainable, resilient local food system
- Provide technical assistance to implement climate smart agricultural and conservation practices on traditional, small-scale, and backyard farming operations
- Develops conservation plans consisting of practices that will mitigate or reduce environmental risks, improve water quality, and improve habitat for wildlife
- Maintains accurate records and a well-organized filing system for those records
- Performs Inventory & Evaluation (I&E), survey, design and inspection of conservation practices
- Coordinates outreach events which highlight BMPs that reduce sediment and nutrient loading, and various partner programs to include agriculture, forestry, wildlife, and habitat systems
- Promotes conservation and other stewardship practices through displays, newsletters, presentations, on-location field days, demonstrations, public service announcements, news releases, and other means
- Conducts on-farm assessments using various tools
- Assists landowners in developing emergency management plans for their farmsteads.
- Assists individuals with verified Right to Farm complaints, to bring them into conformance with Michigan's Generally Accepted Agriculture Management Practices (GAAMPS)
- Works closely with the United States Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS), and Farm Service Agency (FSA) to provide the technical assistance necessary for producers to access Farm Bill cost-share funds
- Provides timely monthly and quarterly reporting of deliverables and accomplishments; timely updates to various databases
- Attends and participates in various professional development classes and training events
- Collaborates with District staff and external partners to promote conservation and educate diverse audiences on the importance of environmental quality
- Supports District programs and activities

- Performs other essential activities as required by grant agreements
- Other duties as assigned

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Bachelor's Degree in agriculture, natural resource management, environmental sciences, or a related degree from an accredited college or university. Some positions may not require the completion of a degree program; applicants with an extensive background in the fields described may be considered qualified and are encouraged to apply.
- Ability to plan, schedule, and prioritize workload
- Maintain a valid State of Michigan drivers' license, reliable transportation, and willingness to travel in urban, suburban, and rural areas throughout Genesee County
- Able to interpret and implement written and verbal directions
- Strong organizational skills
- Strong customer service skills
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Ability to work independently without direct supervision and as part of a team
- Ability to work efficiently outdoors in varying conditions and terrain
- Exhibits excellent social and interpersonal skills; relates effectively to diverse clientele and work groups
- Ability to work flexible hours, including some evenings and weekends
- Proficient use of PC and Microsoft Office Suite
- Must pass federal background check

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Minimum two years' experience in agriculture or natural resource fieldwork
- Knowledge of and experience working with agricultural producers and practices
- Experience implementing USDA-NRCS and FSA conservation programs
- Experience using USDA Conservation Desktop and Pro Tracts software programs
- Working knowledge of GIS mapping programs
- Experience collaborating on, developing, and delivering education programs to a variety of audiences in diverse settings

COMPENSATION

The positions are full-time (40 hours per week); grant-funded at \$18-\$22 per hour based on qualifications. Continuation beyond this fiscal year is contingent upon funding, which is renewed annually. Benefits include paid federal holidays, paid time off, and a small benefit stipend. This work will be performed in the shared USDA-NRCS office and in the field primarily between the hours of 8am-4:30pm Monday-Friday.

TO APPLY

Submit a cover letter stating your suitability for the position based on knowledge and skills, along with a resume, unofficial transcripts, and professional references to Angela Warren by email at geneseeecd@yahoo.com by February 20, 2023 or until the positions are filled.

Genesee Conservation District does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, family status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations.