



Seasonal Land Steward

New Canaan Land Trust Summer 2021

About the New Canaan Land Trust

The New Canaan Land Trust (NCLT) is a nationally accredited non-profit land conservation organization, operating in New Canaan, Connecticut. Founded in 1967, NCLT protects nearly 400 acres of open space, ranging from single-acre wetlands to 45+ acre woodlands. NCLT is the largest private landowner in New Canaan, and continually works to add to its portfolio of protected lands through donation and strategic acquisitions.

NCLT is driven by its mission to engage the New Canaan Community in the conservation and stewardship of open space. Approximately half of NCLT's acreage is open to the public, with over 6 miles of trails across 10 of NCLT's largest preserves. Events, internships, volunteer opportunities, and other community programs help to strengthen the New Canaan community's connection with NCLT's special places.

About the Seasonal Land Steward Position

The New Canaan Land Trust seeks a seasonal, part-time Land Steward to help manage its 400-acre portfolio of properties. The position will primarily include field work, with some remote work from home and/or at the NCLT office. This is a unique, hands-on opportunity to gain experience with land management, GPS/GIS, and following best practices for land stewardship.

Primary Responsibilities

- Conduct and document inspections of the Land Trust's 65 fee-owned properties and 14 conservation easements, in accordance with Land Trust Alliance's Standards & Practices.
- With the support of the Executive Director, and in accordance with NCLT's policies, resolve minor encroachment issues identified during property inspections.
- Steward NCLT preserves by:
 - Mowing property frontages, trails, parking areas, and seating areas, as needed (usually on a two-week rotation).
 - Maintaining trails for public access by clearing fallen trees or branches, repairing trail infrastructure, etc.
 - Completing other land stewardship projects as assigned.
- Maintain records of work, including weekly logs and progress reports.
- Provide weekly updates to the Executive Director.



Minimum Qualifications

- Age 18 or older, with high school diploma.
- Demonstrated knowledge and interest in natural resource issues related to land management, recreation, and stewardship.
- Interest in working outdoors in variable weather conditions, and completing physically demanding projects.
- Experience working with a variety of hand tools commonly used in land management, including saws, loppers, rakes, shovels, pick-axes, etc.
- Strong work ethic, ability to work independently, and able to solve problems.
- A valid, insurable US driver's license, and willingness to drive a full-sized pickup truck.
- Preferred: Experience operating power tools including a weed whacker or chainsaw.
- Preferred: Experience with GPS, map/compass, or other wayfinding systems.
- Preferred: Experience with trail maintenance or construction.
- Preferred: Basic rough carpentry skills.

Duration

This seasonal position is available late-May through early-September, and the exact start and end dates are flexible. Preference will be given to candidates who can work for the majority of the listed duration.

Hours

This part time position will average 15 hours per week, and will not exceed 20 hours per week. There is a fair amount of flexibility in the work schedule, with the only firm time commitments being on Wednesdays (or on weekends, if preferred), when NCLT's truck and power tools are available to the Land Steward and are not being used by NCLT's Summer Internship Program.

Compensation

This is an hourly position, paid bi-weekly. The hourly rate will be \$15-\$17 per hour, based on the experience and qualifications of the applicant. Personal vehicle mileage will be reimbursed at the current federal rate. NCLT carries worker's compensation insurance for all employees, and does not offer any additional benefits to seasonal employees.

How to Apply

Please send a resume and cover letter to info@newcanaanlandtrust.org. Only complete applications sent to this address will be considered. Applications will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis.