

RIPARIAN BUFFER STEWARD



Position Description:

This is a technical/programmatic position under the direct supervision of the Otsego County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) District Manager. Primary responsibilities include but are not limited to the maintenance of buffers within the County of Otsego. Evaluation and replanting of buffers, either in Otsego County or any location assigned by the Otsego County SWCD District Manager, coordinating with private landowners and the Upper Susquehanna Coalition (USC) for buffer-related maintenance and assisting the Otsego County SWCD District manager and technicians with other related entry-level work in the department as needed. There is potential for buffer stewards to be hired full-time at SWCDs after the end of the internship.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES (Illustrative only):

- Perform tasks associated with riparian and young forest establishment, including data collection, monitoring, development of management activities, and oversight of management. This will include species identification, in-field measurements, and report writing.
- Perform riparian buffer implementation, including the installation and maintenance of streamside buffers with the potential to provide planning and design assistance. Buffer maintenance includes weeding tree tubes, replacing protective materials, weed whacking, mowing, and management oversight.
- Working and coordinating with the Upper Susquehanna Coalition (USC) and other partner organizations of the Otsego Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD).
- Writing Reports and literature for shareholders, partner organizations, and public outreach regarding the work of both buffers and the Otsego SWCD.
- Work with other stewards throughout the watershed performing similar tasks.
- Aiding in the daily operations of Otsego SWCD or as required by the District Manager; Other related duties as required.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES: Knowledge of current GIS, word-processing, and other applicable computer software; knowledge of local geography; knowledge of basic math and physics; knowledge of the fundamentals of environmental studies; ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing; ability to work with the public; ability to work independently; ability to maintain a professional and cooperative working relationship with all agency and interagency staff; ability to perform physically demanding work in an outdoor environment.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- A. Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university with an Associate's degree or higher in Environmental Science, Agronomy, Horticulture, or other closely related field; **OR**
- B. Two (2) years of undergraduate studies leading to an Associates or Bachelor's degree, from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university, with a minimum of 40

semester credits completed in Environmental Science, Agronomy, Horticulture or other closely related courses; **OR**

- C. Graduation from high school or possession of a high school equivalency diploma and two (2) years of full- time experience or its part-time equivalent in technical work in environmental science or related experience.
- D.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT:

Possession of a New York State driver's license with reliable transportation must be maintained during employment.

For those interested parties, feel free to reach out to the Otsego County SWCD via the following email: galanopoulosc@otsegoilandwater.com