



AmeriCorps Project Conserve 2019 – 2020 Service Description



AmeriCorps Position Title: Watershed Resources Coordinator
Host Site: RiverLink

Service Term: September 4, 2019 – July 31, 2020

Supervisor Name: Renee Fortner
Supervisor Title: Watershed Resources Manager
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Host Site Mission Statement:

RiverLink promotes the environmental and economic vitality of the French Broad River and its watershed as a place to live, learn, work and play.

Summary of Position:

The Watershed Resources Coordinator works directly with RiverLink's Watershed and Land Resource Managers to improve water quality in the French Broad River Watershed. This is accomplished through grant funded watershed restoration projects (stream restorations, watershed planning studies, and stormwater best management practices); educating the community about water quality and quantity issues; land protection and stewardship of wetland, riparian and steep slope areas; and building stewardship of the river and watershed through improving the French Broad River Paddle Trail (river access and overnight camping). In this position you will assist with project management, grant writing, community outreach and volunteer engagement, as well as land protection and stewardship.

Qualifications – Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

- Knowledge of water quality and quantity concerns, watershed dynamics, and stormwater best management practices
- Knowledge of land trust practices; conservation easement monitoring, baseline document report writing, and stewardship of protected lands
- Knowledge of native plant and animal species endemic to eastern North America
- Knowledge of exotic invasive plant species and management techniques for their removal
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Proficiency with ArcGIS
- The ability to walk over uneven terrain, navigate a canoe or kayak in class I and II rapids, work outside in a variety of weather conditions, use standard landscaping and hand tools, and be able to lift up to 40lbs.

- Eligible applicants must be at least 18 years of age, be a citizen, national, or lawful permanent resident alien of the United States, and consent to a criminal history check.

Preferred Service Hours / Weekly Schedule:

Monday - Friday 9am to 5pm, with occasional evening and weekend meetings

Position Responsibilities and Duties

Conservation Education: 30%

- Lead service learning programs focused around water quality, stream restoration, and riparian habitat restoration.
- Lead adult educational programs and tours about the French Broad River Watershed.
- Organize and lead group workshops associated with our WaterRICH program, which teaches individuals how to design and construct stormwater control features, such as rain gardens and rain barrels.
- Assist with outreach related to the Name that Creek Program. Develop supporting educational materials for the adult education programs.
- Provide one-on-one conservation education to RiverLink’s conservation easement landowners and other watershed residents.
- Member will assist the Education Coordinator, when needed, to conduct in-school environmental education programs.

Volunteer Infrastructure Program (VIP): 10%

- Recruit and lead volunteers in stewardship of riparian areas on public and RiverLink conserved lands.
- Recruit and lead volunteers to help install and maintain stormwater control measures.
- Recruit and lead volunteers to assist with grant funded conservation projects, such as stream restorations and watershed planning studies.

At-Risk Ecosystem Impacts: 60%

- Work with volunteers to develop and maintain stormwater control measures.
- Perform riparian habitat and stream restorations on public and conserved lands.
- Member will work with volunteers to maintain the French Broad River Paddle Trail and over 5 miles of trails on RiverLink’s publicly accessible conserved lands.
- Assist in the development of new trail and greenway projects in the French Broad River Watershed.
- Lead volunteers in exotic invasive plant removal and tree plantings within riparian areas of public and RiverLink conserved lands.
- Conduct water quality monitoring, often utilizing citizen scientists to help collect data.

PLEASE NOTE: In addition to fulfilling host site service responsibilities, all Project Conserve members are required to fully participate in team trainings, service projects and statewide AmeriCorps events. Project Conserve team events will occur approximately twice per month in locations throughout the service area and may require up to three overnight stays.

Essential Functions

Equipment / Software Used: iPad, Handheld GPS unit, ArcGIS, ArcCollector, Microsoft Office Suite

Physical Demands: Must be able to work outdoors in variable weather, doing strenuous activity and walking over uneven terrain. Must be able to lift 40 lbs. Will need to sit for extended periods of time at a computer. Experience navigating a canoe or kayak preferred.

Transportation Needs: Must have a reliable personal vehicle

Setting/Location of Service Activities: 170 Lyman Street Asheville NC 28801

- Leading, coordinating, and interacting with diverse individuals in field-based and office settings (ex. landowners, students, minority and underserved populations, residents, partner organizations).
- Developing and implementing educational programs and events for groups (presentations, workshops, educational hikes and outings, etc).
- Conducting field-based monitoring, assessment, and management of conservation properties, public lands, and/or water quality monitoring sites.
- Using mapping software and other computer programs to create quality reports, management plans, maps, and/or analysis, based on field data