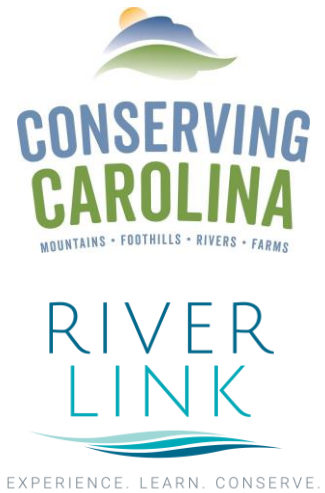




AmeriCorps Project Conserve

2022 – 2023 Service Description



AmeriCorps Position Title: Stewardship Coordinator
Host Site: RiverLink

Service Term: September 5, 2023 – July 31, 2024

Supervisor Name: Hannah Coats
Supervisor Title: Land Resources Manager
Supervisor Email: hannah@riverlink.org

Address: 170 Lyman Street | Asheville NC 28801
Phone: (828) 252-8474 x111
Fax: N/A
Website: www.riverlink.org

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 Stewardship Coordinator works with RiverLink’s Land Resources Manager on land protection, restoration, and public access projects in the French Broad River watershed. These projects will occur on public lands, and lands that RiverLink owns, has conservation easements on, or is coordinating grant-funded stormwater and stream restoration projects.

These properties are protected and managed for riparian buffers, floodplain, wetland, and steep slope habitats, along with their public and ecological benefit as, parks, greenways, river access points, cultural importance, stream restoration projects and green stormwater infrastructure.

The Stewardship Coordinator will assist with accomplishing stewardship goals by maintaining and monitoring these properties, including: leading volunteer work days, developing and implementing management plans, strategizing for specific projects, monitoring conservation easements, reporting on monitoring visits, creating baseline documentation reports for protected lands, and assisting with other components of protected lands acquisition and management, such as designing and installing signage, constructing recreational amenities and managing vegetation.

Volunteer work days on RiverLink’s protected lands might include removing litter, managing invasive plants, planting native plants, establishing riparian buffers, installing signage, etc. Volunteer work days elsewhere across the French Broad River watershed, might include river cleanups (on foot and in boats), installing live stakes (with Watershed Resources Manager and ACPC Watershed Coordinator), and other projects related to waterways and public lands.

In addition to stewardship of RiverLink’s protected lands, the Stewardship Coordinator will educate community members on best practices for responsible land stewardship. This might include sharing

expertise on invasive plants, native plants, riparian buffers, stream restoration and green stormwater infrastructure.

The Stewardship Coordinator will also have opportunities to work with other RiverLink program staff and AmeriCorps members, including the Watershed Coordinator and Education Coordinator, on stormwater and stream restoration projects, teaching endeavors and events.

Desired Qualifications – Knowledge, Skills, & Abilities:

- Passion for clean rivers, healthy riparian habitats, native plants, and outdoor recreation.
- Interest in working collaboratively with a diverse network of staff, partners and community members.
- Motivation to actively address how conservation and environmentalism in the French Broad region have historically and currently excluded and harmed black, indigenous, and other people of color.
- Interest in natural resource management, land protection, water recreation, parks and greenways.
- Knowledge of land trust practices, including: real estate and property information, conservation easements and annual monitoring, baseline document reports and stewardship.
- Knowledge of native plant and animal species present in Western North Carolina.
- Knowledge of exotic invasive plant species and techniques to manage and remove.
- Knowledge of stream restoration techniques and best practices.
- Experience with river access design and implementation.
- Experience with leading volunteers and working with community members.
- Skillful in written and verbal communication. Able to speak to groups of all sizes.
- Proficiency with Google Workspace, Microsoft Office, ArcGIS, and smartphone applications.
- Must have a valid driver's license.
- 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:

The default schedule is 9AM-5PM Mondays-Fridays. Occasional evening and weekend work needs will only be assigned by consent of the service member, and time-and-a-half will be granted back during normal working hours. RiverLink offers a workspace in our office, but remote work is offered for much of the work week.

In addition to fulfilling host site service responsibilities, all Project Conserve members are required to fully participate in team training, 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.

Position Responsibilities & Duties

Conservation Education: (30% of time)

- Provide conservation/stewardship education to RiverLink's conservation easement landowners, along with other residents and visitors of the French Broad River watershed.
- Integrate education into volunteer events in the form of discussing water quality impacts, invasive species identification, stream restoration techniques, and river and land use history.
- Participate in tabling events such as conferences, festivals, career days, etc.

At-Risk Ecosystem Impacts: (30% of time)

- Lead volunteers in invasive plant removal, riparian habitat restoration, and bank stabilization on RiverLink's protected properties and public lands.
- Lead volunteers in removing trash from local waterways.

Volunteer Infrastructure Program: (40% of time)

- Plan and lead volunteer events for individuals and groups on public lands, and lands that RiverLink owns, or has conservation easements on.
- Plan and lead volunteer events for individuals and groups on projects for which RiverLink is implementing grant-funded stormwater and stream restoration projects.
- Lead information sessions designed to recruit and educate future volunteers.
- Match volunteer groups with project needs that benefit the French Broad River watershed.
- Collect volunteer feedback and integrate suggestions to improve volunteer initiatives.
- Create outreach strategies to promote opportunities for people to engage with RiverLink.

Essential Functions

- Equipment / Software Used: Computer, smartphone, Avenza, ArcGIS, Microsoft Office, Google Workspace, pickup truck, canoes, canoe trailer, hand tools, weed whacker, safety equipment.
- Physical Demands: Required: Ability to lift 50 pounds, ability to use hand tools. Helpful but not required: Paddling experience, ability to drive truck and canoe trailer, ability to walk on steep and uneven terrain.
- Transportation Needs: Reliable transportation required.
- Setting / Location of Service Activities: French Broad River watershed in North Carolina: Transylvania, Henderson, Buncombe and Madison Counties.

Other Essential Functions:

- Using ArcGIS and Avenza to collect data on conserved lands. Writing reports based on field collected data.
- Using computer software and online programs for conservation-based education and outreach initiatives, including social networking, written articles and press releases.
- Leading, coordinating, and interacting with diverse individuals in field-based and office settings (ex. landowners, students, underserved communities, and partner organizations).
- Training, supporting, coordinating, and recognizing volunteers for conservation-based volunteer opportunities.

Considerations:

- Workdays can occur in or near open water and muddy soil, with exposure to poison ivy, thorns, biting/stinging insects, trash/debris and other potential hazards.
- Workdays can occur in adverse weather conditions, including cold, wind, rain, heat and humidity.