

Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District

Urban Conservation Specialist II

Overview

The Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District (NVSWCD) seeks an enthusiastic and organized team player to fill our vacant Urban Conservation Specialist II (UCS II) position. This position supports NVSWCD's technical assistance programs by providing professional expertise to Fairfax County residents, environmental groups, state and local government agencies, and other entities in the areas of conservation of natural resources. The UCS II will support our conservation programs such as the Home Turf Lawn Education Program, Conservation Assistance Programs, and the Virginia Agricultural BMP Cost Share Program. This position leads the annual Native Seedling Sale and the Environmental Improvement Program Multi-Agency Water Chestnut Early Detection Rapid Response Control Program and its associated limited term employee, in coordination with other staff and partners. The UCS II also participates in agricultural conservation planning in support of Fairfax County's Chesapeake Bay Preservation Program. Work environment will be in both field and office settings. This position answers to the Executive Director.

Duties and Responsibilities

- Coordinates and leads NVSWCD's annual native seedling sale program.
- Provides general pond maintenance recommendations and manages a Water Chestnut Early Detection Rapid Response Control Program, and its associated limited-term employee.
- Supports the Home Turf Lawn Education Program in partnership with the Virginia Cooperative Extension and Master Gardener Volunteers.
 - Communicates with volunteers to ensure timely service for enrolled clients.
 - Performs field assessment, collects soil samples for Nutrient Management Plans (NMP).
 - Conducts annual lawn care seminars.
 - Tracks program data for quarterly reports.
 - Submits annual report to VA DCR Healthy Virginia Lawns Program.
- Responds to requests for assistance from residents and community groups on issues related to erosion, drainage, minor flooding, soil fertility, and other natural resource and land management issues.
- Participates in public awareness programs that informs agricultural land users about the district's role in implementing the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Program; prepares Soil and Water Conservation Plans; and executes the Virginia Agricultural BMP Cost Share Program.
- Provides technical support on resource stewardship issues including researching, writing, and producing articles for publication and doing presentations.
- Participates in other district-run conservation programs such as the Conservation Assistance Programs.
- Participates in county, state, and VASWCD committees and programs.
- Maintains Nutrient Management Planning, Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional, and other certifications.
- Performs other duties, as assigned.

Knowledge, Abilities, and Skills

- Knowledge in native plant identification.
- Knowledge in conservation and nutrient management planning.
- Knowledge in Low Impact Development (LID) practices, and environmental planning concepts.
- Ability to interpret maps, including topographic and soil maps.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team.
- Ability to coordinate programs among other agencies and localities.
- Ability to do accurate work and complete projects on time.
- Ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing.
- A conservation ethos and/or an understanding and appreciation of environmental and conservation matters.
- A Nutrient Management Planner Certificate, or ability to obtain one within the first 6-12 months of employment.

Education and Experience

3–5-years of experience in the field of conservation, with a bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university in environmental science, conservation, water resource engineering, soils, agronomy, biology, or related areas of the sciences is required. A master’s degree in a related field is preferred.

Physical Conditions and Nature of Work

- A fair balance between in-office and tele-work is supported.
- Frequent visits to off-site locations are required, including traversing rough and uneven terrain, such as stream valleys. Must be able to work under varying weather conditions.
- May require occasional evening or weekend schedules for meetings, or district events.
- Periodic travel to other areas of Virginia for training or program support.
- Must be able to perform medium lifting of up to 50 pounds.
- Must pass a criminal background check.
- Approved use of a personal vehicle may be necessary; milage is reimbursable at federal rate. Must have a valid driver’s license.
- A work computer is provided.

This is a full-time, 40-hour per week, position which offers a flexible schedule, health insurance, retirement plan, and leave benefits. Salary will be commensurate with knowledge and experience.

Job applications will only be accepted electronically. Please submit a cover letter, resume, and 2-3 references to ConservationDistrict@fairfaxcounty.gov. Please note that all applications must be received by midnight on Monday, March 21, 2022.

About NVSWCD

The Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District is a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Its boundaries are the same as those of Fairfax County. NVSWCD is one of 47 conservation districts in Virginia and approximately 3,000 nationwide. The agency is governed by a five-member Board of Directors and employs eight full time staff to carry out the organization's technical and educational programs.

The agency's goal is to promote clean streams and protected natural resources. We achieve this through effective leadership, technical assistance, and outreach programs in collaboration with government, industry, and the public.

NVSWCD is not a regulatory agency. Instead, the agency provides conservation information, technical services, educational programs, and volunteer opportunities to residents on many aspects of water quality, nonpoint source pollution and stream health. We also connect residents with environmental initiatives and opportunities through our Watershed Calendar and other online channels.

The Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. Its programs, activities, and employment opportunities are available to all people regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, or political affiliation.