Dear Midwest Urban Foresters,

Please see the announcement below and at the provided link for information about a position as Forestry Associate with the Chicago non-profit organization, Openlands.

http://www.openlands.org/forestry-associate

Founded in 1963, Openlands is one of the nation’s oldest and most successful metropolitan conservation organizations, having helped secure, protect, and provide public access to more than 55,000 acres of land for parks, forest preserves, wildlife refuges, land and water greenway corridors, and urban gardens. For more information, visit www.openlands.org.

Jill

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Caring for the land and serving people

Full time

The primary role of the Forestry Associate will be to coordinate and facilitate community-based street, park, and forest preserve tree planting projects. Work with community groups, corporations, partners, and other stakeholders to plan and lead sustainable, community-based forestry projects targeted in Chicago neighborhoods and in Openlands geography. This is a full time position, is physically demanding, and requires flexibility with seasonal work on weekends and occasional evenings.

Essential Functions

- Initiates and conducts neighborhood tree planting projects
- Creates new connections to support and encourage diverse neighborhood and citizen participation in Openlands programs and projects
- Orients, supervises, trains, and works alongside volunteers at work day events.
- Responds to citizen inquiries and maintain working relationships with community groups
- Coordinates and oversees weekday and weekend tree plantings. Strives to maximize volunteer participation in events with or supported by us
- Represents Openlands at neighborhood plantings including public speaking and media interviews
- Maintains data on tree planting volunteers, community groups, corporations, partners, and other stakeholders
- Assists with community volunteer efforts to maintain trees and health check-ups. Supports TreeKeepers and volunteer-based tree care
- Drives vehicles and operate other motorized equipment incidental to the performance of duties. Assists in and perform tasks involved in the operation and care of hand and power gardening tools and equipment
Skills, Knowledge and Qualifications

- Educational background in forestry, environmental science, natural resource management or other related field preferred. Knowledge of community forestry, arboriculture, landscaping and design.

- Demonstrated community or organizational leadership skills including field experience in forestry, working with volunteers, and experience in facilitating public meetings. Spanish speaking a plus.

- Excellent organization skills, detail-oriented, motivated, and strong written and verbal communication skills.

- Computer literacy.

- Ability to lift up to 50 pounds occasionally and ability to stand, crouch, and perform various types of manual labor; willing and able to work outdoors all year round.

- Valid Illinois Drivers License and reliable transportation. This license must be maintained for the duration of employment.

Compensation
Salary range is market competitive. Benefits include health, life, and disability coverage, a 403(b) retirement plan, paid holidays and vacation time.

To Apply
Interested applicants should send a cover letter and resume in PDF form to dpereira@openlands.org with the subject line Forestry Associate by Saturday, February 21, 2015.

Openlands is an equal opportunity employer. No phone calls please.

About Openlands
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