

**Northern Virginia Conservation Trust
Land Conservation Specialist**

Northern Virginia Conservation Trust
4022-A Hummer Road
Annandale, Virginia 22003

Open Position: **Land Conservation Specialist**

Northern Virginia Conservation Trust (NVCT) is seeking an experienced land protection specialist to develop and manage land conservation projects and initiatives in NVCT's southern service area. The position will be based in, and work will be centered in, Stafford County, Virginia. NVCT is a growing regional land trust that conserves parks, open space and nature throughout northern Virginia, at the doorstep of our Nation's capital. NVCT is a regional leader in creating an interconnected system of green spaces, with a goal that all urban and suburban residents of Northern Virginia will live close to and have access to parks, trails, or protected natural areas.

General Position Description:

Identify, develop and complete land protection projects in and around Stafford County in cooperation with Stafford County government, state and other local partners. The position includes developing and sustaining partner and landowner relations, working cooperatively with stewardship and other land conservation colleagues, as well as with other members of the land conservation community in Northern Virginia. The job includes working cooperatively with members of the Board of Directors in either a leading or supporting role depending on the nature of the project origination and complexity. The Land Conservation Specialist will participate fully in achieving the mission of NVCT and furthering the conservation objectives of Stafford County. Anticipated salary range is \$60-70,000 a year.

Responsibilities:

- Seek opportunities to conserve land in urban, suburban and rural areas within the jurisdiction, including landowner outreach and project assessment;
- Help identify and pursue work in focal areas that will frame up calls to action for land conservation in sub-sectors of the jurisdiction;
- Manage a portfolio of land conservation projects in all stages of development;
- Help co-promote, educate and inform landowners about Stafford County conservation initiatives and programs, including the Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) and Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) programs.
- Negotiate land conservation transactions and coordinate with Stewardship and other staff to implement land conservation initiatives and projects, including all stages of conservation easements, fee lands, and management agreements;
- Develop professional relationships with landowners and government-client elected officials and agency staff; in particular, coordinate with and among Stafford County departments;

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- Develop and carry out landowner education and outreach initiatives designed to encourage increased land conservation activity in specific parts of the jurisdiction;
- Work with landowners through the life cycle of a project, including providing information about State and Federal tax benefits and requirements for filing;
- Prepare maps and data to support conservation planning, land protection projects, and stewardship efforts;
- Identify and pursue grants and other funding sources/mechanisms for implementing land and conservation easement acquisitions, conservation planning and outreach, and general operating expenses;
- Participate in meetings of the Land Protection and Stewardship Committee of the Board of Directors;
- Stay current with local, regional and national land trust topics and issues.
- May be asked to:
 - Prepare Baseline Documentation
 - Conduct annual easement monitoring
 - Lead organizational resolution of easement violations
 - Participate in general NVCT policy and procedure review and development

Qualifications:

- Passion for land conservation and a willingness to work with people from diverse backgrounds.
- Flexible self-starter, interested in being active in all aspects of a regional land trust operation including fundraising, tracking policy germane to the trust and the conservation objective of Stafford County, and assisting other staff when needed;
- Open to experimenting with new initiatives, expanding existing programs, and working in a project team setting.
- Outgoing, professional and friendly personality with ability and ease in meeting new people and quickly earning their confidence.
- Bachelor's degree and/or master's degree in natural resource management, land planning, real estate or related field preferred.

Preferred Experience and Skills:

- 2-3 years land conservation experience, including identifying, developing and closing land protection easements, fee acquisition or other related restricted easements;
- A track record of finalizing land protection projects;
- Experienced user of Microsoft office suite, Arc GIS, and GPS technology;
- 2+ years project management experience;
- Easement drafting experience;
- Easement monitoring experience.
- Driver's license.

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Reports to: Conservation Director

Working conditions:

- Office-based work hosted out of Stafford County Government offices with frequent automobile travel within jurisdiction and to main NVCT offices in Annandale, VA. Part-time remote work possible.
- Some evening and weekend work expected.
- Must be able to drive a car, hike and navigate over rough terrain as needed.
- Stafford County offices are fully ADA accessible, however NVCT's office is located on the second floor of a building without an elevator. Must be able to go up and down stairs carrying materials to and from meetings.

Application:

Submit resume and cover letter by **Friday, January 20th, 2023**, to Alan Rowsome, Executive Director, at jobs@nvct.org. No phone calls, please.

Northern Virginia Conservation Trust is an equal opportunity employer that is committed to diversity and inclusion in the workplace. We prohibit discrimination and harassment of any kind based on race, color, sex, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, genetic information, pregnancy, or any other protected characteristic as outlined by federal, state, or local laws.