



Tioga County Soil and Water Conservation District Riparian Buffer Steward(s) – Accepting Applications Now

Office Location: Tioga County Soil and Water Conservation District (TCSWCD)
183 Corporate Drive Owego, NY 13827

Position Description:

Riparian buffer stewards support the establishment of young forests, such as riparian forest buffers, throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed in New York which includes Tioga County. Stewards travel throughout the county to monitor reforestation, perform and coordinate management activities, and write reports. Riparian and young forest restoration is a priority for water and habitat quality within Tioga County. Stewards will work closely with the TCSWCD supervisor and as part of the Upper Susquehanna Coalition Buffer Team. This is a great opportunity to become involved in the work of SWCDs, and Chesapeake Bay watershed restoration. There is potential for buffer stewards to be hired full-time at SWCDs after the end of the internship.

Steward tasks will include:

- Perform tasks associated with riparian and young forest establishment, including data collection, monitoring, maintenance This will include species identification, in field measurements, and report writing.
- Perform riparian buffer implementation, including the installation and maintenance of forest buffers. Buffer maintenance includes weeding tree tubes, replacing protective materials, weed wacking, mowing, and management oversight.
- Provide direct, one-on-one assistance to landowners on buffer implementation and maintenance.
- Work with other stewards throughout the watershed performing similar tasks.
- Traveling to other counties in the watershed for stewarding assistance.
- Assist with the annual Sundaes at the Farm Event, the Tioga County Fair, and other district outreach events as needed
- Assist District Staff with additional tasks such as surveying and road-ditch culvert assessments, etc.

Qualifications include: Enthusiasman and ability to perform physically demanding tasks in the outdoors. Professional and personal interest in forestry, habitat restoration, and public outreach/education. Excellent verbal communication skills, competency with reading maps, a valid NYS Driver's License with reliable transportation, ability and flexibility to occasionally work weekend hours.

Schedule: This stewardship position is a temporary seasonal non-benefitted full time position at 40 hours a week (M-F 8:00am-4:30pm), with an hourly rate of \$15.50 per hour. Seasonal position start and end date is flexible, but typically starts in April/May and continues through August/September. Stewards may adjust their schedule as needed to accommodate for time off, pending approval from the SWCD. Weekend work may be required, but will likely be seldom.



Travel: Stewards will travel throughout Tioga County with some additional travel within the Chesapeake Bay watershed in NY and northern PA. Travel is limited to day trips using a work assigned vehicle.

Please submit a cover letter and resume to Heather Gulliford gullifordh@tiogacountyny.gov. Applicant review will continue until all positions are filled. We anticipate interviewing for positions in early March 2025, and filling all positions by April 2025. There are 2 positions open.