Land Steward
Position Description

Position Overview: Land Stewards help Capitol Land Trust (CLT) steward conserved properties by periodically monitoring conditions on those properties. Land Stewards also may help with projects on those properties.

Key Responsibilities: Each Land Steward is assigned to a specific property (or properties), and commits to performing one or more tasks on that property. Most Land Stewards take part in the annual monitoring visit to their assigned property, accompanied by other Land Stewards or CLT staff. Some Land Stewards check on their property at other times of the year, and/or periodically visit their assigned property to remove invasive plants or pick up litter. Regardless of which of tasks you sign up for, each Land Steward is responsible for:
- ensuring that another volunteer is present during visits to their assigned property;
- amiably engaging with persons encountered during property visits;
- documenting problems and issues on their assigned property; and
- promptly informing CLT staff of property visits and any issues observed.

Initial Impact: Land Stewards enable CLT to monitor the health of its conserved properties; detect and respond to problems on those properties; and maintain good relations with landowners and neighbors.

Sustained Outcomes: Land Stewards enable CLT to steward the properties it has conserved and fulfill its obligation to monitor each conserved property at least once a year. Land Stewards feel more connected to the land and more knowledgeable about land conservation in their region.

Training Provided: Each volunteer will receive training on CLT’s safety procedures, monitoring procedures, and monitoring app (called Landscape), and be familiarized with their assigned property. Periodic refresher courses on using the monitoring app and monitoring equipment also will be available.

Support: CLT’s Stewardship Coordinator will schedule property visits (or assist with scheduling) and notify landowners and/or neighbors as needed. Land Stewards can borrow monitoring equipment from CLT or use CLT’s monitoring app on their personal smart devices. During property visits, Land Stewards will be accompanied by other Land Stewards and/or a CLT staff member. If CLT staff are not present during a property visit, the Stewardship Coordinator will be available by telephone to provide any needed support.

Commitment: There is a minimum one-year commitment. The amount of time involved will depend on the property and stewardship tasks you sign up for.
- **Annual monitoring** can take anywhere from 45 minutes to 6 hours, depending on the property. For some properties, annual monitoring must be during weekday working hours when a staff person is available; for other properties, annual monitoring can occur any day of the week (subject to the schedules of the other Land Stewards assigned to the property).
- **Mid-year monitoring** can involve regular drive-by or walk-by visits, or longer through-property excursions.
- **Removing invasive plants or litter** on an assigned property can take as long as you wish.
Skills and Qualifications:
- Good observation skills.
- Enjoy being outdoors.
- Willing to participate even if the weather is inclement.
- Willing to work as a team with other Land Stewards or a CLT staff member.
- Ability to walk without assistance (other than a walking stick). Some properties require greater abilities. We will match volunteers with properties and tasks that fit their physical abilities.
- Able to identify invasive plants, or willing to learn how to do so.
- Comfortable talking to neighbors or landowners encountered during property visits.

Benefits:
- Opportunity to visit unique and beautiful properties, most of which are not open to the public.
- Personal satisfaction of caring for conserved properties and helping Capitol Land Trust further its mission.
- Opportunity to meet and get to know other volunteers who share your love for conservation and the outdoors, and who often have really interesting backgrounds.
- Gain experience using GPS and monitoring apps.
- Opportunity to interact with amazing conservation-minded landowners.
- Receive an official CLT monitoring cap (while supplies last) and Land Steward lanyard.
- Invitation to CLT’s volunteer appreciation events.

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