



Land Steward Position Description

Position Overview: Volunteer Land Stewards are the eyes and hands that enable Capitol Land Trust (CLT) to steward the properties it has conserved. Land Stewards visit conserved properties to check for problems and/or help with projects on those properties.

Key Responsibilities: Each Land Steward is assigned to a specific property (or properties). Most Land Stewards assist with the annual monitoring visit to their assigned property. Some Land Stewards volunteer to check on their assigned property at other times of the year, and/or volunteer to periodically visit their assigned property to remove invasive plants or pick up litter (in both cases, accompanied by another volunteer). Regardless of which of these tasks you sign up for, each Land Steward is responsible for:

- documenting problems and issues on their assigned property;
- amiably engaging with persons encountered during visits to their assigned property; and
- promptly informing CLT staff of property visits and any issues observed.

Initial Impact: Land Stewards enable CLT to detect and respond to problems on conserved properties, and address minor problems like trash and invasive plant species.

Sustained Outcomes: Land Stewards enable CLT to fulfill its obligation to monitor each conserved property at least once a year, and to fulfill its moral obligation to steward the properties it has conserved. Land Stewards also help CLT maintain good relations with the owners and neighbors of conserved properties.

Training Provided: Each volunteer will receive a tour of their assigned property, and will be trained in CLT's safety and monitoring procedures. Volunteers who wish to use CLT's monitoring apps and/or equipment will receive training on those. Periodic refresher courses on using the monitoring apps and equipment also will be available.

Support: Land Stewards make property visits accompanied by other Land Stewards and/or with a CLT staff member. CLT's Stewardship Coordinator will schedule property visits or assist with scheduling property visits, and will notify landowners and/or neighbors as needed. Land Stewards can borrow monitoring equipment from CLT or use CLT's monitoring apps on their personal smart devices. 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 actual amount of time involved in volunteering depends on the property and the 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 normal 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 other Land Stewards assigned to the property. Other types of monitoring consist of 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:

- Enjoy being outdoors.
- Good observation skills.
- 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. 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.

Benefits:

- Opportunity to visit unique and beautiful properties, most of which are not open to the public.
- Personal satisfaction of caring for conserved properties.
- Opportunity to interact with amazing conservation-minded landowners.
- 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.
- Receive an official CLT monitoring cap (while supplies last).
- Invitation to CLT's annual volunteer appreciation event.

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