



AmeriCorps Position Description

Position Title: Restoration/Outreach Specialist - Nechacokee Creek

Project Sponsor: City of Gresham – Watershed Division

NWSA Mission: This position is in partnership with the Northwest Service Academy (NWSA), an AmeriCorps program of ESD112. NWSA's mission is: To preserve and restore the natural environment, and to develop community leaders through service and community partnerships.
www.nwserviceacademy.org

Project Location: 1333 NW Eastman Parkway, Gresham, OR

Position Summary: The Nechacokee Creek Specialist will spend approximately 60% of their time implementing team field projects as described below. Another 30% of their time will be spent fostering lasting relationships with homeowners along Nechacokee Creek (a tributary to Johnson Creek) and work with them to design and implement restoration and maintenance plans for their streamside properties. They will then lead their teammates in implementing the restoration plans they created, including removal of invasive plant species, installation of native trees, shrubs and forbs, and the installation of habitat features (bird houses, bat boxes, etc.). They will also work with the landowners to teach them what they will need to do each year to monitor and maintain their newly restored property. The remaining 10% of their time will involve training, meetings, and support of other natural resource education and restoration projects.

Team Summary: The Community Engagement Field Team will spend approximately 70% of their time involving Gresham's private streamside landowners in environmental stewardship and restoration. They will work closely with Watershed Division staff to learn the techniques and methods of Gresham's Streamside Property Owners Program (SPOP) and coordinate community restoration events. This program facilitates behavior change in private streamside property owners by offering tools and services tailored to the homeowner's interests, including one on one consultations, property assessments and advising on a variety of topics including natural lawn care techniques, pet waste management and on-site stormwater management. They will educate landowners on actions they can take to reduce non-point sources of pollution and implement on-site stormwater management (including raingardens and downspout disconnection), targeting the riparian landowners living on three of Gresham's streams (Heiney Creek, Kelly Creek and Nechacokee Creek), persuading and assisting them to restore their properties in an effort to create contiguous healthy corridors between private property and public land. Finally, they will inspire stewardship over the newly restored parcels and rain gardens through stewardship agreements and large-scale community events. Team members will also staff community volunteer and education events, working up to 10 weekend days and 10 week day evening events during the service term. Team efforts will be supported by water quality, natural resource, engineering, and maintenance staff, and team members will have the opportunity to support city staff in efforts toward improving rain garden installation and restoration practices. The remainder of the placement time will be spent developing individual programs that will be supported by the other dedicated team members. The complete team will consist of (1) Team Leader/Rain Garden Specialist; (2) Heiney Creek Specialist; (3) Nechacokee Creek Specialist; and (4) Kelly Creek Specialist.

General Responsibilities (to include, but not limited to):

- Development of all phases of site restoration plans along Nechacokee Creek.

- Learn the methods and techniques of Gresham's SPOP and use it to plan and schedule one-on-one site visits, block parties, and large-scale neighborhood restoration events with private streamside landowners.
- Effectively communicate with homeowners and the dedicated team, instructing them in the techniques of riparian restoration and maintenance.
- Serve as both a team member on shared efforts as well as working independently to plan and coordinate project and necessary logistics.
- Proper and safe use of hand and power tools.
- Learn and implement physical and chemical methods of invasive plant control and associated plant identification.
- Engage community in education, restoration, or surveying activities that increase community awareness of and appreciation for Gresham's natural resources
- Provide support as possible to community requests for implementing neighborhood habitat improvements.
- Complete and submit all necessary NWSA/AmeriCorps paperwork and reports in a timely manner.
- Attend and complete all NWSA/AmeriCorps training and service requirements including orientation, training's, team meetings and national service days.
- Wear an NWSA uniform and/or appropriate identifiers and required safety gear while performing service or attending official events.

Position Requirements:

- Ability to work occasional weekend days (up to 10) and evenings (up to 10) throughout the service term.
- Ability to communicate and interact in a positive, professional manner with various populations such as: project partner(s), colleagues, community volunteers, students and the general public
- An Oregon driver's license (or ability to get one), 3-years of driving experience, and a clean driving record are required by the city.
- Willingness and ability to drive vehicles such as passenger vans, utility vehicles and/or pick-up trucks with attached equipment trailers (training provided).
- Willingness to apply herbicide and ability to successfully pass state-mandated pesticide applicator tests, operate small engine tools (chainsaw, brush cutter, etc.) and harvest native materials for construction or planting projects.
- Serve effectively within a team with commitment to conservation and the environment
- A minimum of basic Pacific Northwest native plant identification skills or willingness to learn.
- Physical ability to travel up to five miles per day on uneven terrain and lift up to 40 lbs.
- Willingness to serve outdoors, in various weather conditions and allergy/insect environments.
- 18 years of age or older, at beginning of service term.
- U.S. citizen, national or lawful permanent resident.
- Possession of a high school diploma or equivalent, or commit to earning one prior to receiving education award.
- Ability to commit to the full term of service for which they are applying.
- Must successfully pass a fingerprint criminal history background check provided through NWSA.
- Ability to successfully pass a drug test (random or otherwise) conducted by project sponsor.
- Regular and reliable attendance.
- Have not previously served two terms in an AmeriCorps*State or National program. Members may serve up to three terms in a National Service Program, but only two terms may be within an AmeriCorps*State or National program. Members are only eligible for an education award for their first two terms of service, regardless of the type of term (full or part-time) and regardless of the successful completion of that term.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Bachelor of Science degree in a related field such as natural resources, biology, urban management, or landscape design.
- Experience in outreach/engagement of community members in environmental stewardship
- Ability to use power tools (lawn/garden or carpentry)
- Experience driving vehicles with attached trailer

Member Benefits Include:

- A taxable, monthly living allowance (before taxes, approximately \$1,036).

- Upon successful completion of a term of service, eligible members/leaders receive an education award of \$4,725. The education award can be used to repay qualified student loans or for further education in an accredited institution, vocational or trade schools. The award is taxed in the year that it is used.
- Loan forbearance (after successful completion of a term of service, AmeriCorps will pay the accrued interest on qualified loans, which is taxable).
- Basic medical insurance (covers members only, not dependents; vision and dental not included).
- Child care allowance for those who qualify.
- Professional development, trainings and networking opportunities

Transportation Information:

- Organizational vehicle is available for service activities and member is covered by organization's vehicle insurance policy.
- Project site is accessible by public transportation.
- Monthly/annual transit passes are available for service activities, and will be provided by the project sponsor.

Application Deadline: On-going until filled.
Interviews: No set schedule. Open until filled.
Service Dates: January 21, 2010– December 10, 2010

NWSA Center: Lower Columbia Center
Type of position: Field Team
Length of Term: 1700 hours

How to apply:

Step 1 - Email the following items to the Project Sponsor for this position – **Laura Guderyahn** at Laura.Guderyahn@ci.gresham.or.us:

- **Résumé**
- **Cover Letter**
- **Contact information for three references**

The Project Sponsor will conduct all initial interviews and recommend a candidate for this position. All recommended candidates will also interview with Northwest Service Academy.

Step 2 - Complete your application:

Application materials can either be completed online at the [AmeriCorps website](#) and submitted to an NWSA position or downloaded from the NWSA website "[How to Apply](#)" page and submitted to [Sherrie Jackson](#) via email (preferable), mail or fax. A complete Member application includes the following:

- **AmeriCorps Application**
- **Two Written References** – These are included in the AmeriCorps online application or a form is available on our website.
- **Certification Form** - This document must be mailed or faxed to our office with an original signature.

Questions about the position? Contact: Laura Guderyahn at Laura.Guderyahn@ci.gresham.or.us or (503) 618-2246.

General questions about AmeriCorps, NWSA or our recruitment process? Contact:

Sherrie Jackson
 Recruitment Coordinator
 NWSA Lower Columbia Center
 55 SE Main Street
 Portland, OR 97214
 (503) 234-2383 ext 108
 (503) 232-0166 (fax)
sherrie.jackson@esd112.org