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Chagrin River Watershed Partners, Inc. (CRWP) Project Manager (Position #1)

Posted January 2, 2018 until January 30, 2018

Chagrin River Watershed Partners (CRWP) is a nationally recognized non-profit watershed organization that enhances quality of life by preserving rivers, planning for better development and solving natural resource management problems. Founded in 1996 by communities and park districts in the Chagrin River watershed, CRWP provides technical assistance to local governments, businesses and people and develops cost effective, nature-based solutions to flooding, erosion and water pollution as communities grow. CRWP currently represents 34-member cities, villages, townships, counties, and park districts and 91% of the land area in a 267-square mile watershed draining to Lake Erie east of Cleveland, Ohio. Our approach involving community decision makers and collaborative partnerships is key to CRWP's success. Since our founding, CRWP has protected and restored over 19 miles of streams and 280 acres of wetlands, planted over 33,000 trees and helped communities protect over 800 miles of wooded stream corridor. CRWP co-leads the Central Lake Erie Basin Collaborative, a network of watershed organizations and volunteer-based initiatives that work cooperatively to preserve and restore eight major watersheds and smaller direct tributaries to Lake Erie in Northern Ohio. Through the Collaborative, CRWP provides technical support to watershed organizations and communities from the mouth of Sandusky Bay to the western Pennsylvania border. CRWP's 2016 annual report is available at http://crowp.org/files/2016_crowp_annual_report_web.pdf. CRWP's team of 4 full time and 2 part-time staff is currently located in historic downtown Willoughby, Ohio.

Goals

- Protect high quality streams, wetlands and natural areas and restore those that have been degraded.
- Reduce flooding, erosion and water pollution using nature-based solutions.
- Enhance fishing, hiking, boating and other outdoor recreational opportunities that support a high quality of life.
- Develop and implement regional plans to protect watersheds and balance economic development with natural resource protection.

Services

- Grant-writing and implementing stream and wetland protection and restoration, stormwater, flood mitigation and park improvement projects.
- Model zoning code development and assistance with code adoption and implementation.
- Technical review and recommendations for comprehensive land use and development plans.
- Nonpoint Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II stormwater permit compliance.
- Watershed and balanced growth planning.
- Policy research on watershed issues.

Position Description

The Project Manager is a full-time employee who reports to senior staff. The Project Manager provides direct services to communities, counties, park districts, watershed organizations, and stormwater utilities to solve flooding, erosion, and water quality problems. The Project Manager will develop and conduct stormwater audits, assist with planning and recommendations for residential and commercial green infrastructure incentive programs, and develop stormwater fee credits in collaboration with Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, communities and regional watershed organizations. The Project Manager will also assist communities with watershed protection ordinances and stormwater management programs; plan and implement protection, restoration, stormwater, and park projects; and conduct education and outreach programs. The Project Manager must be a self-starter and think creatively about environmental problems and potential solutions.

Key Projects

Residential and Commercial Green Infrastructure Incentive Program Development - The Project Manager will assist Senior Staff with a planning process to develop green infrastructure incentive programs. Input will be sought from residents and businesses that would be potential participants in the incentive programs. Discussions will also be held with partners that could play roles in program implementation including the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, communities, watershed organizations, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Community Development Corporations, land trusts and contractors. Discussions will focus on incentive programs for stormwater control measures that are eligible for Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District stormwater fee credits. Program structures and financing models to be explored include rebates, co-pays and targeted area grants.

Stormwater Audit Development and Pilot - The Project Manager will assist Senior Staff with development and piloting of a residential stormwater audit method, drawing upon successes of prior residential green infrastructure programs implemented in Northeast Ohio and in the Mid-Atlantic region such as Washington, D.C.'s RiverSmart Homes stormwater audit. The Project Manager will assist with development of commercial stormwater audit methods and GIS data collection forms for use in conducting audits and develop training for watershed organizations and others that may use the audit method.

Stormwater Fee Credit for Trees - The Project Manager will assist Senior Staff with development of recommendations for a residential stormwater fee credit for rain gardens planted with trees drawing upon work previously completed by the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, City of Cleveland, Western Reserve Land Conservancy, Holden Arboretum and other partners. The credit will be tied to local and regional forest canopy cover, including the Cleveland Tree Plan, as well as regional watershed goals.

Responsibilities of the Project Manager

- Assist with development and pilot residential and commercial stormwater audit methods, recommendations for residential and commercial green infrastructure incentive programs and stormwater fee credits.

Responsibilities of the Project Manager (continued)

- Develop and implement stream and wetland protection and restoration, stormwater, floodplain mitigation, and park improvement projects including grant-writing and administration, procurement of design and construction services, plan review, construction oversight, landowner coordination and communication with regulatory authorities.
- Assist communities with model regulations including riparian and wetland setbacks, erosion and sediment control, comprehensive stormwater management, conservation development, off-street parking, best land use practices and compliance with stormwater regulations.
- Conduct site visits and develop technical recommendations to address flooding, erosion and water quality challenges.
- Provide technical review and recommendations for comprehensive land use and development plans.
- Develop and maintain content for websites, social media and newsletters.
- Plan and conduct outreach and education programs including community events, canoe tours, volunteer stewardship opportunities, educational workshops, and training for landscapers, contractors, community officials, natural resource managers and other professionals.
- Assist with updating and implementing watershed and balanced growth plans.

Skills and Qualifications of the Project Manager

- Must be self-motivated, energetic, and demonstrate strong organizational and leadership skills.
- Excellent problem solving, presentation, and writing skills.
- Ability to work collaboratively with colleagues, communities, counties, park districts and partner conservation organizations.
- Ability to simultaneously manage multiple projects.
- Ability to conduct natural resource fieldwork and attend evening meetings on a regular basis.
- Must understand laws and policies governing land use and water quality management at the local, state, and federal levels.
- Must be able to use personal vehicle for work-related travel on a regular basis. Mileage will be reimbursed at the federal rate.
- Bachelor's degree in biology, ecology, environmental science or related field required, with graduate degree in biology, ecology, water resources, natural resource management, environmental science/planning, or related field strongly preferred.
- Ability to interact with the public, develop and conduct educational programs, and develop and maintain content for websites, social media and newsletters.
- Three to five (3-5) years of experience in watershed management, stormwater management, natural resource management, environmental policy or related field as well as project management experience preferred.
- Grant writing experience preferred.
- Proficiency in ArcGIS and Microsoft Office, including PowerPoint, Excel, and desktop publishing preferred.

Salary & Benefits

- Salary range from \$40,000 to \$50,000, commensurate with experience and education.
- SIMPLE IRA retirement plan.
- Two (2) weeks paid vacation per year.
- Medical coverage, including dental and vision.
- Fast paced, energetic work environment.
- Equal opportunity employer.

How to Apply

- E-mail cover letter, resume, writing sample (5 pages maximum), and 3 references to Heather Elmer at helmer@crwp.org by 11:59 p.m. on January 30, 2018. Candidates should indicate in their cover letter the positions(s) for which they would like to be considered.
- Applications will not be accepted without writing samples.
- Applications will only be accepted electronically.