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Chagrin River Watershed Partners, Inc. (CRWP) Project Manager (Position #2)

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 building strong 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 Ohio - 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 and restore 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 and Key Projects

The Project Manager is a full-time employee who reports to senior staff and 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 assist with implementation of *Collaborating to Protect Ohio's Healthy Central Lake Erie Basin Watersheds*, a project funded by the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities through their Healthy Watershed Consortium grant program. Led by Chagrin River Watershed Partners and one of four projects targeting watershed protection in the Great Lakes region selected for funding in 2017, the project takes a regional approach to protecting healthy watersheds through land preservation, stream corridor enhancements, and local and regional planning and codes. This \$200,000 grant award, matched with \$200,000 of local in-kind contributions, is supporting CRWP's work with watershed organizations and land trusts to protect and steward healthy stream corridors that flow into Lake Erie from Sandusky Bay in Erie County to Conneaut Creek at the Ohio-Pennsylvania border. CRWP is implementing this project in collaboration with land trusts, including Western Reserve Land Conservancy and West Creek Conservancy, and Central Lake Erie Basin Collaborative watershed organizations. Project partners are using the grant to leverage \$11 million for the protection of up to 425 miles of streams and 30,000 acres of land within Ohio's Central Lake Erie watershed. This project is integrating the efforts of watershed organizations and land trusts to protect Lake Erie and the region's watersheds and supporting a model for effective, regional collaboration that can be replicated across Ohio and the nation.

The Project Manager will also provide technical recommendations to assist communities and residential and commercial landowners in solving flooding, erosion and water quality problems; conduct residential and commercial stormwater audits; assist communities with stormwater management programs; plan and implement restoration, stormwater management and park projects; and assist with education and outreach programs. The Project Manager must be a self-starter with the skills and motivation to seek innovative and creative solutions to address environmental problems.

Responsibilities of the Project Manager

- Develop and implement stream and wetland preservation and enhancement projects in collaboration with Central Lake Erie Basin Collaborative watershed organizations, Western Reserve Land Conservancy and West Creek Conservancy.
- Assist communities with integrating watershed protection into local and regional land use plans and ordinances.
- Plan and implement 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 adoption and implementation of 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, including residential and commercial stormwater audits.

- Provide technical review and recommendations for comprehensive land use and development plans.
- Plan and conduct education and outreach programs.
- 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 and conduct educational programs for a variety of audiences.
- 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 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 position(s) for which they would like to be considered.
- Applications will not be accepted without writing samples.
- Applications will only be accepted electronically.