



Seasonal Employment Opportunity

River Steward

Summer 2019

To Apply:

Please submit a resume, three references, and cover letter describing your interest and qualifications for the position by May 1, 2019. You can submit your materials electronically to Alisa Phillips-Griggs; aphillipsgriggs@frwa.org

Position Description:

River Stewards work in the field, laboratory, and office on projects, including weekly water quality sampling in the Farmington River and tributaries; laboratory analysis; stream temperature monitoring; and road-stream crossing assessments to identify problematic stream crossings, habitat connectivity issues and crossings in need of retrofit or replacement. The River Stewards also conduct community outreach (live and online) to promote safe and responsible river recreation; and assist with FRWA's "River Smart" stormwater pollution reduction outreach activities.

River Steward seasonal staff are based in FRWA's office in Simsbury, CT. Responsibilities are typical for entry-level professional positions in watershed associations. The position entails travel throughout watershed towns as needed. The towns include: Avon, Barkhamsted, Bloomfield, Bristol, Burlington, Canton, Colebrook, East Granby, Farmington, Granby, Hartland, Harwinton, New Hartford, Norfolk, Plainville, Plymouth, Simsbury, Suffield, Torrington, Wolcott, Winchester/Winsted, Windsor, and Windsor Locks. Laboratory work and indoor work are both located in Simsbury. Seasonal staff generally work around 24 hours per week, depending on need and weather, for up to 16 weeks from late May or early June through late August. Indoor work is expected to be done in the FRWA office, to allow interaction with team members and understand the basic operations of a non-profit watershed organization.

Seasonal staff will participate in:

Water monitoring. FRWA water monitoring helps to identify high quality waters for preservation and flag high-risk waters for protection and mitigation projects. Long-term monitoring helps us understand changes correlated with hydrology, land use and climate. As FRWA shares water monitoring data with the CT DEEP that is used as part of state compliance with the Clean Water Act; data collection and analysis is therefore held to a high standard. Monitoring is ongoing throughout the season. The work of seasonal staff includes training; collecting water samples from the field; laboratory preparation and analysis of samples for bacteria, deploying and retrieving instream sensors; data download; and data quality assurance and entry. Other tasks may include choosing additional sampling sites, field collection of benthic macroinvertebrates or a special research project.

Stream crossing assessments. Seasonal staff will work with FRWA staff to evaluate road-stream crossings (culverts and bridges) in the lower Farmington River to identify problematic stream crossings, habitat connectivity issues and crossings in need of retrofit or replacement. The process flags crossings vulnerable to failure in extreme storm events and evaluates culverts and bridges for

their ability to allow passage of fish and aquatic animals. We follow the protocol of the North Atlantic Aquatic Continuity Collaborative (NAACC), used by other agencies and organizations throughout the Northeast. Data are uploaded to a shared regional database for viewing and analysis. Seasonal staff undergo mandatory training and testing in the protocol; obtain and record data at field sites; and assist with reviewing and uploading data.

Public education and outreach. This may entail face-to-face interaction with recreational users to encourage safe practices and good river etiquette, maintaining a lively online presence for FRWA on our website and in social media, and participating in programs, events, and field trips for youth and the general public. A high priority is assisting with FRWA's "River Smart" outreach program. Its objective is to engage people in adopting practices that reduce polluted stormwater runoff.

Desired Qualifications:

- Majoring in environmental science or similar field is preferred
- Science education and a passion for protecting the water quality
- Great communication skills
- Excellent organizational skills
- Experience working with data
- Ability to relate to a wide variety of people from different backgrounds
- Good at working independently and with a team
- Must have cell phone and email access
- Access to a car and a clean driving record
- Flexible schedule

Terms and Compensation:

This is a seasonal, part-time position that pays up to \$3,000 for an average of around 24 hours per week, depending on need and weather, for up to 16 weeks from late May or early June through late August. This is a temporary position that does not include benefits. Reimbursement for work-related travel is provided. Some weekend hours may be required on an as needed basis.

FRWA is an equal opportunity employer. We prohibit discrimination based on age, color, disability, marital or parental status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, veteran status or any other legally protected status in accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws.

Farmington River Watershed Association Background:

Farmington River Watershed Association (FRWA) is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization founded in 1953. Our mission is to preserve, protect, and restore the Farmington River and its watershed lands through research, water monitoring, habitat restoration projects, education about rivers and water issues, and advocacy for sound water policies at all levels. Our water monitoring program, organized by highly qualified staff, provides reliable data to CT DEEP. As opportunities arise, we work to restore streambanks and aquatic habitats for fish and wildlife, for example by removing dams or restoring native plant communities. We also help towns with river management, stormwater pollution reduction education and mapping projects. More information can be found on our website, www.frwa.org.