Greater Worcester Land Trust

**Title of Project:** Natural Resource Inventory and Interpretation Ranger

**Main Contact:** Mary Caulway, mary@gwlt.org, 508-795-3838

**Duration:** Minimum of 180 hours.
**Start Date:** Mid-June 2017

**Deadline:** April 7, 2017

**Location:**
Office: 4 Ash Street, Worcester, MA
Lodge: 135 Olean Street, Worcester, MA

Select eight properties from various GWLT lands (Asneborough Ridge, Bovenzi Conservation Area, Cascades, Crow Hill, Donker Farm, Green Hill Park - East Side Trail, Kinneywoods, Marois 28, Nick's Woods, Sibley Farm, Southwick Pond/Muir Meadow)

**Project Function:**

The Natural Resource Inventory and Interpretation Ranger will create a natural and cultural resource guide of designated GWLT properties, and then organize and lead public interpretive walks at least once per week during July and August. These interpretive walks will highlighting different natural features, wildlife, cultural history, etc. found on conserved GWLT lands.

**Job Description:**

Greater Worcester Land Trust (GWLT) is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of open space in the greater Worcester area. The trust operates with a small office staff and a volunteer Board of Directors. A highly dedicated group of GWLT volunteers performs much of the stewardship of the trust's properties, supplemented at various times during the year by volunteer teams from local colleges, schools, businesses, and other organizations.

GWLT protects land for its wildlife habitat and conservation values, and for passive public recreational use. Developing the human connection to nature and the various benefits of being in natural places are values the Trust recognizes and strives to promote. Providing opportunities for public use of GWLT lands is at the core of that mission.

The GWLT Natural Resource Inventory and Interpretation Ranger will provide opportunities for the public to enjoy and learn about the natural history and historical components of GWLT lands, while the observational and field study work of the naturalist will provide a useful catalog to assist the Trust in her wildlife and recreation management.

At a minimum, one walk per week will be conducted on a selected GWLT land or trail. Each event will be organized and shared via social media by the interpreter, and publicized in the local paper. Prior to each hike, the interpreter will visit the property and conduct and record a natural resource inventory. This will provide for the opportunity for the naturalist to become familiar with the property, the trail system, and the significant resources of the land, as well as formally documenting field notes for GWLT.
records. An interpretive guide will be produced to serve as the framework for each walk. One component of the position would be a written blog that describes the area visited and highlights of the hike. This blog will be incorporated into the GWLT website.

Hours /Days per Week:

This project is expected to last 6 weeks - 5 hours per day, 5 days per week – for a total of 150 hours. Weekly updates will be required; with more frequent consultation as needed. Daily check-in/out when visiting the properties will be instituted for safety. Field work and hikes will not be called off for inclement weather unless a specific weather hazard is declared.

Qualifications:

Position requires a self-starter with good communication and organizational skills capable of working effectively in the field without direct supervision. An enjoyment of working with the public and an interest in environmental education would be necessary. A fondness for, and level of comfort in the out-of-doors, an interest or familiarity with basic ecology, and familiarity with New England flora and fauna would be helpful. Social media skills would be beneficial. Transportation to and from the various properties, GWLT Lodge, and GWLT Office are needed. (Public bus routes and a bicycle could be utilized.) A cell phone is needed; smart phone highly recommended.

Housing: Housing will not be provided. Students are responsible for finding their own housing.

For more info: Please, visit: http://www.gwlt.org/

Funding: $2500 Available through the LEEP Fellows Program.

How to Apply:
Please send resume and cover letter to Mary Caulway at mary@gwlt.org

To apply for LEEP Funding and to be considered as a LEEP fellow, students must secure the position and complete the LEEP Fellows Application Process by March 3 (for early decision) or April 14th. Students will be required to submit a resume, cover letter, and a proposal outlining how they will complete their project.

Additional position information is available through Clark Recruiter. (Recommendation letters should be emailed directly to rmaddox@clarku.edu)