

## ***RIVER REVITALIZATION FOUNDATION***

### **Conservation Specialist JOB DESCRIPTION**

The River Revitalization Foundation seeks a Conservation Specialist to successfully carry out the goals and objectives of RRF as an Urban Rivers Land Trust in accordance with its mission: to establish a parkway for public access, walkways, recreation and education, bordering the Milwaukee, Menomonee and Kinnickinnic Rivers; to use the rivers to revitalize surrounding neighborhoods; and to improve water quality. Specifically, the Conservation Specialist will be responsible for all aspects of land conservation and habitat restoration in the Milwaukee River watershed within Milwaukee County. As a partner member of the Southwestern Wisconsin Watersheds Trust ([www.swwtwater.org](http://www.swwtwater.org)), the Conservation Specialist will represent RRF and its interests on the Watershed Action Teams and associated committees (*work plan follows job description*). With the assistance of RRF staff and volunteers, the Conservation Specialist will make contact and work with private landowners, federal, state, tribal, and local units of government, conservation organizations, and citizen groups to accomplish on-the-ground protection of the Milwaukee, Menomonee and Kinnickinnic Rivers. Land conservation and protection may include fee acquisition, conservation easements, consensus building among interest groups, public access projects, and other strategies as needed. This is a grant funded, limited term position (*Joyce Foundation funding for 3 years from May 2009-April 2012*). The Conservation Specialist reports to the Executive Director.

#### **Principle Duties and Responsibilities:**

##### **Land Conservation**

- Direct implementation of RRF's Land Protection Plan (LPPs)/ Riverway Plan.
- Execute SWWT partner workplan to accomplish LPP objectives and deliverables; adhere to Joyce Foundation reporting requirements for each year of the project (YR 1, YR 2, YR 3):
- Recommend and utilize Fee acquisition, conservation easements, other strategies for protection, consistent with Land Trust Alliance Standards and Practices.
- Assist with site planning – restoration, revitalization, habitat and water quality improvements.
- Coordinate all due diligence (appraisals, surveys, title work, GIS databases and environmental assessments).

##### **Landowner Relations**

- Contact landowners, potential partners, including municipalities, both public and private, as identified in the LPP.
- Manage database and tracking of all landowner and parcel information.

- Conduct neighborhood meetings/workshops and outreach to increase awareness and engagement in the Menomonee River basin (Watershed Action Teams).
- Serve as liaison between RRF and landowners. SWWT representative on committees.
- Promote RRF in the neighborhoods and communities where we have projects/ presence.

### **Land Trust Projects**

- Manage GIS data and map making.
- Identify additional target properties, public access projects, within RRF's/ SWWT's project area for conservation, water quality improvements.
- Baseline monitoring of any parcels under RRF's ownership, including Koch Woodlands in the Village of Brown Deer (Southbranch Creek).
- Assist RRF Project Manager with programs, events as needed.

### **Qualifications:**

Minimum Bachelors degree; environmental, conservation, urban planning preferred. Familiarity with the Milwaukee, Menomonee and Kinnickinnic Rivers desired. Experience in landowner outreach, land trust field work necessary. Demonstrated commitment to the environment. Experience working with diverse populations, organizations, media and public officials. Excellent problem solving skills. High degree of professionalism, flexibility and initiative. Ability to work independently. Good written and oral communication skills.

### **Salary and Fringe Benefits:**

This is a grant-funded, limited-term position; salary based on grant budget considerations. In lieu of benefits, flex time and paid holidays are included. Relaxed, pleasant work environment. Employees must adhere to RRF personnel policies.

### **How to Apply:**

Please submit cover letter, resume and 3 references to:

**River Revitalization Foundation**  
 1845 N. Farwell Avenue, Suite 100  
 Milwaukee, WI 53202  
 Phone: 414-271-8000  
 Fax: 414.273.7293  
 Email: [kgleffe@riverrevitalizationfoundation.org](mailto:kgleffe@riverrevitalizationfoundation.org)  
[www.riverrevitalizationfoundation.org](http://www.riverrevitalizationfoundation.org)

**River Revitalization Foundation's Board approved role** as a nonprofit partner and member of the *Southeastern Wisconsin Watershed Trust* – funding awarded by the Joyce Foundation for the period May 1, 2009 to April 30, 2012:

**Continue and strengthen our urban land trust efforts with the benefit of additional resources (increased capacity – implementation) to transform the urban landscape**

***YEAR 1 – expand Land Protection Plan to include the Kinnickinnic River watershed.***

- Investigate and prioritize parcels along the river that if protected would have the most impact on water quality and habitat improvements – based on research that shows riparian corridors reduce pollutant loads and improve habitat.
- Based on ranking (scores determined by conservation values of each site) and mapping, recommend key landowner contacts and parcel acquisition/ easements in each municipality to allocate resources effectively and efficiently.
- Partner with those municipalities and landowners to advocate for sound land use decisions and protective ordinances to preserve the entire Milwaukee River basin as has been demonstrated through the Milwaukee River Work Group “Central Park” overlay strategy.
- Ecological restoration to increase biodiversity, flood management and water quality at priority sites in each watershed. Reference Land Management Plan produced by Applied Ecological Services to guide habitat and creek restoration projects.
- Public access and education. Utilize tools and community resources to gather information about landowner interaction with the watershed; engage the public in volunteer activities, events and programs to strengthen stewardship, leading to behavior change for positive water quality impacts.
- Leverage land protection efforts to include but not limited to Greenseams, Lake Michigan Shorelands Alliance, Gathering Waters Conservancy, Land Trust Alliance, Milwaukee River Work Group, M7 Water Council, and private landowners.

***YEAR 2 – expand Land Protection Plan to include the tributaries of each river and the Root Pike watershed.***

***YEAR 3 – expand Land Protection Plan to include the Menomonee River canals as possible wetland restoration projects.***

**Participate in the SWWT as a fully involved and engaged partner**

- Appoint staff to commit to meetings, provide leadership and guidance as it relates to the River Revitalization Foundation mission, goals and objectives as Milwaukee's urban rivers land trust.
- As appropriate, provide direction to the SWWT regarding its mission, goals and objectives and overall organizational structure.
- Implement recommendations related to RRF role as outlined in 3-year scope and according to Watershed Restoration Plan (WRPs) objectives.