



Environmental Restoration Assistant

Application Deadline: April 1st 2023

Submit cover letter and resume to Cara Steele, cara@abbeygardens.ca

Anticipated start/end dates: May 2nd 2023 to September 1st 2023; 40 hrs/week
@\$18/hr

Abbey Gardens is a charitable organization in Haliburton, ON focused on the remediation of a decommissioned gravel pit into a green space that provides economic and recreational opportunities for our community. Our vision is to inspire a healthy community and create opportunities to learn about living sustainably. The 380-acre site is developing incrementally towards becoming a demonstration and education site on local food, gardening, sustainable living, biodiversity, and ecology. In addition to helping nature reclaim the land, the Abbey Gardens team is dedicated to demonstrating innovative and replicable solutions and practices that will inspire generations of good stewards for our earth and people. Our project offers tremendous opportunity for learning and experimentation as well as project management.

The Restoration Assistant will be responsible for assisting with the environmental restoration projects at Abbey Gardens and within Haliburton County. The role provides an opportunity to plan, plant, maintain and monitor projects related to the rehabilitation of the Abbey Gardens property and educational programming gardens & spaces.

Job Description

This individual will work closely with the Ecology Specialist and Education Coordinator to plan and execute projects related to ecological restoration, sustainable agriculture, soil building and other relevant studies, children's education gardens, and much more. This role is key to the overall mission of Abbey Gardens to re-green the former gravel pit on the property and support environmental efforts in the Haliburton community. Projects for 2023 include but are not limited to: tallgrass prairie restoration, forest restoration, garden planting and maintenance (using naturalistic planting techniques and native plants), boulevard tree installation, sunflower field planting and design, shoreline restoration, and more.

Primary responsibilities include:

- Work with the Ecologist to offer a shoreline restoration service as a branch of Abbey Gardens
- Support off-site shoreline restoration efforts by liaising with waterfront property owners, drafting shoreline planting plans, sourcing plants/materials, implementing planting plans and writing summary reports in collaboration with the Ecology Specialist
- Execute plans for a flowering tree boulevard, native plant gardens, sunflower field, forest plantings, and shoreline projects in collaboration with other staff
- Maintain restored spaces and gardens (ie. weeding, mulching, watering, monitoring)
- Plant and maintain children's education gardens and spaces
- Enhance visitor experiences by answering questions and providing tours of the gardens and restoration spaces



- Research and plan for future naturalization projects
- Write educational materials (interpretive signs, blog posts etc.) about our restoration efforts on-site and within the community
- Work closely with Ecology Specialist and be open to coaching and mentorship, with the goal being that the assistant can further provide technical direction to team members, including program staff, summer staff, and volunteers
- Assist with trail development and maintenance where relevant (protecting at risk species, safe property use, the creation of trails with low impacts, general trail maintenance etc.)
- In collaboration with Ecology Specialist, liaise with Trent University researchers and students on joint projects
- Other duties as assigned

The idea candidate:

- Pursuing or has completed schooling in environmental sciences,
- Experience and/or interest with environmental restoration
- Knowledge of native plants and their properties
- Experience with gardening
- Leadership qualities and fun, dynamic personality
- Comfortable working outdoors in a variety of weather conditions
- Has accommodations locally (Haliburton County and surrounding area) and access to a vehicle
- Valid Standard First Aid or agreement to attain valid Standard First Aid prior to start date