



Seasonal Employment Opportunity Join our Tree Planting Crew – Southbridge and/or Ware

Planting trees in the urban core of Southbridge and Ware is part of a program designed to improve public health, improve area water quality, and reduce household energy use. Healthy urban forests support many aspects of our environmental, economic, and social well-being, including:

- Trees filter the air by removing dust and absorbing air pollutants
- Trees beautify neighborhoods and improve the quality of life
- Trees can cut summer cooling costs by shading homes
- Trees reduce climate change impacts by absorbing carbon dioxide & reducing annual storm water runoff
- Tree-lined neighborhoods have lower rates of ADHD and asthma
- Trees and landscaping raise property values
- Trees protect us from harmful sun rays that cause skin cancer
- Trees stabilize steep slopes and slow down water runoff, protecting soils
- Trees provide food and shelter for many birds and animals
- Tree-lined streets reduce noise pollution by absorbing sound and slowing traffic

Opacum Land Trust and its partner, the East Quabbin Land Trust are planting 1,000 trees in Southbridge and another 1,000 trees in Ware over the next three years. The tree planting crew positions are funded by a Landscape Scale Restoration grant from the US Forest Service with matching funds from Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation.

Job Duties and Expectations:

- Plant trees under the guidance of a trained arborist
- Transport trees, mulch, soil and water loads. Must be able to lift up to 50lbs.
- Collaborate with Town of Ware and Southbridge officials and homeowners to prepare and complete plantings.
- Assist with door to door canvassing and other outreach strategies to homeowners in priority planting areas.
- Work outside as part of a small team and in any weather condition
- Wear Personal Protective Equipment, like gloves, safety vests, eye protection, and more, as appropriate
- Participate in required trainings and follow all health and safety procedures related to Covid-19, safe lifting and other topics
- Represent the East Quabbin Land Trust and Opacum Land Trust appropriately and responsibly
- Other duties as assigned
- Ability to speak Spanish is a plus, but not required

Requirements:

- Must have transportation to morning meeting location and to other job sites throughout the day in Ware or Southbridge
- Must be 18 or over
- Must be authorized to work in the U.S
- Priority will be given to applicants who live in Ware or Southbridge.

Hours & Compensation:

- Between \$15 - \$17/hour, based on experience. Paid lunch break and sick time off.
- This is a seasonal position, roughly: April- mid June, and September- early November.
- Hours are expected to range from 20-40 hrs/week, depending on weather and workload.

Sample Daily Schedule:

A tree planting day usually follows a basic schedule, Monday – Friday, 7:30am – 3:30 pm

- 7:30am: Meet at the central location and review planting assignments with program arborist
- Morning: Tree planting on public and/or private property
- Lunch break
- Afternoon: Tree planting and/or door-to-door canvassing
- 3:30pm: End

To Apply: Complete application form and email to Cynthia Henshaw at chenshaw@eqtl.org (preferred) or mail to PO Box 5 Hardwick, MA 01037

Successful applicants will be employees of Opacum Land Trust or East Quabbin Land Trust to complete tree planting in Ware and Southbridge, funded by the US Forest Service and Mass. DCR.

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