



**Foothills Conservancy of North Carolina, Morganton, NC**

**Job Announcement**

**Position Title: Stewardship Intern (part-time)**

**Term: Summer – 10 weeks/320 hours (32 hours/week)**

**Location: 204 Avery Avenue, Morganton, NC**

**Application Deadline: March 1, 2024**

**Foothills Conservancy of North Carolina (FCNC)** is a nationally accredited 501(c)(3) nonprofit land trust that inspires conservation in Western North Carolina by permanently protecting land and water resources. The organization envisions a thriving region to live and visit, with clean water, healthy forests, productive farmland, diverse wildlife, access to outdoor recreation, and communities that value conservation. FCNC serves eight counties: Alexander, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Cleveland, Lincoln, McDowell, and Rutherford, in three major river basins: the Broad, Catawba, and Yadkin.

Since its founding 25 years ago, FCNC has permanently protected over 68,000 acres in Western North Carolina through strong relationships with private landowners, communities, and a vast network of private, local, state and federal natural resource agencies and organizations. Nearly 55,000 acres have been transferred to public ownership as state, local and national parks, state game lands, and national forests. FCNC also manages close to 7,000 acres in its own preserves, and holds conservation easements on privately-owned farms, wetlands and forested areas. The land trust's service area is rich in biodiversity, natural resources and public outdoor recreation areas, including a national forest, national park, national wildlife refuge area, four state parks, three state game lands, and four state-designated trails. FCNC is the lead organization for the Wilderness Gateway State Trail.

**Position Summary**

The Stewardship Intern's primary duties will be assisting FCNC's Stewardship Director with the annual monitoring and associated record-keeping of FCNC's conservation easements and preserve lands. The Stewardship Intern will also assist with natural resource management activities on FCNC-owned preserve lands. Some expectations of this position include strong interpersonal and communication skills, as well as detailed recordkeeping according to policies and procedures.

## **Key Responsibilities**

- Assist with conservation land monitoring and inspection, including walking property boundaries, locating and marking boundary markers, inspection of lands for compliance with deed restrictions, meeting with property easement owners, and filing summary reports and photo logs
- Assist with land stewardship activities, including trash pickup, trail maintenance, trimming, planting, weeding, site monitoring, posting property boundary signage, gate installation, and other duties, as assigned
- Assist with the implementation of forest management plans on Conservancy owned lands
- Remove invasive plants through herbicide treatment or manual removal
- Work with volunteer groups on land stewardship projects
- Assist in the maintenance and storage of land stewardship equipment and supplies
- Work with many and diverse partners, including consulting foresters, local, state and federal governments agencies, and nonprofit organizations.
- Maintain positive work environment and relationships with colleagues, staff, and volunteers

## **Qualifications**

- Significant work toward a degree in natural resource management or related study area
- Ability to identify or key out native and invasive plant species
- Experience with invasive plant removal techniques, including manual (hand pull, hand tools), mechanical (chainsaw, brush cutter) and chemical (herbicide, backpack sprayer), or willingness to learn
- Experience in proper use of power and hand tools, and routine maintenance of equipment and tools
- Experience with ArcGIS and Avenza Mapping Application preferred
- Positive and energetic role model in attitude and behavior
- Excellent reliability and ability to work independently
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Computer skills required, including Microsoft Office and Google Suite
- Ability to work effectively in the outdoors, in all types of weather and over uneven terrain
- Ability to lift up to 50 pounds.
- Possession of a valid driver's license with a safe driving record
- Should reside, or have access to housing, in FCNC's eight county service area (Alexander, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Cleveland, Lincoln, McDowell, Rutherford)

## **Compensation:**

Pay is \$18/hour

## **Application Timeline:**

March 8: Application Deadline

March 11 – March 15: Interviews Scheduled

March 18 – April 1: Interviews Conducted & Offer Made

May 28: Position Start Date

August 8: Position End Date

## **How to Apply**

E-mail a cover letter and resume, including three professional references, to [rspark@foothillsconservancy.org](mailto:rspark@foothillsconservancy.org). Please include "FCNC Stewardship Intern" in the subject line.