



Position: Community Forest Health Technician

Trees Forever and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) have partnered to hire a full-time Community Forest Health Technician. The two organizations share the goal to grow healthy, thriving trees and forests. This position will take an active role in helping create healthy urban and rural forests in the state. The successful applicant will have the ability to help private landowners navigate forest health issues, be detail-oriented as they monitor forests for pest and disease issues, and work with communities of all sizes to achieve healthy and growing urban forests. Funding for this position is currently secured for one year with the option to extend the work into a second year.

The applicant will serve as an employee of Trees Forever and receive supervision from Trees Forever. Instructions and work priorities will be agreed upon by the DNR State Forester, DNR Forest Health Forester, DNR Urban Forestry Coordinator, and Trees Forever. Training and support will be provided by the Iowa DNR and Trees Forever.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Forest Health (70% of time) – under the guidance, assistance, and training of the Iowa DNR Forest Health Forester:
 - Assist in trapping, stream baiting, survey activities, trainings, and sample collections on key forest pests as identified by the Forest Health Forester.
 - Respond to private homeowners and landowners by phone, email, or site visit related to tree and forest health concerns.
 - Work with DNR private and public land foresters and Trees Forever field staff as requested to help identify forest pest and disease issues in the field.
 - Recommend management techniques and funding opportunities to private landowners for improving their forested lands in consultation with private and public land foresters.
 - Utilize the Forest Disturbance Mapper created by the US Forest Service and overlay the disturbances in ArcMap with current imagery to identify forest health issues.
 - Collect samples of unknown forest health issues in the field and send to the lab for the Program Leader to diagnose and report.
- Community Forestry (30% of time) – under the guidance, assistance and training of the Urban Forestry Coordinator and Trees Forever:
 - Assist cities with urban forestry related activities such as city public/private tree inventories and canopy cover assessments.
 - Assist communities by conducting tree risk assessments for the benefit of public safety.
 - Provide urban and community forestry technical assistance to volunteer leaders, tree boards and other groups.
 - Recommend funding opportunities to help communities achieve forestry health and growth goals.

- Conduct conservation education programs and plantings such as those for DNR's Trees for Kids and have working knowledge of opportunities from Trees Forever.
- Provide urban forestry recommendations such as species selection, stormwater mitigation, disaster preparation, and long-term/master planning.
- Extend the capacity of and work in consultation with DNR District Foresters and Trees Forever Field Coordinators to meet the needs of communities.
- Assist Urban Forestry and Trees Forever staff in developing communication materials such as but not limited to newsletters, publications, fact sheets, news releases, social media and the web

The ideal candidate will possess the following attributes:

- Superior communication (written and oral) skills. Must be comfortable both speaking in public and in engaging landowners on a one-to-one basis.
- Ability to work independently.
- Willingness to be a vocal advocate for young forests and active forest management to landowners and natural resource professionals.
- Knowledge of basic forest ecology and dynamics, especially related to the forest communities of Iowa.
- Knowledge of relevant conservation programs, including Federal Farm Bill programs (CRP, EQIP and CSP), U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Partners for Fish & Wildlife program, and other applicable federal, state, and local conservation programs.
- Ability to work long hours in the field and under adverse weather conditions.
- Familiarity with MS Word, MS Excel and ArcMap.
- Valid driver's license required with an acceptable driving record. A vehicle will be provided for work-related trips.

Qualifications

Minimum - Bachelor's Degree in Forestry or closely related field from an accredited academic institution. Preference will be given to candidates who have professional experience related to forest management. Experience working with private landowners to develop conservation plans is also beneficial.

Location

Des Moines or Marion, Iowa

SALARY AND BENEFITS

Salary: \$41,600 (\$20/hour equivalent)

Benefits: Retirement Plan Match to 4% of salary (immediate eligibility)

Access to Medical and Dental Coverage-individual and family plans, Life, AD&D Coverage
11 Paid Holidays. 18 days accumulation for first year and 21 days in year two.

Trees Forever and the Iowa DNR are Equal Opportunity Employers (EOE) and do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, sexual orientation, veteran status, or disability. We reserve the right to conduct background checks and drug screenings.

Closing date: November 12. Please submit cover letter and resume to bsmith@treesforever.org