



NOWCorps Community Forestry Specialist Western Reserve Land Conservancy

Contact for interested Members: Claire Ilersich, NOWCorps Member Coordinator at claire@tinkerscreek.org or 330-963-6863 x5104. Applications preferred by August 1, 2024, but position is open until filled.

About Us:

Northern Ohio Watershed Corps (NOWCorps) is a State and National AmeriCorps program, funded by AmeriCorps and ServeOhio, Ohio's Commission on Service and Volunteerism. *This is a paid service year position.* The NOWCorps program is sponsored by Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners (TCWP), a non-profit, 501(c)(3) watershed organization, whose mission is to protect and restore water quality and habitats of the Tinker's Creek watershed through community partnerships. NOWCorps partners with watershed groups, soil and water conservation districts, city and county government offices, and other conservation nonprofits who serve as host sites for our members. Through the host site, members facilitate outreach, education, capacity building, environmental stewardship, and stormwater management. NOWCorps position descriptions vary depending on the host site and service year focus and prospective members may apply to multiple NOWCorps positions at the same time.

Together with our partners, **Western Reserve Land Conservancy** recognizes the importance of maintaining water quality throughout Northern Ohio. We also believe in educating the public and regional leaders to support behavioral changes that positively affect our water resources.

Host Site Information:

Western Reserve Land Conservancy provides people with essential natural assets through land conservation and restoration. Headquartered in Moreland Hills, Ohio, we are a non-profit organization, the largest land conservancy in Ohio and nationally accredited by the Land Trust Alliance. Serving an area of 29 counties from the Pennsylvania line to the Sandusky Bay, the Land Conservancy has permanently conserved more acreage than Cleveland Metroparks and the Cuyahoga Valley National Park combined. We work with private and public landowners, farming families, neighborhood development corporations, corporations, county park systems, local residents and many more to help create communities nourished by vibrant natural lands, working farms and healthy cities. Thriving Communities, our urban revitalization program, is nationally recognized for thought leadership on removing blight; creating land banks statewide to find productive uses for vacant properties; and revitalizing communities through greening strategies. Our mission is funded through a combination of program revenue, government grants, and philanthropic gifts from individuals, foundations and corporations.

Basic Position Information:

Location: **Western Reserve Land Conservancy, 812 Huron Road East, Suite 840, Cleveland, OH 44115**
Reports to: **Manager of Community Forestry (Tom Schreiber)**

Member position begins October 8, 2024 and ends September 30, 2025. Mandatory orientation is scheduled October 8-11, 18, 2024, which will occur in person in Twinsburg, Ohio. This position is a **Full-**

time member position and requires a minimum of 1700 hours of service over the service period. The member will receive a stipend of no more than \$22,000, and the stipend will be paid bimonthly.

Usual hours of service will be Monday thru Friday during the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The ability to serve flexible hours, including weekend days and some evenings, is needed. Scheduled hours may fluctuate, increase, or decrease in consideration of seasonal changes such as inclement weather or other extended activities.

Benefits:

- Paid Orientation and training included
- Programmatic and site-specific training. Content may include but is not limited to: First Aid, CPR, native species identification, hand and power tool training, volunteer engagement, and more
- Federal Loan Deferment
- Full-time members eligible for health insurance
- Full-time members may qualify for childcare assistance
- May be eligible for education award of \$7,395.00
- Additional training reimbursement stipend of \$125/quarter (\$500 total)
- Eligible mileage reimbursement
- Ample opportunity for professional development and networking
- Free attendance to the Ohio Stormwater Conference

The member will not be an employee of Holden Forests & Gardens and is not entitled to any of the benefits or compensation Holden Forests & Gardens provides to its employees.

AmeriCorps Requirements:

- Must have a GED or high school diploma.
- Must be 18 or older by October 8, 2024.
- Must successfully pass a comprehensive National Service Criminal History Check (NSCHC).
- Must be a US citizen, national, or lawful permanent resident.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Possess a valid driver's license, be insured, and have own transportation
- Have an interest or plan to pursue a career in community forestry, arboriculture, environmental science or studies, urban studies, natural resources or forestry.
- Be self-motivated and able to work independently and on a team
- Strong communication, organizational, and interpersonal skills
- Demonstrate maturity and cultural competency
- Desire to serve the local community

Duties and Responsibilities of the AmeriCorps member:

General Member Responsibilities

- Promote the Northern Ohio Watershed Corps through education and outreach activities
- Enhance skills and knowledge applicable to position through participation in related workshops, conferences, and training
- Plan, facilitate, and participate in group service projects for National Days of Service

- Attend all NOWCorps required meetings and trainings
- Complete activity & data reports monthly, required timesheets weekly, and any other reporting in a timely manner.
- All other duties as assigned within the limitations of this member description

Western Reserve Land Conservancy Responsibilities

- Establish and oversee connections and relationships between the Land Conservancy's Reforest Our City (ROC) program and community development corporations, block clubs, and other neighborhood groups in the city of Cleveland.
 - Lead at least one neighborhood tree planting with an existing neighborhood tree group
- Support Tree Stewards training by facilitating educational workshops, recruiting new tree stewards from target neighborhoods, creating and delivering educational content, and maintaining communication with both new, existing, and potential volunteers
- Develop and lead at least one new workshop for Tree Stewards
- Support tree giveaway programming by leading outreach efforts to homeowners in target neighborhoods and facilitating tree giveaway events
- Assist with tree planting and stewardship with Thriving Communities, our urban revitalization program
 - Participate in spring and fall tree plantings where Land Conservancy staff partner with school students plus volunteers from local communities and corporations
 - Assist annual Arbor Day activities that provide educational outreach to the community on value of trees
 - Maintain newly planted trees in the City of Cleveland with the Land Conservancy's tree crew providing site maintenance, watering, mulching and pruning urban trees 2 day per week from June 1st to September 30th
 - These tasks include, but are not limited to:
 - Watering trees with (3) 5-gallon pails of water per tree per week, carried to each tree by hand or using a 2-wheel cart.
 - Mulching trees, including carrying mulch to each tree in bins
 - Weeding tree beds
 - Replacing stakes and trunk guards on trees
 - Participate in tree crew planting and tree giveaways 2 days per week in October and November, 2024 and from March thru May, 2025
 - Assist with ROC project and event documentation including attending and taking pictures at events
- Maintain an interactive map using Land Conservancy tree survey data, including tree giveaway data

Additional activities that fall within the goals of the program may be assigned with approval of the member, site supervisor, and NOWCorps staff.

Physical Requirements and Work Environment

The physical requirements and work environment described here are representative of those that must be met by an individual to successfully perform the essential functions of this position. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

This position requires the following:

- manual dexterity sufficient to operate telephones, computers, and other office equipment
- physical ability to kneel, bend, and perform occasional lifting up to 40 pounds
- when performing tree planting work, must be able to work outside in typical Cleveland weather conditions that exist in the spring, summer and fall
- ability to write and speak clearly using the English language to convey information and be able to hear at normal speaking levels both in person and over the telephone
- specific vision abilities required include close vision, depth perception, and the ability to adjust focus

Additional information: Western Reserve Land Conservancy is accessible to individuals with disabilities. Western Reserve Land Conservancy, Tinker’s Creek Watershed Partners, and the Northern Ohio Watershed Corps will adhere to all regulations concerning nondiscrimination and equal opportunity regulations as outlined in federal and state law. This program will be made available to all without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, political affiliation, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and expression, marital or parental status, genetic information, military service, and religion.

The below signed recognize this as the Member Position Description and that the Member is to perform the duties detailed above during their Member Service Year. The below signed recognize that activities outside of the scope of this description require prior written approval by all the below signed prior to execution of those activities.

NOWCorps Member Signature

Host Site Supervisor Signature

NOWCorps Staff Signature