



Friends of Illinois Nature Preserves

www.friendsilnature.org

Friends of Illinois Nature Preserves seek a Regional Field Representative (“Field Rep”) for the McHenry County region of Northeastern Illinois. The Field Rep will build the Friends’ conservation program in this region. The main responsibilities are to

- (1) find, mentor, and motivate potential volunteers who can learn to provide collaborative leadership to new and existing volunteer communities and
- (2) support networking among existing volunteer communities.

The Field Rep will reach potential volunteer leaders by conducting outreach, developing relationships, and managing strategic collaborations through a variety of small- and large-scale communications. This will include mass and social media, in-person events, writing mass emails and individual emails, and building relationships with organizations, community leaders, and other individuals.

The Field Rep will mentor, lead, teach, and support through regular "workday" events at needy Nature Preserve sites, where new stewards will perform stewardship tasks like brush-cutting, invasive weed control, and seed harvesting and broadcast where needed. The main focus of the Field Rep at such meetups will be to foster a culture of communal leadership and learning. The Field Rep will help foster community knowledge of key stewardship techniques and skills including ecological planning, plant and animal identification, and group organizing with a view toward establishing a thriving volunteer community at each site. Existing Friends volunteer leaders and mentors will coach the Field Rep on the Friends’ collaborative work-learn-lead volunteering model.



Friends’ Mission

To support biodiversity conservation generally and especially the Illinois Nature Preserves System by finding increased volunteer support, resources, and funding for the Preserves and by training local volunteer leaders to restore and care for biodiversity reserves.

Friends’ Values

- A friendly, supportive, and collaborative approach is the best way to ensure long-term, sustainable conservation.
- The Friends are committed to biodiversity conservation that follows science-driven ecological principles.
- Connecting people to land and nature best ensures sustainable long-term conservation.
- All people of Illinois are impacted by the loss of biodiversity.
- Working in partnership with preserve owners (state and local governments, conservation organizations, and individuals) is important for the sustainability of the Nature Preserve system.

- The rapid development of work-learn-lead volunteers fosters competent volunteer leaders and catalysts that are welcomed and supported as partners with government staff.
- Every child in Illinois should have the opportunity to discover nature, which includes the State's prairies, forests, savannas, dunes, and wetlands.
- A diverse, equitable, and inclusive organization is a stronger organization. We accept and facilitate everyone and aspire "to look like Illinois."

Preferred Qualifications

- Personal commitment to and knowledge of biodiversity conservation.
- Ability to build teams and collaborate and work with others in a friendly and supportive manner.
- Ability to work effectively in a team environment.
- Strong social and interpersonal skills.
- Flexible schedule – working with volunteers often requires working outside Monday thru Friday, 9 am-5 pm hours.
- Positive attitude, a self-starter, and patient when needed.
- Exceptional prioritization and time-management skills.
- Working knowledge of Illinois ecology, land management, and stewardship issues.
- Valid Driver's License.
- Willingness to take prescribed burn training as needed and other trainings as needed.
- Illinois herbicide applicator license or willingness to acquire one.

Compensation & Benefits:

- Salary: \$25-\$27/hour (\$52,000 to \$55,890 annually) dependent upon qualifications
- Vacation: 10 days paid vacation
- Monthly health insurance stipend
- Limited overnight travel may be required; Typical travel to a worksite is 10-50 miles; a personal vehicle is to be used, and employee will be given a vehicle stipend. Small equipment will be carried in the personal vehicle. To attend public meetings or assignments outside of the NE Illinois work area, the mileage reimbursement is the federal reimbursement rate per mile after the first 35 miles of the round trip.

Location

- It is expected that this individual will live in Northeast Illinois and will work in a hybrid capacity (from home and in the field). Field Rep will provide internet service and a smartphone for communication and field data collection (monthly cell phone stipend provided).
- Friends will provide the Field Representative with a laptop or tablet.
- Friends will supply all tools and materials used by the Field Representative and volunteers that are used in field work.

To Apply

Send a cover letter and resume to Rebecca Hartz at rebecca@friendsilnature.org.

Questions?

Contact Amy at 779-212-2785 or amy@friendsilnature.org.