



Nanticoke Watershed Alliance River Steward Volunteer Position Description

Background: The Nanticoke Watershed Alliance's mission is to foster partnerships and progress in conserving the natural, cultural and recreational resources of the Nanticoke River watershed through dialogue, collaborative outreach and education. The Alliance, formed in 1992, is a consortium of over 40 organizations from Maryland and Delaware including representatives from agriculture, industry, environmental, business, community, state, local, and federal governmental organizations.

The Alliance organizes and participates in several restoration and cleanup projects throughout the year. Projects include rain garden installations, native plant plantings, river and stream clean-ups, storm drain stenciling, and maintenance of existing rain gardens and rain barrels. Activities will be conducted by volunteer River Stewards under the leadership of one or more Alliance staff members. The Stewards' hard work will provide valuable habitat for wildlife by preventing erosion, absorbing nutrients, and keeping Nanticoke waters cooler during the warm-season months, which is critical for many fish species. Stewardship projects also reduce pollution and improve the understanding of watershed issues in communities.

River Steward Team Member Responsibilities:

- Participate in event activities at scheduled time. Activities may include trash removal, creating shoreline buffers, planting trees and/or native plants and weeding out invasive species.
- Dress appropriately for events according to weather and conditions (closed-toed shoes and long pants are required).
- Get to and from event and coordinate as needed with staff.

Training and Benefits: Minimal training required. Staff will provide all instruction, tools, and materials required for projects at the site. Benefits include:

- Being involved with the restoration of one's own watershed and creating a cleaner environment.
- Having the freedom to pick and choose events.
- Being outdoors, getting exercise, and meeting new like-minded people.

Qualifications: No education or prior background in restoration is required, although experience gardening and knowledge of native plants is helpful. River Steward Team Members should be able to perform moderate to rigorous physical activity and withstand a variety of weather conditions. Families and minors are welcome, although minors should be accompanied by an adult.

Supervisor: Beth Wasden, Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator

To Apply: Complete an Alliance Volunteer Application (found online at www.nanticokeriver.org); call Beth Wasden at 443.944.1175 or email at bethwasden@nanticokeriver.org to be mailed an application.