



# Steward Volunteer

## Position Description

**Purpose of Volunteer Service:** To assist with the multi-faceted efforts of restoring, protecting and perpetuating native ecosystems consistent with the District's natural areas management program. To share knowledge obtained with volunteers, staff and the public.

**Supervisors:** Restoration Ecologist, Volunteer Coordinator

**Typical Assignment:** Oversee the management of a local preserve site, working with the restoration staff to meet the goals listed in the annual management schedule. Schedule monthly workdays to help achieve those goals. Work with the Volunteer Coordinator to recruit volunteers for the site.

### Qualifications/Skills:

- Must be at least 21 years old.
- Ability to adapt to changing weather conditions and schedules.
- Ability to supervise volunteers in workday activities with concern for the volunteer's and public's safety, as well as the protection of the resource.
- Ability to identify local plant species and ecological communities.
- Understanding of restoration concepts and the ability to implement management activities.
- Knowledge of herbicide use and possession of an herbicide license.
- Ability to work with and take direction from District staff.
- Ability to perform the same workday activities that workday volunteers are expected to perform.



### Expectations:

- Implement and adhere to the District's management techniques.
- Plan and supervise monthly workdays to achieve management objectives.
- Submit workday report forms to the Volunteer Coordinator each month.
- Attend the District's annual steward's meeting and related land management workshops.
- Serve as a mentor to apprentice stewards.
- Convey purpose of District's natural areas restoration program to the public during workdays.
- Contact the District police of suspicious activities (e.g. ATV use, illegal dumping).
- Keep the Volunteer Coordinator updated on concerns about preserve misuse and or other issues.
- Become familiar with all portions of the preserve and restoration priorities.
- Represent the District in a warm and professional manner.
- Provide ideas and suggestions for improving the volunteer program and/or your volunteer position.

### Training:

Stewards begin as apprentice stewards, working with a mentor steward for one to three years. Volunteers are required to attend the *Orientation to the District and Kane County* and will receive hands-on training in the field. Additional education classes are listed in the quarterly newsletter, *The Tree Line*, which can be viewed online <http://www.kaneforest.com/publications/treeLine.pdf>. Continuing education sessions are offered throughout the year.