



Friends of the Rappahannock
3219 Fall Hill Avenue
Fredericksburg, VA 22401
Phone: 540-373-3448

Riparian Buffer Technician

FOR is currently searching for a Seasonal Part-Time (30 hours/week) Riparian Buffer Technician to support restoration work across the Rappahannock, York and Potomac River watersheds. This position is mostly field-based with the option for office-related work at partner offices - Friends of the Rappahannock in Culpeper, VA and Piedmont Environmental Council in Warrenton, VA. Occasional telework opportunities are likely.

Friends of the Rappahannock (FOR) is a 501c3 non profit organization founded in 1985 with the mission to be the voice and active force for a healthy and scenic Rappahannock River. We accomplish this through three program pillars - advocacy, restoration, and education.

Background:

Friends of the Rappahannock (FOR), York River Steward (YRS), and Piedmont Environmental Council (PEC) are teaming up to provide maintenance support for riparian buffers through the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Riparian Forest Buffer Maintenance on Agricultural Land program. Through this partnership effort, agricultural lands with riparian buffers will receive support for necessary maintenance activities designed to increase their performance and functionality. Many riparian buffers have been installed through state and federal cost-share opportunities; there is an essential need to support these landowners to ensure maintenance is completed. Proper maintenance on riparian buffers allows for increased functionality leading to greater filter capacity of pollutants, habitat improvements for wildlife, stabilization of stream banks, and decreased water temperatures. The primary focus of this position will be to perform site assessments and inform maintenance needs for riparian forest buffers on agricultural properties across portions of the Rappahannock, York and Potomac River watersheds. This program was developed to assess and perform needed maintenance on eligible riparian forest buffers installed 1-15 years ago through the Virginia Agricultural Cost-Share Program's (VACS) FR-3 cost-share program. Additionally, other eligible non-FR-3 projects (e.g., projects planted through federal cost-share programs or by partners) may qualify for assessment. Assessments include visual observation of invasive plant species and native tree establishment, and light tree shelter maintenance at the selected project locations.

Position Description

The primary focus of this position will be to perform site assessments and inform maintenance needs for riparian forest buffers on agricultural properties across portions of the Rappahannock, York and Potomac River watersheds. This program was developed to assess and perform needed maintenance on eligible riparian forest buffers installed 1-15 years ago through the Virginia Agricultural Cost-Share Program's (VACS) FR-3 cost-share program. Additionally, other eligible non-FR-3 projects (e.g., projects planted through federal

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cost-share programs or by partners) may qualify for assessment. Assessments include visual observation of invasive plant species and native tree establishment, and light tree shelter maintenance at the selected project locations.

The position will be employed by Friends of the Rappahannock, but will also be working closely with the Piedmont Environmental Council (PEC), Friends of the Rappahannock (FOR), the York River Steward (YRS), the Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) staff. Friends of the Rappahannock and partners will provide the Fellow with a laptop and supplies needed for assessments. Housing is not provided. Preference will be given to applicants living in the upper Rappahannock region (Orange, Madison, Culpeper, Rappahannock, Fauquier Counties).

Geographical Scope:

- Louisa, Hanover, Caroline, Greene, Orange, Madison, Culpeper, Rappahannock, Fauquier, Loudoun, Stafford, Spotsylvania counties, and the City of Fredericksburg
- Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula counties

Top Skills Desired:

- Some experience (lived or education) in restoration, agriculture, or forestry
- Comfort communicating with rural and agricultural landowners
- Ability to perform physical work, navigate uneven terrain, and work in various weather conditions (heat, rain, and cold)
- Interest in learning how to identify native and invasive plant types found in riparian habitats
- Valid driver's license
- Strong communications, analytical skills, teamwork, integrity, and reliability

Duties Include:

- Working with FOR, YRS, PEC, NRCS, SWCD's, VDOF, and other partners to inspect riparian forest buffer projects installed 1-15 years ago on agricultural lands. Inspections will include, but are not limited to: marking of dead trees, conducting live/dead counts, observing invasive plants and native tree cover, fixing tubes and stakes as needed, and determining maintenance needs
- Perform basic data management related to site assessments
- Work with partners to develop draft recommendation reports that include an invasive species management plan and replanting plan of assessed riparian forested buffers
- Meet regularly with FOR, YRS, PEC, NRCS, SWCD, VDOF, and other partners
- Community outreach and education events and programs
- Development of social media and digital content
- Comfortable working in all types of weather conditions

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Preferred:

- Problem-solving, project management, and time management skills
- Ability to coordinate with partners and collaborators via email and phone
- GIS/GPS experience

Additional tasks may include:

- Conducting buffer maintenance
- Attending workshops with landowners
- Completing other activities related to buffer stewardship

The Riparian Buffer Inspection Fellow will report to the FOR Agriculture and Forestry Specialist/PEC Plantings for the Piedmont Coordinator. This position is part-time, hourly, with no benefits. 30 hours per week, for 12+ weeks. Pay is set at \$18-20/hour commensurate with experience. Company vehicles will be available for work travel and applicable mileage can be reimbursed at \$.72 per mile.

The anticipated start date is as soon as possible, subject to mutual agreement.

Please submit a cover letter, resume and references to Bryan Hofmann, Deputy Director, at bryan.hofmann@riverfriends.org.

Friends of the Rappahannock is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate based on race, color, religious creed, gender, national origin, ancestry, marital status, age, sexual orientation, or disability. We are inclusive. We believe diversity drives innovation. We are always growing our partnerships and believe it takes a watershed to make a difference. We strongly encourage applications from People of Color, LGBTQ+ people, and those who are members of other marginalized communities.