

Stewardship Volunteer

As a Stewardship Volunteer, your role is to assist with work related to restoration and visitor experience at TTLT's nature reserves. You can choose from various tasks like removing invasive species, collecting seeds for restoration, seeding or planting in restoration areas, monitoring species and habitats, maintaining trails, and gardening. You will help to ensure that ecosystems and habitats are in a healthy state and wildlife has the chance to thrive. As well, you will contribute to safe and enjoyable experience for visitors to the trails and community wildflower gardens.

Responsibilities

As a Stewardship Volunteer you will have the opportunity to participate in a range of tasks, including:

- Invasive species removal (including Garlic Mustard pulls, Buckthorn busts, and others).
- Collecting and cleaning seeds of native plants for restoration projects or for public giveaways.
- Planting or seeding native plants for restoration purposes.
- Trail maintenance including clearing trails of debris, cutting back overhanging vegetation, and repairing boardwalks and signs.
- Garden maintenance include weeding, mulching, planting and tending to native plants.
- Data collection for habitat or species monitoring projects.

Time Commitment

This is a casual position with no minimum time commitment. However, if you attend at least three stewardship volunteer events per year, you will receive a TTLT hat and if you attend at least six events you will become eligible to be a Stewardship Mentor.

Stewardship work is very seasonal and is usually focused more heavily in the spring and fall months. Stewardship volunteer events are posted at www.thamestalbotlandtrust.ca/events_calendar and we ask that you register for any events you'd like to attend.

Training

No training is required, but we encourage you to attend a TTLT Volunteer Orientation event as well as a Stewardship Orientation event (posted at www.thamestalbotlandtrust.ca/events_calendar). Task specific training will be provided at the beginning of each stewardship volunteer event.

Skills and Experience

No prior experience is needed, but the following may be helpful, depending on the specific stewardship event you attend:

- Comfortable being outside under various conditions for 2-4 hours, often on uneven ground.
- Able to perform physical work involving bending or stooping, lifting upwards of 10lbs, walking 1-5km over uneven ground, and using various hand tools.
- Basic knowledge of, or interest in, SW Ontario's ecology and species identification.
- Comfortable with the use of pesticides for restoration purposes (note: pesticides are only applied by Licensed Exterminators in compliance with all Federal and Provincial legislation).

- Some combination of technical skills/qualifications such as species ID, chainsaw certification, Ontario Exterminator License, Ecological Land Classification, First Aid certification etc. would be an asset.

Other Requirements

Most of our nature reserves are remote and not accessible by public transport. Access to your own transportation would be an asset. If you do not have access to transportation, please still get in touch. We may be able to facilitate carpooling or other transportation options.

To Apply

Please fill out the volunteer application form and indicate “Stewardship Volunteer” as an area of interest.