CONFLUENCE AMERICORPS PROGRAM
The Confluence AmeriCorps program advances environmental equity through innovative partnerships with local organizations in the Portland metropolitan area. These positions are life changing service opportunities where the Member addresses critical, environmental needs in low-income communities and communities of color. This position is a dynamic combination between serving a community on a dedicated project (80%) and joining a cohort of Members to engage in professional and leadership development activities (20%). www.confluencecenter.org

EQUITY & INCLUSION
Confluence does not discriminate against any person or group on the basis of race, age, creed, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, gender identity, ability, sexual orientation, pregnancy, parents/guardians with children, or veteran status. Confluence is committed to a diverse workplace, and to supporting our Members and staff with ongoing equity trainings and career development opportunities. Confluence, like many environmental programs, is engaged in predominantly white spaces, and in an effort to decolonize dominant structures of oppression, we encourage people of color to apply.

Confluence provides reasonable accommodations to applicants and employees. Applicants with disabilities may request a reasonable accommodation and/or alternative formats at any point in the employment process.

DATES OF SERVICE
September 11, 2019 – July 31, 2020 (11 months – 1700 hours)

POSITION TITLE
Forest Health Specialist

PROJECT PARTNER
City of Gresham
https://greshamoregon.gov/Natural-Resources-Program

POSITION SUMMARY
In Partnership with the Confluence Environmental Center, AmeriCorps Program, the City of Gresham’s Natural Resources Program (NRP) is seeking someone to perform veteran tree surveys, monitor/manager active and ongoing restoration areas, manage the wildlife structure program, and develop and implement a forest health assessment survey protocol. The Member will follow the implemented plans for identification and survey of the City’s veteran trees, and implementation of site restoration plans (though with opportunity for the Member to develop their own spin on their chosen restoration site). In regard to the Forest Health Assessment, the AmeriCorps Member will undertake a series of tasks in order to develop the protocol plan including review of existing information, review of other jurisdictions response to forest health, data collection and analysis, report writing, development of outreach materials, and outreach to stakeholders. (60%)

Along with the Member(s) main tasks of completing the veteran tree survey, development of forest health protocols, and restoration, Member(s) will perform other activities associated with the Natural Resources program including supporting the outreach projects lead by another AmeriCorps volunteer, leading volunteer activities, tabling at city events, and attending professional development programs (trainings, symposiums, conference, etc.). (20%)
The Member will participate in Confluence led leadership development activities which include: Leadership Development Program, team meetings, National Service events and other self-directed development opportunities (20%). The position will work closely with City staff and other AmeriCorps interns to complete the biodiversity surveys and protocol development but after an initial training period may work independently. The City will also provide access to local environmental consultants and experts to help with your development as an environmental scientist.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS (to include, but not limited to):

- Lead the continued collection of data for the Veteran Tree Survey, analyze data, and compile and present a report on the findings
- Support the education and outreach efforts of the Natural Resources Program and the Forest Health Educator AmeriCorps position
- Design and start the implementation process of a Forest Health Assessment.
- Compile information collected from other jurisdictions on Forest Health Assessments. This includes meeting with other City, County, or other jurisdictions by phone or in-person meetings.
- Decipher and interpret past data collection efforts including analysis of past GIS data collected for the veteran tree and upland vegetation surveys (collected by AmeriCorps Members in 2016).
- Plan and implement field data collections.
- Design and implement restoration plan for a selected site; support existing restoration sites.
- Conduct wildlife structure assessment.
- Compile concise reports on findings of surveys, and present to various stakeholders. Leave detailed recommendations for next steps as part of legacy materials.
- Provide training and outreach programs with local youth programs and schools on the positive application of city requirements.
- Complete and submit all necessary paperwork and reports in a timely manner; abide by program policies; attend and complete all training and service requirements.

POSITION REQUIREMENTS

- A background in forest health and restoration. Forest health is a multidisciplinary and collaborative field of study that involves the understanding, monitoring, and protection of the forest resources. A solid foundation in forest health requires understanding in many disciplines including, but not limited to, plant pathology, entomology, ecology, dendrology, mycology, silviculture, and forest management.
- Strong knowledge of Pacific NW native and invasive plants; some training available, but applicants should have a solid background knowledge
- An understanding of restoration techniques and principles.
- Ability to work outdoors in remote settings during inclement weather, possible exposure to poison oak and other noxious weeds, and ability to walk several miles on uneven ground each day.
- Willingness to work independently in an outdoor setting, understanding all work done in the field is with a partner.
- Ability to work with the public to complete volunteer restoration events. Ability to teach in the field (train crews on the ground, teach volunteers at events, and help others with plant ID)
- Must have a positive attitude and have an attention for detail.
- Experience reading maps, using GPS technology, and collecting geographic location specific data
- Current Driver’s license with a clean driving record
- Willingness/openness to learn about and discuss racial equity and social justice issues.
- Ability to serve as part of a diverse team.
- Regular and reliable attendance and dependability.
- AmeriCorps Members must be: 18 years of age or older; U.S. citizen, national or lawful permanent resident; able to commit to the full term of service; able to successfully pass a fingerprint criminal history background check.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Knowledge of Pacific Northwest invasives (forest pests and high priority weeds).
- Experience in the use of GIS software to perform data collection, develop databases, analyze collected data, and develop models
• Experience in communicating with the general public
• Ability to speak a second language.
• Familiarity in working in an urban setting outdoors. This includes the possibility of communicating with homeless individuals.
• Strong connection to the local community of East Multnomah County.

**MEMBER BENEFITS INCLUDE**
• $13,992 living allowance paid over the 11-month term of service (approx. $1,272 monthly, before taxes).
• $6,095 education award (qualified student loans and/or education expenses)
• Loan Forbearance
• Health Care Insurance
• Child Care Reimbursement
• $100 Training Fund
• Professional Leadership Certificate, Trainings and Networking opportunities.
• May be eligible for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
• Free annual TriMet pass
• Field gear including rain jacket, pants, and boots
• $500 to put towards professional development

**PROJECT LOCATION & TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION**
• City Hall – 1333 NW Eastman Parkway, Gresham, Oregon 97030
• City Hall resides along the blue line of Tri-Met MAX. The stop ID is 8356 (Eastbound) and 8361 (Westbound) and is called Gresham City Hall

**HOW TO APPLY**

**STEP 1:** **Apply to Project Supervisor:** *(Conducts first round interviews and recommends top candidates to Confluence)*
Email the following items to Mike Wallace, mike.wallace@greshamoregon.gov, 503-618-2246:
  - Résumé
  - Cover letter (1 page)
  - Contact information for three references (name, title, relationship, email & phone)

**STEP 2:** **Apply to Confluence:**
  • Complete AmeriCorps Application
  • Final interviews and offers positions.

**QUESTIONS ABOUT CONFLUENCE OR AMERICORPS?**
Sherrie Jackson  |  Operations Coordinator  |  503-719-6779  |  sjackson@confluencecenter.org