JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Job Title: Stewardship Director
Location: Mississippi Park Connection / National Park Service Office - Saint Paul, MN
Reports To: Executive Director
Type: Full Time (40 hours/week)
Compensation: $55,000-70,000 annually, plus benefits including health care, 401k match, paid vacation and sick leave, paid professional development opportunities, plus the opportunity to explore the river through a variety of outdoor recreation programs.

RESPONSIBILITIES: The Stewardship Director is responsible for leading stewardship initiatives within the park, managing complex relationships with land managers, non-profit and corporate partners, and co-managing the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area’s Volunteer-In-Parks program.

The candidate will lead the effort to create, implement, and maintain a park-wide management plan for habitat restoration within the Mississippi River’s 72-mile national park. Working with a staff team, the candidate will identify potential restoration projects and partnerships that will engage the community in volunteerism, and engage partners in river restoration. Furthermore, the candidate will oversee on-the-ground operations of the volunteer habitat restoration program with National Park Service staff and lead a team that includes two FTEs, up to 2 temporary staff, and a Conservation Crew.

MPC values staff, volunteer, and board diversity and aims to create equitable opportunities for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color and other people of marginalized identities to influence our mission through employment, service, and organizational governance. By creating programs and service opportunities that consider varied perspectives, backgrounds, geographies, and identities, we can be a force for changing the narrative about who belongs and who stewards parks.

1. Coordination with the National Park Service (15%)

Mississippi Park Connection partners with the National Park Service to restore river habitat and protect natural and culturally important spaces within the park corridor and beyond. Volunteers, land managers, and our Mississippi River Crew play a vital role in our efforts. The Volunteer-In-Parks program is co-managed by both organizations.

Major decision making, planning, and implementation happen hand in hand with the NPS Volunteer Coordinator and other resource management staff. It is vital that the Stewardship Director builds and maintains successful relationships with NPS staff in working with land managing partners and park volunteers.
Candidate will work in concert with the leadership at the park to determine high priority environmental stewardship work and create an annual work plan to carry out and evaluate projects. Candidate will work closely with MPC and NPS field staff to ensure stewardship projects are carried out successfully.

An important component of the position is to support NPS in consultation with federally recognized tribes and other native-led organizations in order to protect and honor culturally significant sites through mindful plantings, events, and community engagement projects.

2. **Supervision/hiring (20%)**

Candidate will supervise two FTEs: a Volunteer Manager and Program Coordinator, ensuring excellent volunteer recruitment, orientation, training, recognition of group volunteers. Successful supervision will include mentorship and growth opportunities for these individuals, successful management and support of their projects, regular check ins, and an annual review process. Candidate will also be responsible for leading a team that includes seasonal and temporary staff including AmeriCorps members, Mississippi River Conservation Corps Crew (the ‘Mississippi River Crew’), and assisting in direction of National Park Service seasonal rangers. Candidate will provide mentorship and connection to future job opportunities.

3. **Coordination with land managing partners (15%)**

The Mississippi National River and Recreation encompasses 54,000 acres and 72 miles of riverway, in addition to 4 miles of the Minnesota River. Land ownership and responsibility is a tapestry. A successful candidate will build and maintain relationships with the 25 cities, 5 counties, and various other local entities, nonprofits, and federal and state government agencies in the corridor. Candidate will ensure that this network addresses shared challenges and opportunities and will convene annual meetings to promote resource sharing, coordinate Mississippi River Crew work, volunteer assistance, and funding requests. This task includes coordination of large initiatives such as the Plant For The Future forestry campaign as well as oversight of the Mississippi River Crew through a contract with the Conservation Corps of MN and IA. The Mississippi River Crew will be funded through collaborative efforts with these partners and will serve in parks selected by NPS and MPC staff based on funding, geographic location, and ecological need.

4. **Coordination with volunteer groups (20%)**

Candidate will ensure volunteer events are well-attended, transformative experiences that connect community members to the river. Volunteer opportunities are offered to a wide audience of interested groups including: corporations, culturally-specific groups, social clubs, churches, schools, and more. Candidate will also support MPC’s BIPOC in the Outdoors Network by mentoring staff and developing volunteer and program opportunities in the park. The candidate is responsible for evaluation of programs and events and ongoing relationship management. Candidate will work in partnership with
MPC development staff to connect groups to additional philanthropic opportunities. A number of large events each year offer opportunities for members of the public to join as individuals. These include: National Public Lands Day, the Saint Paul Citywide Spring Clean Up, and several tree plantings.

5.  **ASCC coordination (15%)**

The Adaptive Silviculture for Climate Change (ASCC) is a long-term research project at Crosby Farm Regional Park. Candidate will coordinate and communicate findings as ASCC becomes a pilot for learning that is adapted throughout our river corridor and beyond. Candidate will ensure that volunteers and university researchers are integrated to complete tasks. Results and methods will be shared nationally to inspire other similar partnerships.

6.  **Grant tracking, budgeting, supporting proposals (15%)**

A large part of the environmental stewardship and volunteer engagement work is supported by public funds and private philanthropy. Candidate is responsible for working in concert with development staff to put together funding proposals and appropriate budgets. This work includes meetings with funders and arranging site visits to project sites. Candidate is also responsible for managing project budgets in accordance with grant stipulations and ensuring proper grant reporting and overall donor stewardship for environmental projects.

**Required Qualifications:**

- Bachelor’s or Associate’s degree preferably in natural or cultural spaces
- 5+ years of relevant experience in natural spaces, volunteerism, or community partnerships (this could include advanced degree work)
- Expertise with land management and habitat restoration
- A passion for engaging with volunteers
- Ability to work on a team and enjoy an entrepreneurial environment
- Supervisory experience
- Experience working with people from different backgrounds, life experiences, and cultures and desire to promote the diversity of stories that the Mississippi River offers
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills, including public speaking expertise
- Excellent customer service skills with external and internal stakeholders
- Ability to work well under pressure, juggle multiple time-sensitive tasks, and meet deadlines
- A valid driver’s license and meet our driving record policy due to the use of a government automobile
- Ability to pass a federal background check
- Must be able to work flexible hours including evenings and weekends, as well as a desire to work outdoors.
Desired Qualifications:

- Expertise in habitat restoration, especially forest ecosystems
- Experience managing large projects, including budgeting
- Knowledge of Microsoft Office, Google Suite, and Salesforce applications or demonstrated ability to learn new systems quickly.

To Apply:
Please send a cover letter, resume, and references to Katie Nyberg, Executive Director at knyberg@parkconnection.org. Candidates submitting applications prior to June 10, 2022 will be given priority consideration.

About Mississippi Park Connection (www.parkconnection.org)

Mississippi Park Connection is the charitable, nonprofit partner of the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area. Our mission is to strengthen the enduring connection between people and the Mississippi River by enriching the life of the river and the lives of all who experience our national park, the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.

As the official nonprofit organization dedicated to the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, we generate private support and build strategic partnerships to connect people and the river. We enhance critical wildlife habitat and provide one-of-a-kind opportunities for people to get to and on the water - so that present and future generations can experience and learn about the Mississippi River’s only national park.

About the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (www.nps.gov/miss)

In 1988, a National Park was created in the Twin Cities to preserve, protect and enhance the significant values of the waters and land of the Mississippi River within the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Known as the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, the park extends for more than 70 miles along the river, running directly through the metropolitan area (the park corridor begins in Ramsey and Dayton and ends just south of Hastings). The park provides leadership, acting as a facilitator and coordinator, in promoting a common vision for river corridor management among 25 municipalities and numerous partner agencies and organizations, whose responsibilities intersect.