

Park Allies Conservation Member

Position Level: Term-based role [450-1700 hours (roughly 3-10 months, dependent on length of term) between September 2024 – August 2025]

Reports to: Grant Administrator (AmeriCorps Director)

Position Summary

Our Park Allies AmeriCorps program aims to further develop and conserve public greenspace through service experience. The Park Allies Conservation Member will play a vital role in increasing capacity with a focus on park restoration efforts. This position will serve on projects primarily within West Lafayette's parks system. This role requires a passion for service and the outdoors, as well as the ability to interact effectively with diverse groups. Individuals will gain valuable training and experience in arboriculture, conservation, and public service while contributing to the health and sustainability of local parks. This is an excellent opportunity for someone interested in conservation and growing leadership skills while engaging and benefiting the community. Gain invaluable experience, challenge yourself, access free training, develop your skills, and uniquely experience a municipality.

Essential Functions (include but are not limited to)

- Assists and supports Parks and Recreation department staff to support environmental stewardship, park and greenspace development, and community development positions.
- Learns and performs landscape maintenance to include planting, pruning, weeding, mulching, watering, and propagating, as well as other horticultural practices and general greenspace management.
- Learns and performs conservation practices such as invasive plant removal, installing native plants, erosion mitigation, mulching on project sites, resource monitoring, sign installation, trail construction and maintenance.
- Commits to participating in all crew/team activities, including training and service days in local communities, where applicable.
- Willingness and ability to complete all aspects of the program including conservation projects, education, training, mapping, and all other service projects.
- Promotes a healthy, supportive, and inclusive community.
- Cultivates community-wide relationships including volunteer outreach, recruitment, and park patrons.
- Appropriately represents the Parks and Recreation department, the City of West Lafayette, and AmeriCorps to the public, park partners, and patrons.
- Supports educational opportunities surrounding the environment, sustainability, conservation, and more for community members of all ages.
- Participates and supports the Parks and Recreation department during community events.
- Participates in creating an equitable, safe, and welcoming space for all.

Education/Skills/Experience

- Participates effectively as a member of a team, despite potentially stressful and difficult conditions, which may require problem solving on an interpersonal or group level.
- Has a willingness to accept differences in others.
- Effective communication skills, both written and verbal.
- Be driven to embrace learning opportunities, face challenges, and build community with their crew.
- Able to be dedicated to projects, stay positive, and be flexible with changing schedules, weather conditions, and project needs.
- Ability to learn necessary skills and apply them to effectively carry out the service requirements.
- Familiar with Microsoft Office.
- Possess basic conflict resolution skills and experience or willingness to improve public speaking skills.
- Time-management skills and ability to serve independently as well as with others.
- Preference to be at least 18 years of age.
- Be a U.S. citizen, U.S. National, or legal permanent resident alien of the United States.
- Have a high school diploma or its equivalent.
- Ability to pass a federal, state, and National Sex Offender background screen.
- Plant identification skills and a love of the outdoors is a plus.

Safety Requirements

- Report any unsafe task or operation immediately to management prior to continuing task.
- Immediately report incidents involving injury, illness, safety hazard, or property damage.
- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) as instructed by immediate supervisor.
- Comply with all City and customer OSHA, safety policies, procedures, rules, and best practices.
- Participate in safety meetings and training.
- Be constantly aware of personal safety and that of other members, volunteers, and City staff.
- Ability to use and operate vehicles and common equipment to complete service projects safely and effectively. (e.g., trucks, gator, weed trimmer, and leaf blowers).

Term Schedule

This Park Allies Conservation Member service term is 450-1700 hours (roughly 3-10 months, dependent on length of term) between September 2024 – August 2025. The schedule will be Monday through Friday with some evenings and weekends required.

Benefits

A Living Allowance Stipend up to \$23,000. Upon successful completion of term (450-1700 hours minimum), individuals are eligible for an AmeriCorps Segal Education Award up to \$7,395 (Amount dependent upon length of term and completion of term).

Service Environment

AmeriCorps members will spend most of the time outdoors in the community. Exposure to all weather conditions and dust is possible. Individuals will need to model maintaining a positive attitude in adverse service conditions, in which members may be expected to serve outside during hot, cold, or wet weather conditions. The AmeriCorps program will provide AmeriCorps Service Gear, PPE, first aid equipment, and a standard complement of tools to meet the needs of most projects. While assisting in administering emergency first aid, members may be exposed to communicable diseases, for which universal health/safety precautions must be followed to avoid contamination of self and others.

Physical Requirements

While performing the essential functions of this position, the member is regularly required to talk and listen. The member is frequently required to stand, walk, use hands to finger, handle, or feel, and reach with hands and arms. The member is occasionally required to sit and stand for long periods of time as well as balance, stoop, kneel, bend, or crawl. The member must frequently lift or move up to fifty (50) pounds. Specific vision abilities required for this type of service include close vision, distance vision, color vision, peripheral vision, depth perception, and ability to adjust focus. This is a physically demanding position. Members will serve in all types of environments including steep and wooded terrain.

Certificates/Licenses

- Valid driver's license and a safe driving record.
- Ability to obtain CPR and First Aid certification.

Member Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Your signature is an acknowledgement of understanding and ability to perform service position functions and physical requirements of the service position.

The above statements are intended to describe the general nature and level of service being performed by people assigned to the position. They are not intended to be an all-encompassing list of all responsibilities, duties, and skills required of member so classified. Reasonable accommodations to essential functions of the position will be made if appropriate.

This program is available to all, and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for service without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, pregnancy, age, national origin, disability status, genetic information, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.

For questions, contact Rachel Bingaman, Grant Administrator (AmeriCorps Director), at rbingaman@westlafayette.in.gov, or (765) 775-5114.