



Land Steward Team Member

Position Title

Land Steward Team Member

General Summary

The Office for Sustainability (OfS) at Western Michigan University (WMU) is seeking a Land Steward Team Member. This team member will work in coordination with a team of WMU students and staff to maintain and improve the Gibbs House Permaculture Research and Demonstration Site (GHPDRS). The GHPDRS is nearly two acres and features a perennial fruit, nut and berry orchard, annual organic vegetable gardens, 2 hoop houses, hügelkultur beds, native plantings, vermicomposting, mushroom cultivation, a seasonal produce stand, and more. Team members should expect an environment that provides research and education support, testing, and learning about sustainable land management practices, food production, and ecological living.

Major Duties

- Responsible for the production of crops, including the planting, weeding, cultivation, irrigation, and harvesting of produce
- Assist with special projects including fencing, irrigation, carpentry, and other projects
- Work on special projects as determined by the assigned supervisor
- Seasonal research and planning efforts
- Assist with Gibbs Volunteer Hours and lead teams of volunteers
- Attend and contribute to weekly team meetings and report on progress with projects
- Submit semester project brief and deliver end of semester presentation to peers and co-workers at the OfS
- Facilitate at least one workshop related to sustainability
- Assist with annual events at the Gibbs House

Position Requirements

- Undergraduate or graduate student currently enrolled at WMU in [good academic standing](#)
- Desire to work on farm and garden related projects
- Ability to work independently and as a part of a diverse team
- Self-starter and self-directed worker
- Ability to work outside in extreme hot or cold conditions
- Ability to lift heavy objects 50 lbs. or more
- Valid driver's license and ability to drive an electric vehicle
- Attend and contribute to weekly team meetings and report on progress with projects
- **Must be able to work over the summer**
- Active participation with the OfS team implementing our OfS Diversity & Inclusion Action Plan

Desired Qualifications

- Personal commitment to sustainability
- Applied organic vegetable gardening knowledge
- Possess experience and knowledge of garden management
- Experience or knowledge of applying permaculture principles
- Detail oriented, creative, and open minded

Note: This description indicates the general nature and level of work performed by employees in the above job. It is not intended to be a comprehensive inventory of all duties, responsibilities, and qualifications required of employees assigned to the job.



Hours and Compensation

Expected commitment is 12-14 hours per week starting at \$12.50 per hour.

Tentative Start Date:

Mid-February 2024

To Apply

1. Complete the application found at <http://www.wmich.edu/sustainability/opportunities/jobs>.
2. Email application to wmu-sustainability@wmich.edu or send hard a copy to 1903 W Michigan Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5286.
3. All applications, both online and in print, are due by Friday, January 26, 2024.

For more information visit:

www.wmich.edu/sustainability/projects/gibbs

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WMU Nondiscrimination Policy

Western Michigan University prohibits discrimination or harassment which violates the law or which constitutes inappropriate or unprofessional limitation of employment opportunity, University facility access, or participation in University activities, on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, disability, protected veteran status, height, weight, or marital status. **(Revised April 2006)**

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