

Seeking Ecological Design Lead

Natural Community Services LLC (NCS), a design/build firm located in West Bloomfield, Michigan, specializing in a blend of landscape and ecological restoration design and implementation, seeks a lead designer to support our growing staff and the principal ecologist. The lead designer will facilitate projects ranging from native residential landscape design, bank stabilization and soil erosion control, green stormwater infrastructure, development of environmental mitigation/restoration plans and land management plans.

Responsibilities of the position include collaborating with the owner/lead designer to develop restoration and landscape designs, drafting land management plans and grading/planting plans, and writing monitoring reports for restoration projects. Fieldwork includes site visits for vegetation and soils inventory and site analysis, collaboration with our field crew and environmental technicians to document wildlife habitat targets, layout of invasive species/clearing, grading and planting plans in the field, and to administer quality control measures across a variety of ecological monitoring, design-build, and maintenance phase projects.

Self-motivated candidates with excellent attention to detail, aptitude, writing/communication and leadership skills, and landscape design/drafting skills, excellent computer skills (Microsoft Office Excel and Word, Publisher and/or Adobe Photoshop, Google Earth Pro (and/or ArcGIS), InDesign/Illustrator; CAD Software a must, Sketchup a plus), and plant knowledge are encouraged to apply. Familiarity with Southern Michigan Natural Communities, environmental regulations rapid assessment (delineate soil types, site hydrologic nuances), quantitative experience with estimating, project and staff management, and the desire to lead oversight of projects is strongly preferred.

Other **responsibilities** include:

- Creating and maintaining Excel spreadsheets to estimate, evaluate site data, track plant orders, billable hours, and materials use
- Organizing and leading site inventory and photo-documentation
- Developing client and cooperator relationships, grant-writing
- Creating graphic materials (perspective drawings, photo sketches, section/elevation drawings etc)
- GPS-based survey of client sites, photo-documentation, soil sampling etc.
- Preparing for and presenting projects at Commission meetings etc.

This position offers great potential for growth, and owners desire to give additional responsibilities and compensation as skills and opportunities continue to develop. Salary is commensurate with experience. Please forward resumes to: john@naturalcommunityservices.com

NCS merges science with the art of landscape design to create beautiful, ecologically sound, and sustainable gardens and landscapes, restoring ecological function and integrity to the built environment while thoughtfully creating habitat that supports the needs of both people and wildlife, and the land. We are a family business with a passion for natural resources that views both our staff and the living things we care for as such!

Our specialties: Ecological Restoration, Savanna and Prairie Plantings, Erosion and Invasive Brush Control, Natural Shoreline Construction, Live staking, Wetlands Regulations, local SESC rules, Ecological Landscape Design, Invasive Species Management Planning, Writing and Communication, Aquatic Habitat Assessment and Design, Municipal and Park projects, Green Stormwater Infrastructure, Collaborating with interdisciplinary professionals and stakeholders