



## Preserve Stewardship

### Volunteer Job Description

Preserve stewards help manage ACRES preserves by maintaining visitor amenities, protecting the property and caring for the land. Each steward saves ACRES up to \$1,000 each year by providing services that would otherwise be assigned to a paid contractor.

#### **Key Responsibilities:**

- Trail Maintenance—Trails are clearly-defined, well-maintained earthen paths. They should be obvious to visitors (compared to deer or social trails) and regularly maintained to ensure positive visitor experience.
  - Mowing and/or spin-trimming should only occur in and around parking lots and established trail systems. Trails should be maintained at the current width of 4–8ft (distance can be as narrow as 4ft in dense woodlands or as wide 8ft in open meadows and fields).
  - Forested trails and open/grass trails must be checked at least twice a month. Grass should not be allowed to grow longer than 4in.
- Removing Obstructions—The parking lot and trails should be cleared of trash, branches, and fallen trees/snags. The trails and parking lot must be surveyed during each visit.
  - Branches overhanging the trails and parking lot should be trimmed to a height at least 6ft.
  - Trees and branches should be left on site but removed from the trails and parking lot.
  - Trash should be removed from the parking lot and trails.
- Construction and Maintenance—The preserve may require the construction or maintenance of structures like stairs, boardwalks and/or bridges. ACRES will work to coordinate this with you if it is needed at the preserve.
- Boundary Monitoring—Boundaries should be marked on each preserve where distinct boundaries aren't obvious. These boundaries may require monitoring. ACRES will work to coordinate this with you if it is needed at the preserve.
- Invasive Species Control—Encouraged, but not required. Training provided if interested.

#### **Qualifications:**

- At least 18 years old
- Able to hike uneven ground and transport equipment/tools through the preserve
- Able to provide, transport and use equipment safely (mower, spin trimmer, chainsaw)
- Visit the preserve at least twice a month (may need to visit more during growing season)

#### **Contact:**

Reena Ramos, ACRES Outreach Manager

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*Reena will set up initial contact to discuss details of the position.*