

Conservation Specialist

APPLY

Salary

\$57,185.35 - \$85,778.03 Annually

Location

Downtown Minneapolis

Job Type

Grant - Full-time (benefit earning)

Department

Environment and Energy

Job Number

22EED119FM217

Closing

9/29/2022 11:59 PM Central

- DESCRIPTION
- BENEFITS
- QUESTIONS

Description

The Environment and Energy department is seeking a Conservation Specialist that will lead efforts to engage and support residents and partners in implementing soil and water conservation projects in rural portions of Hennepin County on both private and public lands.

Location and hours:

This position is hybrid and will be performed both on-site at the 701 Building in downtown Minneapolis located at 701 South 4th Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55415 and remote as job duties require. Work hours will generally be standard business hours with occasional evening and weekend work for community events and meetings. Work hours will be flexible depending on work requirements and the preferences of the individual who fills this position, but this position is required to be available regularly from 9 a.m. -3 p.m. Monday through Friday. While this position is designated as hybrid, based on current requirements hires must reside in Minnesota or Wisconsin.

New employees who are hired into remote or hybrid positions between January 2, 2022 to December 31, 2024, will receive \$500 toward the cost of establishing consistent internet connectivity, payable upon completion of 6 months of employment

About this position type:

This is a Grant - full-time, benefit earning position.

This position is internally classified as an Environmentalist.
Click [here](#) to view the job classification specification.

In this position, you will:

- Promote and market a wide variety of conservation projects in several priority sub watersheds in western Hennepin County to a primarily a rural/agricultural/small town audience.
- Develop, implement, and attend educational outreach workshops (e.g. field days and community events) and develop and market materials for use in promoting conservation programs to drive program interest and awareness among targeted audiences.
- Conduct one-on-one outreach and establish contact and build trust with the targeted audiences.
- Develop and implement primarily agricultural best management practices (BMP) with interested parties – assess properties and identify appropriate solutions, develop project scopes and timelines, coordinate the work of consultants, manage contracting with the landowners, and thoroughly document interactions and project results.
- Coordinate with partners like the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Three Rivers Park District, and Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission.
- Manage annual workflow to monitor compliance with Minnesota's Buffer Law.
- Develop and promote programming around natural climate solutions as part of implementing carbon sequestration strategies in Hennepin County's Climate Action Plan.
- Keep timely and accurate records of field visits and interactions with partners and residents.
- Plan and prioritize work; coordinate with co-workers; report back frequently on progress toward goals and milestones as well as barriers to success; participate in adjusting plans using principles of continuous improvement and adaptive management.

Need to have:

- Bachelor's degree or higher in hydrology, soil science, water resources, natural resources, botany, biology, environmental science, ecology, engineering (agricultural, civil or environmental), landscape architecture, or a field closely related to the assignment **and** 6 months or more of experience in an environmental field implementing conservation, natural resources, and/or water resource activities.
- Note: Experience may be substituted for education on a year for year basis.
- A valid driver's license, the ability to obtain a [Hennepin County drivers permit](#), and access to reliable transportation.

Nice to have:

- Experience:

- Working with private landowners to implement agricultural BMP projects using the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide practice standards.
- Implementing Minnesota's Buffer Law and using the Board of Water and Soil Resources' buffer reporting tool, and/or BuffCAT.
- Working with people and organizations from diverse backgrounds and perspectives.
- Planning and hosting outreach events used to engage an audience or promote a program or behavior.
- Ability to:
 - Work in both office and field environments.
 - Manage multiple active and complex projects effectively.
 - Communicate effectively with staff at all levels of the organization and the public, and especially the preparation of clear, concise, and professional written documents.
- Excellent customer service, problem solving, and collaborative skills; comfortable working with anyone to seek common ground, develop shared objectives, and promote conservation programs and projects that meet those objectives.
- Understanding of Minnesota's wetland laws and regulations.
- Proficiency using ArcGIS software, including ArcMap and/or ArcGIS Online.
- Commitment to equity and justice and a desire to re-imagine conservation services that incorporate these principles into project prioritization and strategic decision-making.

Candidates with fluency in another language in addition to English are encouraged to apply. Bilingual candidates who pass a language assessment may qualify for additional bilingual pay and duties.

About the department:

The Environment and Energy department protects and preserves the environment to enhance the quality of life for current and future generations. We engage communities to develop and enact sustainable solutions. We focus on reducing and responsibly managing waste, protecting and preserving ecosystems, delivering clean energy and promoting environmental stewardship.

About Hennepin County:

Hennepin is the largest county government organization in Minnesota. Our employees work every day to improve the health, safety and quality of life for our residents and communities. All of our jobs align to one or more of our overarching goals -- that Hennepin County residents are healthy, protected and safe, self-reliant, assured due process, and mobile.

Our employees receive a combination of generous benefits and positive workplace culture not found at other organizations. This includes meaningful work that impacts our community, competitive pay, work-life balance, a variety of benefits and opportunities to grow. Learn more at [The Bridge](#) (login as Guest).

Hennepin County envisions an organization where our commitment to diversity and the reduction of disparities is fundamental in providing excellent service to our community.

Your future. Made here.

This posting may be used to fill current and future vacancies.

Invitations to interview will be based upon an assessment of education and experience.

Final candidates may be required to complete a background check.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Talent Acquisition Division
Hennepin County Human Resources Department
HR.ServiceCenter@hennepin.us
612-348-7855

Agency

Hennepin County

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