

## Trails, Trees & Tomatoes: Community Conservation in Montpelier

**Montpelier Parks & Trees Dept., Montpelier, VT**



*Help Montpelier become a more accessible, vibrant place to live with better access to healthy food and outdoor recreation! Spend a year building trails, growing food for our meals on wheels program, and maintaining our urban forest. You'll learn about trail building, farming, forestry, and how we build community through service and volunteerism. You'll gain a ton of practical skills and have a chance to practice your leadership through leading volunteers and youth crews. No experience required in any of the above fields, only a willingness to learn and collaborate with others.*

This position is part of the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board AmeriCorps (VHCB AmeriCorps). The VHCB AmeriCorps program supports the innovative dual-goal approach to creating stable affordable housing opportunities for Vermont residents while preserving the natural and working landscape. VHCB AmeriCorps is a national service program that places members with non-profit housing or land and energy conservation organizations around the state.

### **Organization's Mission:**

Montpelier Parks & Trees' mission is to steward Montpelier's Parks, Trees, and Natural Areas for the enjoyment and health of all.

### **Goal of the Position:**

This position is geared toward leveraging volunteer hours to further our mission and increase our capacity to accomplish community-based projects in Montpelier. With staff supervision, focus will be on the following three areas:

- **Trails & Conservation:** Montpelier is undergoing a large expansion of our trail system with the goal of making our city into a destination for outdoor recreation. This year we will be building a universally accessible interpretive trail and developing several miles of new trails on an 80-acre expansion to Hubbard Park. Members should expect to learn about sustainable trail building and park stewardship. Members will learn alongside our crew and eventually lead volunteer groups in trail building, trail upgrades, and removal of invasive species.
- **Urban Forest Management:** Our department is tasked not only with maintaining our parks, but also our urban forest and riparian areas. In addition to the normal challenges of maintaining these areas, we are now dealing with the added challenge of handling the presence of the invasive Emerald Ash Borer in our community. Members should expect to lead volunteer groups in planting riparian areas, urban tree planting projects to replace Ash trees, removal of invasive species, and to serve alongside staff to maintain our urban forest.
- **Community Farm:** Our FEAST Farm program has been rapidly growing over the last several years since we piloted the program in 2020. The FEAST Farm is an inter-generational collaboration between Montpelier Parks and the Senior Activity Center (MSAC). All the food grown on the farm is processed in the Senior Center's commercial kitchen and served as part of MSAC's FEAST meals program. The program is focused on providing local food to our most food insecure neighbors, and farm to plate intergenerational volunteer opportunities. Members should expect to lead a variety of



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volunteer groups, day camps, and other groups on the farm to grow food, steward a riparian buffer, and educate the public about sustainable agriculture. They should also expect to help us develop programming to support and enhance this project.

In addition to these 3 main goals, members will serve alongside our staff to help put on 3 large seasonal events that we host and to assist with other duties throughout the year as necessary. We prioritize training members in all skills required and helping them develop personal and professional goals that align with our scope of duties. Many members will develop a project in the latter part of their service that allows them to explore an area of interest while enhancing our mission.

## Essential Functions:

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## Secondary Functions:

- Occasional community Park improvement projects such as light construction, plowing, mowing, sign building, etc.
- Occasional assistance to the Senior Center and Recreation Department for collaborative projects.
- Graphic or GIS skills could be utilized for mapping and sign related projects if there is skill and interest in this area.

## Desired Qualifications:

- Experience with volunteers or engaging groups.
- Willingness to lead and mentor youth.
- Trail Building/Maintenance and/or Agricultural Experience (not required but desired).
- Experience with tree service or forestry (not required but desired).

## Minimum Qualifications:

- Some weekends and evenings required.
- Be US citizen or have permanent resident status;
- Be at least 18 years of age upon entering the Pre-Service Orientation or 17 years of age with verified parental permission;
- Be a high school graduate, have a GED certificate, or be willing to work towards a GED as part of the service-term. A member cannot have dropped out of high school to join AmeriCorps.
- Has not been convicted of murder or sexual assault and is willing to undergo an National Service Criminal History Check;
- Be committed to the VHCB AmeriCorps program's ethic of service, appreciation of diversity, and personal and professional development of its participants;
- Have the ability and enthusiasm to drive to, attend, and participate in all required trainings and events, and be prepared to drive up to 2-3 hours each way.
- Available to regularly serve 40 hours per week

## Additional Information:



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Service is to be performed primarily outdoors, in all types of weather.

Members will be leading volunteers whose ages and abilities vary across a wide spectrum of age, physical ability, and mental aptitude. For example some volunteers are highly motivated adults, and some are court ordered teenagers serving community service hours. Members will be expected to be leaders and mentors, and to represent AmeriCorps and the City of Montpelier with integrity under potentially challenging circumstances. The best fit for this position is someone who is looking for challenge, personal growth, and the opportunity to serve the community in a meaningful way.



Occasionally weekend and night time duties will be required for events and volunteer activities, though generally our hours are from 8a-4:30p.

Position begins September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and ends August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023

This position is: (check one)

**Full Time:** Requires 1,720 hours for an average of 40 hours per week for 48 weeks. Member will receive a living allowance of \$25,500 (pre-tax), and an education award of \$6,495 (pre-tax) upon successful completion of service.

Other benefits include health insurance, federal school loan forbearance, and various training and networking opportunities.

**To Apply:** <https://vhcb.org/our-programs/vhcb-ameri-corps/positions>

For questions about this position or to send additional materials:

Alec Ellsworth  
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[aellsworth@montpelier-vt.org](mailto:aellsworth@montpelier-vt.org) ~ (802) 585-7673

Application deadline: No later than August 24, 2022. Applications accepted on a rolling basis; open until filled

Additional information on AmeriCorps is available at [www.americorps.org](http://www.americorps.org).

**The Vermont Housing & Conservation Board (VHCB) is sponsoring this AmeriCorps position through their AmeriCorps Program. VHCB is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Positions are open to all applicants without regard to race, color, national origin, ethnicity, disability, age, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, political affiliation, veteran's status, religion or creed.**

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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