Community Garden Trainer (Flexible; Part-Full Time)

Grassroots Gardens of Western New York, Inc. is a dedicated group of community gardeners and activists. Our mission is to share knowledge, power and resources to grow healthy food, heal systemic harm, and strengthen neighborhood connections through community gardens.

We seek to build a lasting network of land and people growing healthy communities.

We are seeking a Community Garden Trainer who shares our values of Equity and Justice, Community Leadership, Fostering Connections, Stewardship, and Restorative Practices.

**Position Summary:**

The Community Garden Trainer is responsible for the teaching of new community gardeners and acts as a mentor for all community gardeners in our network throughout Buffalo and Niagara Falls.

This individual acts as the main point of contact for Grassroots Gardeners. The Trainer helps build gardeners’ skills, answers their questions, ensures they have the tools needed to be successful and assists with annual events and programming. The Trainer also supports volunteer groups in the gardens and performs community outreach when requested.

This position is flexible. Ideally, this is a minimum part-time position (no less than 20 hours weekly but can float to 30-40 hours during gardening season). We are also open to considering a full-time, seasonal position. We will work out a schedule with the right person to meet our mutual needs, however, some evenings and Saturdays will be necessary. The Community Garden Trainer reports to the Program Manager. Wages are paid hourly and rate is negotiable between $15-17/hour, depending on experience. Benefits include paid time off, a flexible schedule, and a chance to create real community change. Position ideally begins before Memorial Day weekend.

**Principal Duties and Responsibilities**

**Community Garden Teaching & Support**

- Teaches new community gardeners how to establish a community garden, including building raised beds onsite and initial plantings.
- Acts as a mentor to all community gardeners and answers their questions about plant needs and garden care, soil health, basic organic pest control and troubleshoots garden concerns
- Maintains ongoing and regular communication with lead gardeners
- Supports volunteer events in community gardens as requested by gardeners or staff
- Supports the distribution of materials, tools, and supplies to gardeners throughout the growing season
- Conducts annual reviews of each garden and collects information from gardeners about garden needs for following season

**Administrative**

- Collaborates with partner agencies to run an annual workshop series for community gardeners and the public
- Supports grant-based programming and reporting as requested by Executive Director
- Supports two lead gardener meetings in Buffalo and Niagara Falls each year as well as monthly Gardeners’ Committee meeting between August-April.
• Collaborates with staff on ordering appropriate materials for upcoming season
• Attends monthly staff meetings

Necessary Qualifications:
• Passion for building community through gardening
• High level of garden knowledge and skills including about vegetable gardening and native plants
• Demonstrated ability to work effectively with diverse communities, including communities of color, people with disabilities, and people in economic need
• Commitment to effective communication, both verbal and written
• Ability to build raised beds and comfort with power tools
• Ability to manage many projects at one time
• Ability to work independently and with attention to detail
• Ability to lift up to 40 pounds

Preferred Qualifications:
• Professional degree or certificate in horticulture, agriculture, etc.
• Proficient in Microsoft Word, PowerPoint and Excel and Google Apps
• Comfort with social media
• Knowledge of native plants
• Valid driver’s license or reliable access to a transportation service

Grassroots Gardens WNY seeks to build an organization and culture fully reflective of the communities where we work and grow. We are committed to building an equitable and inclusive organization and strongly encourage applications from People of Color, LGBTQ+ individuals, women, individuals living with disabilities, veterans and people from working class backgrounds. We will strive to make accommodations to the work environment to facilitate the ongoing success of the selected candidate as needed.

Please send resume, cover letter, and three references to Jeanette Koncikowski, Executive Director, at director@grassrootsgardens.org or by mail at 389 Broadway, Buffalo, New York 14204 by May 11, 2021. Please indicate Community Garden Trainer in email subject line. No phone calls please.