



## **JOB ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Site Steward - Valley of Eden Bird Sanctuary  
May 1, 2019**

**Reports to:** Land Stewardship Manager  
**Status:** Full-Time, exempt

### **Our Organization**

The Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation (“JDCF”) is a 501(c) nonprofit conservation land trust whose mission is to preserve land for the lasting well-being of people and wildlife. JDCF is an accredited land trust that works with volunteers, local landowners, business owners, and community leaders to find creative solutions to conservation challenges that produce lasting effects. Since its founding in 1993, JDCF has preserved nearly 6000 acres of land in the beautiful Driftless Area of Jo Daviess County, Illinois.

JDCF offers competitive pay, as well as a benefits package that includes health insurance, employer contributed retirement funds, and generous paid time off.

### **Position Summary**

The Site Steward position is a full-time, permanent position responsible for the stewardship, management, ecological restoration, and maintenance of public access of JDCF’s 409-acre Valley of Eden Bird Sanctuary (“VOE”) located in rural Stockton, Illinois.

This position will work approximately 4 days per week at the Valley of Eden Bird Sanctuary and approximately 1 day per week at Big Sky Farm (“BSF”), a privately-owned wildlife area protected by a conservation easement held by JDCF.

### **Duties and Responsibilities**

The Site Steward will implement habitat management actions and ecological restoration projects at VOE, BSF, and other JDCF preserves in accordance with written land management plans for each preserve. The Site Steward will work independently and with other JDCF and BSF staff, volunteers, interns, and temporary work crews. Primary activities include mowing trails, control of invasive species (manual, mechanical, and chemical), felling targeted trees with a chainsaw, management of a 10-mile trail system, and working cooperatively with volunteers and other staff.

### **Preferred Skills and Qualifications:**

- Bachelor of Science Degree in biology, natural resources, land management, forestry, or other related field
- Ability to identify common native and invasive plant species found in northwest Illinois.

- Knowledge of grassland-dependent bird species and habitats
- Experience implementing land management and ecological restoration plans
- Ability to work independently without direct supervision and resolve preserve management issues as delegated by supervisor
- Ability to operate vehicles and heavy equipment in a variety of maintenance, construction, and/or utility tasks.
- Ability to work in extreme environmental conditions, including excessive heat and cold, biting and stinging insects, and steep terrain
- Familiarity and operational experience with tractors, trucks with trailers, UTVs, trail mowers, chainsaws, sprayers, hand saws, and small tools.
- Ability to conduct basic repairs and maintain supplies, equipment, and vehicles.
- Knowledge of operation and maintenance of vehicles including tractors, pick-up trucks, trailers and equipment in a variety of maintenance, construction, and/or utility tasks
- Ability to effectively relate to a diverse range of people, including both oral and written communication skills.
- Strong social and interpersonal skills including the ability to resolve and mediate conflict and maintain good working relationships with coworkers, volunteers, and members of the community.
- Experience in basic construction techniques to include concrete work, framing, electrical, plumbing, woodworking, and welding.
- Able to perform heavy lifting of weights up to 60 pounds
- Basic computer literacy, including using a database to maintain land management records, use of the internet, and Microsoft Office Suite
- Current and valid driver's license
- Illinois Pesticide Applicator License (within 1 month of hire)
- National Wildfire Coordinating Group certifications:
  - S-130 and S-190 (within one year of hire)
  - S-131 (or S-133), S-290, and S-219 (within two years of hire)

**To Apply:** Qualified applicants may send their resume, cover letter, and three professional references electronically to [info@jdcf.org](mailto:info@jdcf.org) or by mail to:

Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation  
 PO Box 216  
 Elizabeth Illinois 61028  
 Attn: Steve Barg

Applications will be accepted through May 24, 2019 or until the position is filled.

Salary is commensurate with experience within the range of \$34,000-\$37,000 annually plus benefits and generous paid time off policy.