



LAND & GARDEN PRESERVE

Position: Gardener – Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Garden

Scope of Work: The Gardener plays a crucial role in maintaining the unique landscape of the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Garden (Abby Garden) and its surrounding landscapes. The walled garden has a half-acre annual border garden with two lawns, water features, and a native plant-landscaped strolling path adorned with East Asian Statuary. The surrounding landscapes are equally captivating, featuring a moss-carpeted Spruce/Fir Forest with walking paths leading to the Eyrie Terrace, the remaining remnant of the Eyrie, the summer home of John D. and Abby Aldrich Rockefeller.

This position is not just about gardening; it's about being part of a team that upholds the mission, vision, and core values of the Land & Garden Preserve. You will have the opportunity to collaborate with other staff members on various projects throughout the preserve. Reporting to the Abby Garden Manager, this 9-month (1560 hours/year) position has a full benefit package. Weekend shifts during the Abby Garden's nine-week visitor season and winter property checks may be required.

Essential Job Functions:

Perform the following tasks:

- Maintain the border garden to the highest standards; duties include transporting plants, laying out plants per design, planting, transplanting, staking, weeding, mowing, lawn edging, fertilizing, watering/irrigation, deadheading, grooming, pruning small shrubs and trees, mowing, installing plant labels, and maintaining the gravel paths.
- Maintain the perennial plant landscape of the spirit path, woodland path, north gate area, oval garden, and areas outside the walled garden: duties include picking up fallen branches, weeding, pruning shrubs and small trees, debris removal, gravel path maintenance, and moss transplanting.
- Assist with plant health care using organic strategies, including soil testing and applying soil amendments. Scout for pests and diseases, document issues, and treat them as needed. Share documentation annually with the Master Pesticide licensee.
- Assist with spring and fall maintenance: weeding, moss transplanting, irrigation, leaf and debris removal, pruning small trees and shrubs, and deadwood removal. Install cover brush and temporary fences, harvest cover and pea brush, cut pea brush, install cover brush, and plant labels.
- Safely operate vehicles, small equipment, and tools such as work truck, hand pruner, mower, string trimmer, hand saw, pole saw and pruner, back-pack leaf blower, and leaf vacuum. Perform routine maintenance and clean equipment. Notify the Facilities department of maintenance needs or issues.
- Actively participate in training volunteers and seasonal staff and create positive work experiences
- Support plant record keeping with data entry, create plant labels, and annually measure plant locations to support the border garden design work.
- Assist with the care and security of all buildings and gardens; cleaning, organizing, flower arrangement care, and identifying issues. Clean, arrange, and store outdoor furnishings and objects seasonally.
- Assist with the annual budgeting.
- Provide occasional newsletter stories or online content.

- Facilitate public visitor days and garden events; check visitors in, direct traffic, answer questions, and ensure security.
- Be a content expert in the Land & Garden Preserve history and today's public offerings, Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Garden history and plants.
- Adhere to all OSHA safety standards and always use appropriate PPE.
- Assist with other Preserve projects as directed.

Minimum skills and qualifications:

- Valid driver's license.
- Two years of relevant landscape maintenance experience.
- Knowledge of annual and perennial plants and willingness to actively learn.
- Detail-oriented, willing to do repetitive tasks.
- Ability to safely use equipment and tools.
- Effective communication skills.
- Basic computer skills and willingness to learn the IrisBG plant database.
- Ability to work in various weather conditions, crouch, bend, and maneuver heavy items.
- Interest in learning new skills and best management practices
- Ability to work efficiently independently or in a team environment and have effective time management skills.
- Must be willing to work a flexible schedule, including weekends during July and August.
- Interest in obtaining a State of Maine Pesticide License, if required.