



LAND & GARDEN PRESERVE

Position: Groundskeeper

Scope of Work: The Groundskeeper has 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:

1. Perform the following tasks in ecologically sustainable ways:
 - Maintain tree, shrub, moss, and native plant groundcover areas, including pruning, weeding, debris and branch removal, and invasive species removal.
 - Lead the blowing maintenance of moss areas outside and inside the garden.
 - Lead the lawn care of two small aesthetic lawns.
 - Lead seasonal gravel path and road maintenance, raking, dragging, and weeding.
 - Lead seasonal pond and irrigation system maintenance and operation, draining, pressure washing, scrubbing, and water lily care.
 - Lead garden statue, bench, and temporary fence winterization. Lead the scheduling of this maintenance. Label and organize deer fence and statue cover summer storage; recommend replacement needs.
 - Perform seasonal projects, i.e., planting, moss revitalization, applying compost, cover brush installation and removal, pea brush harvesting and cutting, stone edging resetting, and dead wooding.
 - Cross-train with the border garden maintenance team to assist as needed.
 - Assist with the care and security of all buildings and gardens, cleaning, organizing, identifying issues, setting up, packing up, and cleaning outdoor furnishings and objects seasonally.
 - Use organic or IPM methods and best management practices and adhere to OSHA safety standards.
 - Safely operate vehicles and light equipment such as mowers, power tools, saws, blowers, and a leaf vacuum. Perform routine maintenance and clean equipment. Notify the Facilities department of maintenance needs or issues. Ensure that equipment is stored safely and organized.
 - Maintain a Maine pesticide license and track pesticide use.
 - Provide occasional newsletter stories or online content.
 - Actively participate in training volunteers and seasonal staff and work to create positive work experiences.
 - Facilitate public visitor days and garden events; check visitors in, direct traffic, answer questions, and ensure security. Become a content expert in the Land & Garden Preserve history and today's public offerings, Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Garden history and plants.
2. Adhere to all OSHA safety standards and always use appropriate PPE.
3. Assist with other Preserve projects as directed.

Minimum skills and qualifications:

- Valid driver's license
- Two years of relevant experience and/or a two-year degree in a related field.
- Detail-oriented, willing to do repetitive tasks.
- Proficiency with equipment and tools, i.e., hand saws, pruners, mowers, trimmers
- Ability and interest to learn how to operate equipment safely and efficiently.
- Effective communication skills.
- Ability to work in various weather conditions, crouch, bend, and maneuver heavy items
- Interest in learning new skills and best management practices, including plant names.
- Knowledge of safety requirements and an ability to adhere to OSHA standards
- Ability to work efficiently independently or in a team environment and have practical time management skills. Must be willing to work a flexible schedule that may include weekends and evenings during July and August.
- Interest in obtaining a State of Maine Pesticide License, if required.

To Apply:

Email a cover letter and resume to Joie Torsiello, jtorsiello@gardenpreserve.org. Interviews will begin in October.