



Volunteer Land Steward Position Description

Position Overview: A Great Peninsula Conservancy (GPC) Volunteer Land Steward (VoLS) is responsible for annual monitoring of Great Peninsula Conservancy protected properties. Monitoring is the regular inspection of a protected property to detect changes and to ensure the property is being used in accordance with the legal restrictions placed upon it. Regular monitoring of GPC properties is one of the most important responsibilities and legal obligations that GPC has.

Responsibilities: Each VoLS is assigned to a specific property (or properties), and commits to performing one or more tasks on that property. Most VoLS take part in the annual monitoring visit to their assigned property, looking for changes, listening to concerns of landowners, and reporting this information back to GPC. Some VoLS check on their property at other times of the year, and/or periodically visit their assigned property to remove invasive plants or pick up litter. In any capacity, VoLS are not responsible for interpreting legal documents, approving landowner's plans, or enforcing any suspected violation: *eyes and ears only*. Each VoLS is responsible for:

- Attending Volunteer Land Steward training.
- Monitoring assigned property in a safe, reliable, accurate, and timely fashion before November 30.
- Ensuring that another volunteer or staff member is present during visits to your assigned property.
- Amiably engaging with persons encountered during property visits.
- Compiling monitoring visit data and notifying GPC staff by December 1.
- Staying in contact with GPC stewardship staff and alerting them, as soon as possible, to any concerns or problems.

Training provided: Each volunteer will receive training on GPC's safety procedures, monitoring procedures, and monitoring app (called Landscape), and be familiarized with their assigned property. Periodic refresher courses on best practices, current research, native flora and fauna, and using the monitoring equipment will also be available.

Support: GPC's stewardship team will schedule property visits (or assist with scheduling), and notify landowners and/or neighbors as needed. VoLS will use GPC's monitoring app Landscape on their personal smart devices. During property visits, VoLS will be accompanied by other VoLS and/or a GPC staff member. If GPC staff are not present during a property visit, they will be available by phone to provide any needed support.

Commitment: There is a minimum two-year commitment. The amount of time involved will depend on the property and stewardship tasks you sign up for. Annual monitoring is done once per year, and can take anywhere from 45 minutes to 4 hours depending on the property. Property stewardship, such as removing invasive plants, can be done as often as you see fit, and take as long as you wish.



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Qualifications:

- Familiarity with GPC and its mission.
- Good observation skills and attention to detail.
- Ability to walk without assistance (other than a walking stick). Some properties require greater abilities. Volunteers will be matched with properties and tasks that fit their physical abilities.
- Ability to use a smartphone application, or willing to learn how to do so.
- Ability to commit to at least two years of monitoring. This is important for building relationships with landowners, and for record keeping.
- Availability to monitor the property *at least once* every calendar year.
- Comfortable talking to neighbors or landowners encountered during property visits.
- Ability to identify invasive plants, or willing to learn how to do so.

Benefits:

- Opportunity for direct involvement in land protection.
- Deepened commitment to conservation in our region and the work of GPC.
- Opportunity to build meaningful connections to natural spaces in our working region.
- Gain new skills in plant & animal identification, and using GPS & monitoring programs.
- Meet other like-minded folks who share your commitment to protecting the lands and waters of the Great Peninsula.

Contact: Micaela Petrini
Stewardship Coordinator
Great Peninsula Conservancy
micaela@greatpeninsula.org
360.373-3500 x105