

Cornell Cooperative Extension Erie County



Volunteer Position Description 2021

Title: CommuniTree Steward Project Volunteer

Description of Project (or Purpose of Position): To care for landscape plants, including trees and shrubs, on public spaces throughout the City of Buffalo; to sustain a healthy urban forest and natural and native landscapes; to build community by bringing people together for a common purpose.

Responsibilities (or Tasks):

1. Attend required training sessions.
2. Complete at least five hours of service as outlined by the City of Buffalo and CCE Erie;
3. Be at work sites on time and work only in assigned areas;
4. Represent Cornell University Cooperative Extension within the community; encourage support for the organization and program.

Anticipated Audience: CommuniTree Stewards will work together implementing projects. At times, Stewards may work with other groups including youth groups and park associations on specific projects. However, CommuniTree Stewards will not be responsible for supervising these groups. Stewards are enrolled as casual volunteers and therefore should never be unsupervised with minors, adults over 65 or people with disabilities.

Expected Results: Volunteers will demonstrate a measurable increase in knowledge and skill in tree care and landscape management. Health and survival of young trees on public spaces will increase. Stewards may share skills with others, thereby raising the overall health of all of Erie County's urban forest.

Training and Support:

- Orientation to the Cornell Cooperative Extension System, its mission and that of the CommuniTree Stewards Project Volunteer Program;
- CommuniTree Stewards Project Training Program includes classroom and hands-on instruction as well as hands-on field experience;
- CommuniTree Stewards Project Resource Guide
- Orientation to the operational and risk management procedures;
- Periodic opportunities for statewide, regional, and national conferences; participation is encouraged to expand your knowledge and remain current;
- Extension Educators with knowledge of tree care, as well as veteran CommuniTree Steward Project Volunteers active in the program, will support new volunteers.

Time Commitment: CommuniTree Steward Project Volunteers are expected to contribute a minimum of 10 hours within project period (generally April to November).

Qualifications:

- Enthusiasm for acquiring and sharing knowledge and skills about tree care;
- Desire to work outdoors, with other people in a team environment, and with other groups that join in CommuniTree Steward Project activities;
- Ability to perform physical work safely;
- A time schedule compatible with program activities.

Benefits:

- Satisfaction of serving your community to extend the education mission of Cornell Cooperative Extension;
- Interaction with people in your community with similar interests;
- A deeper understanding of the science and art of arboriculture, urban forest planning and its allied sciences.