



Mahaska County Conservation Position Description

2342 IA-92, Oskaloosa, IA 52577

This site is hiring to fill the following positions:

Land & Water Steward (2 positions available)

Terms:

Position Type	Service Length	Hour Commitment	Living Allowance	Segal Education Award
Three-quarter-time (TQT)	11-mo	1,200 hours (28-30 hours/week)	\$18,000/term (\$1,636.36/mo)	\$5,176.50/term

Anticipated service schedule for this host site is **8:00 am - 4:30 pm, 2-5 days a week depending on seasonal workload**. Occasional nights and weekends as projects or programs require.

Host Site Overview: Mahaska County consists of 576 square miles or 366,080 acres, 96% of which is farmed. Today, 1,309 acres of the county are managed as eighteen separate areas by the Mahaska County Conservation Board. The Mahaska County Conservation Board was established in January 1975. The purpose of the Conservation Board is to provide quality parks, recreation, conservation, and environmental education opportunities for the public. The Board seeks to ensure that future generations have ample opportunity to enjoy parks, natural resources, and the scenic beauty that Mahaska County has to offer.

Environmental Education is the cornerstone of the MCCB's conservation philosophy. Our GIA teams have been valuable in data collection, educational resource development, developing project plans, labor in conservation features like pollinator gardens, invasive species management, improving wetlands, natural prairie management, assisting in community outreach events, and so much more.

This partnership is a collaboration between Mahaska County Conservation, Mahaska Soil and Water Conservation District, the City of Oskaloosa, and William Penn University.

GIA Performance Metrics *Members work in collaboration with the host agency and community partners to complete the following metrics based on grants that support the AmeriCorps program. Please note: each metric denotes program-wide totals*

- **Educational Programming** engaging participants in environmentally-focused lessons and activities
- **Community Outreach** engaging outside volunteers in service activities
- **Additional Direct Service Activities**
 - Water quality related projects
 - Tree planting
 - Waste reduction activities (examples: recycling and/or composting education, waste audits)

Site Supervisor(s): Chris Clingan, Mahaska County Conservation Board Director

Minimum Member Qualifications:

- At minimum, members must be high school graduates, GED recipients, or working on attaining a high school diploma or GED during their term of service
- Be 17 years or older (*17-year-old applicants require parental consent*)
- Pass a national service criminal history check
- Hold one of the following citizenship statuses: US citizen, US National, Lawful Permanent Resident
- Have a valid driver's license

Position #1 and #2: Land & Water Stewards

Position Outline: Green Iowa AmeriCorps members serving at Mahaska County will work with conservation professionals to improve and maintain our county's natural resources. Land & Water Stewards will gain experience in a variety of conservation practices, including invasive species removal, native plant horticulture, prairie and wetland restoration, and prescribed burning. Members will develop skills in environmental education and outreach. This includes developing and assisting with environmental education programs for all ages, tabling at community events, coordinating volunteers, and occasionally creating content for social media. Members will also have the opportunity to explore professional development opportunities related to the natural resources field.

Member Duties:

- General upkeep of county conservation areas including invasive species removal, prescribed burning, mowing, and trail maintenance.
- Maintain small native prairie plantings throughout Oskaloosa. Duties include mulching, weeding, watering, pruning, and planting as necessary.
- Assist with native plant production in partnership with the Mahaska County Soil and Water Conservation District.
- Provide educational programs on various environmental topics.

- Assist with large events held by any of the host site partners, such as field trips and park improvement projects. Duties may include volunteer coordination, providing education, set up/clean-up, and assisting as needed throughout the event.
- Driving required
- Complete Green Iowa AmeriCorps performance metrics in collaboration with host site
- Maintain records of service projects in Green Iowa AmeriCorps Reporting Logs
- Submit Quarterly Reports of activities
- Maintain a detailed timekeeping record of service hours and activities
- Complete a Professional Development Project
- Participate in mandatory AmeriCorps Trainings (Orientation and Life After AmeriCorps Training) and National Days of Service (MLK Day and September 11)

The ideal candidate will possess the following skills:

- Willingness to learn new skills related to conservation and land management.
- Ability and willingness to work outdoors year-round, occasionally in extreme heat/cold.
- Ability to work both independently and as part of a team as necessary.
- Ability to effectively communicate with coworkers, program partners, groups of all ages, and other individuals in the community.
- Strong organizational skills and ability to balance multiple projects.
- Familiarity with Microsoft Office and Canva is a plus, but not required.

Members can expect to gain the following skills/experiences in this position:

- Use and maintenance of chainsaws and other power tools.
- Conservation practices used for land management in timber and prairie.
- Gain experience in prescribed fire with opportunities for certification.
- Develop horticulture skills for native plants including identification, seed cleaning, stratification, transplanting, and best practices for plant care.
- Learn different techniques for invasive species removal, including herbicide application if the member has or is willing to obtain their Pesticide Applicator License.
- Improve communication skills through educational programs and project coordination.

[Green Iowa AmeriCorps](#) is managed by the University of Northern Iowa's [Center for Energy and Environmental Education](#)

