



TERRACORPS

TerraCorps is an AmeriCorps affiliated start-up environmental non-profit preparing and mobilizing emerging leaders to help communities gain access to and conserve land for people and nature. Working at the intersection of the land conservation and urban agriculture movements, our vision is to create a future where land is the foundation of health and well-being for ALL people in EVERY community.

This year's TerraCorps program will support up to 60 full-time AmeriCorps Members across Massachusetts and Rhode Island each serving in one of five positions: Land Stewardship Coordinator (LSC), Land Conservation Coordinator (LCC), Community Engagement Coordinator (CEC), Youth Education Coordinator (YEC), or Sustainable Agriculture Coordinator (SAC). Members will serve in full-time, 11-month terms (August 29th, 2022-July 28, 2023) in which they complete at least 1,700 hours of service with one of our partner organizations. Members receive a living allowance, education award, and additional AmeriCorps benefits (see full list at end of announcement).

Hilltown Land Trust will host a Land Stewardship Coordinator for the 2022-2023 service year. Information about all TerraCorps positions is available at <https://terracorps.org/>.

Land Stewardship Coordinator with Hilltown Land Trust

Hilltown Land Trust
332 Bullitt Road
Ashfield, MA 01330
Hilltown-land-trust.org

Hilltown Land Trust (HLT) serves thirteen rural towns in western Massachusetts (Ashfield, Chester, Chesterfield, Conway, Cummington, Goshen, Huntington, Middlefield, Plainfield, Westhampton, Williamsburg, Windsor, and Worthington). HLT's mission is to protect land and promote ecological diversity and health, respectful land stewardship, historic character and natural beauty in the hilltowns of western Massachusetts. Since our founding in 1986, HLT has acquired 35 conservation restrictions (CRs) and owns 9 properties protecting over 5,000 acres. In 2010, HLT and The Trustees, one of America's oldest land conservation organizations, affiliated to combine the efforts and resources of these two non-profit land conservation organizations in the hilltowns. HLT and The Trustees continue to function as independent entities but collaborate in order to increase the pace of land conservation in the hilltowns.

HLT's offices are located at the Bullitt Reservation in Ashfield, a large, protected property with public hiking trails owned by The Trustees. The building is a small wheelchair-accessible, energy-efficient house with offices and a meeting room that also serves as an event space. Employees of The Trustees also use of the Bullitt Reservation office space, and a workshop in the adjacent barn. Hilltown Land Trust is staffed by two year-round employees. In addition to the office space in Ashfield, the regional office of

The Trustees in Northampton is occasionally used by Hilltown Land Trust staff and TerraCorps Members for work and meetings.

Land Stewardship Coordinators (LSC) build the long-term capacity of their Service Sites by creating networks of volunteers to support hands-on stewardship of community lands. They organize, train, and collaborate with municipal boards, neighborhood and civic associations, community members, youth groups, and schools to care for, improve access to, and support the long-term resiliency and sustainable use of community lands. By providing training and organizing collaborative land-focused projects, they increase resources for community projects, demonstrate environmentally responsible land management, help individuals build skills, and nurture an inclusive sense of public ownership in the local landscape. LSCs generally spend roughly 60% of their time in the office and 40% in the field.

TerraCorps Members engage with their supervisors to develop and carry out three or more capacity building projects over the course of the service year. Some of these projects will involve recruiting, training, and/or managing community volunteers. **Hilltown Land Trust has proposed the following potential project(s) for their Land Stewardship Coordinator:**

1. Enhance and expand the Volunteer Steward Program by coordinating trainings, property monitoring visits, and service days. HLT has built a successful volunteer-based stewardship program such that most of our protected lands are monitored with the help of trained volunteers who have made a long-term commitment to HLT. Volunteers also play an important role in managing the properties owned by HLT. This volunteer-based program requires annual management and regular recruitment and training of volunteers. The LSC will begin this project by receiving training in the organization’s monitoring procedures and protocols including use of our property database, *Landscape*. The LSC will coordinate and conduct fall monitoring visits with long-time HLT volunteers and then recruit and train new stewardship volunteers through a series of outreach and training sessions.

2. Management Plan Updates: HLT has multiple property management plans in need of updating. The LSC will work with HLT’s Executive Director, and experienced volunteers to update these plans to reflect HLT’s current plans for property use and management. The process will ideally involve working with key advisors to gain input on best practices for specific management issues such as forestry, trails, invasive species, and property signage. Updated plans will need to reflect HLT’s values and may include provisions for specific users such as Native and Indigenous groups.

3. Public Education: The LSC will assist staff in educating our constituents about the importance and impact of land conservation on the local community through a series of events and through HLT’s communications channels throughout the service year. This includes HLT’s social media, website, and newsletter.

Development of these and other projects will occur during the first two months of service and consider the Member’s interests and skills.

Required AmeriCorps Qualifications

- A US citizen, US national, or Lawful Permanent Resident Alien of the U.S.
- At least 18 years old
- A minimum of a high school diploma or GED
- No more than three previous terms as an AmeriCorps Member
- Pass a criminal history background check, including an FBI check

Desired Qualifications

- Strong writing and verbal communication skills
- Able to serve both independently and as a member of a team
- Comfort navigating computer software programs (Microsoft Office Suite, ArcGIS mapping software, Wordpress)
- Training and experience pertinent to the Land Stewardship Coordinator position and projects listed above
- Experience training and educating community members and volunteers
- Ability to navigate independently in the field utilizing map, compass, and GPS
- Experience with natural systems and identifying plant and wildlife species
- Experience organizing, promoting, and leading public events

For questions about Hilltown Land Trust's service positions, contact Sally Loomis, sally@hilltownlandtrust.org.

AmeriCorps Member Eligibility Requirements

All Members are expected to serve full-time, commit to serve for the entire 11-month term, and complete at least 1,700 hours of service, including time spent in trainings and several service days with the full TerraCorps cohort. Weekly service averages 38 hours and commonly includes some night and/or weekend activities.

AmeriCorps programs provide equal opportunities. TerraCorps will recruit and select persons in all positions to ensure a diverse and inclusive climate without regard to race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, veteran status, color, political affiliation, creed, national origin, marital status, or any other status as protected by federal, state, and local laws. We encourage applications from individuals with disabilities and will provide reasonable accommodations for interviews and service upon request.

Member Compensation and Benefits

- TerraCorps Members will receive a living allowance of up to \$18,500 (pre-tax) over the 11-month term of service, which is \$740 (pre-tax) per 25 biweekly pay periods.
- TerraCorps assists Members in obtaining health insurance coverage. Reimbursement of costs may be available.
- Childcare assistance may be provided in cases of financial need.
- Upon successful completion of a term of service, AmeriCorps Members receive a taxable \$6,495 education award that can be used for future education or to pay off existing school loans. See <https://americorps.gov/members-volunteers/segal-ameri-corps-education-award> for info and restrictions.
- TerraCorps Members are eligible for forbearance of most federally-guaranteed student loans, as well as payment of interest accrued during service.
- TerraCorps Members will receive mentorship, training, and career development opportunities while serving directly with community-based nonprofits.
- TerraCorps Members experience the personal rewards of national service and community engagement.

Note: TerraCorps Members are responsible for their own housing and must have access to reliable transportation.

How to Apply

To apply for this position and to learn more about other TerraCorps service Member opportunities, please visit the following page on the TerraCorps website at <https://terracorps.org/member-position-listing/>.

Note: A complete Member application includes a resume and two professional or academic references that you will upload as part of your application.

Member applications will be collected by TerraCorps and shared with Service Sites. **Do not send applications directly to a Service Site.**

We strongly encourage interested individuals to apply as soon as possible once applications are posted in May 2022. Position offers and acceptances will be made on a rolling basis. The program aims to fill all positions by mid-July, but Service Sites will continue interviews as needed until all positions are filled. For questions about TerraCorps please email spollock@terracorps.org.

Additional Information About this Program

TerraCorps seeks to create change by achieving a broader, more authentic engagement of the diverse peoples living in our communities. When we do this, resources will grow, access to land will increase, the pace of land conservation will accelerate, and whole communities will achieve more resilient futures. To learn more about TerraCorps, visit: <https://terracorps.org/>.

AmeriCorps engages more than 75,000 people in intensive service each year through more than 15,000 nonprofits, schools, public agencies, and community and faith-based groups across the country. AmeriCorps Members help communities tackle pressing problems and, also leverage their service by mobilizing volunteers to help address community needs for environmental stewardship, health, education, economic opportunity, disaster services, and support to veterans and military families. [To learn more about AmeriCorps, visit americorps.gov.](#)

TerraCorps is a grant-funded program contingent upon renewal of federal funding from the AmeriCorps federal agency. TerraCorps is also supported in part by the Massachusetts Service Alliance in MA and Serve RI in Rhode Island.