



**JOB ANNOUNCEMENT**  
**Ecological and Trail Stewardship Technician**  
**Seasonal**

**Van Cortlandt Park Alliance seeks Ecological and Trail Stewardship Technicians (3)** to assist with trail maintenance and ecological restoration efforts within the natural areas of Van Cortlandt Park.

Van Cortlandt Park is an 1,146 acre recreational area containing sports fields and courts, 20 miles of multi-use trails, and two golf courses. 640 acres of this land is protected under New York City's Forever Wild Program and consists of mixed-deciduous forests, small upland meadows, vernal pools, forest streams, a pond, and more. It is a biodiverse community of flora and fauna and a home to many trails including a world renowned Cross Country Running Course which draws tens of thousands visitors annually.

Alongside the New York City Parks Department, Van Cortlandt Park Alliance is dedicated to managing the natural areas and trails of Van Cortlandt Park to promote the health of this important ecosystem for future generations. The Stewardship Technicians are responsible for assisting in carrying out trail and ecosystem management projects and volunteer programming in support of these projects.

**Reporting to the Trail Stewardship Coordinator**, they will work closely with Van Cortlandt Park Alliance and NYC Parks staff to collaborate on stewardship efforts throughout the park. The responsibilities of this position are seasonally dependent and the work focus changes as follows: Spring - Forest Restoration and Trail Maintenance, Summer - Water Chestnut and Invasive Species Removal, Fall - Trail Maintenance with a focus on the Cross Country Trail.

**Detailed Tasks:**

- Identify and remove non-indigenous plant species from within the Van Cortlandt Park forest in efforts to increase the health of the forest.
- Plant a variety of native trees and shrubs to contribute to ecosystem restoration efforts.
- Survey and identify trail stewardship needs throughout the park's trail system.
- Install and maintain erosion control structures on the park's hiking trails.
- Prune and clear trail corridors of vegetation encroachment and forest debris.
- Safely use and service VCPA's suite of stewardship tools.
- Maintain Hester & Piero's Mill Pond through the removal of water chestnut (*Trapa natans*) and other invasive aquatic species.
- Correct worn and eroded sections of the historic cross country running course and surrounding areas.
- Other general trail and dog run maintenance including: mowing, raking, mulching, trash removal, fence repair and installation, pruning, weeding, and painting.

**Preferred Academic or Experience Qualifications, Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:**

- Working knowledge of invasive species management, local habitats, native flora, and fauna;
- Willing to do physically demanding work in inclement weather and wet conditions;
- Excellent interpersonal skills and verbal communication skills;
- Demonstrably strong work ethic and critical thinking;
- Motivated and punctual;
- Able to work both independently and as part of a team;
- Must be able to lift ~50 lbs
- Experience with iNaturalist and ArcGIS (a plus);
- NYS Drivers License (a plus);
- Experience in environmental education and outreach to community and school groups (a plus), and;
- Interest in learning and investigating ecological concepts.

**Position:**

- Starts early April and runs through late November
- 35 hours per week, in season. [This position has flexibility, with the option of full-time or part-time hours during the school year.]
- Monday-Friday and occasional Saturdays

**Salary:** \$20.00 per hour

**Reports to:** Trail Stewardship Coordinator

Send a cover letter, resume and 3 references to [tommy@vancortlandt.org](mailto:tommy@vancortlandt.org). Applicants will be interviewed until the position is filled.

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**Van Cortlandt Park Alliance**

Preserves, supports, and promotes the recreational, ecological, and historical value of Van Cortlandt Park. The organization raises funds to support the park, oversees 2,000+ volunteers per year, educates over 1,000 students, and provides cultural and environmental programming for the public, encouraging them to become stewards of their beloved green resource in the Bronx.

**Please support our work – sign up to volunteer or donate today!**

**For more information, visit [vancortlandt.org](http://vancortlandt.org).**