



4241 Old US 27 South, Suite 2, Gaylord, MI 49735 | info@huronpines.org | (989) 448-2293

Position Description: Land Protection Director

Location: This position is based in the Huron Pines Office in Gaylord, Michigan, with work taking place across the entire region of the Northeast Lower Peninsula and some state-wide travel.

Reports To: Associate Director

About Huron Pines:

Huron Pines is a nonprofit organization established in 1973 to protect, restore and conserve Michigan's natural resources. Our work across 4.5 million acres in Northeast Michigan's forests, lakes, streams and coastlines improves economic, environmental, educational and recreational opportunities in communities throughout our region. We know that healthy water, protected places and vibrant communities make this region special. Preserving and protecting those elements is what drives our programming. Our goal is to protect land and water and instill a conservation ethic in the people and places we serve to support sustainable communities rich with protected natural resources.

Through active leadership, exceptional project management and strategic partnerships at the federal, state and local level, Huron Pines influences strategy and vision of conservation in Michigan while also executing on-the-ground projects with immediate impacts on environmental quality.

Position Summary:

Huron Pines is seeking a self-motivated, open-minded and creative individual that brings a diverse perspective and strong problem-solving skills. The ideal candidate will have a proven track record of project coordination across multiple stakeholders and the ability to integrate science into conservation planning while helping to generate practical communication materials for broad audiences. This is a senior leadership position that will also supervise at least two stewardship staff. A minimum of 5 years of experience working in land protection is required. The role of the Land Protection Director is to provide leadership in native ecosystem protection and restoration by identifying and prioritizing projects, coordinating programs and finding resources necessary to conserve natural ecosystems. Partner collaboration and furthering Huron Pines knowledge and impact in natural resource management is a fundamental component of this position. It requires attention to detail, intuitive thinking, strong written communication and computer skills, and the ability to proactively work with staff and community members to achieve goals.

POSITION DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

Land Protection Develop, evaluate and share methods and practices for advancing ecological restoration in Northern Michigan on preserve properties and when guiding staff on other habitat restoration projects.	70%
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<p>Lead baseline assessments and annual monitoring for Huron Pines preserves.</p> <p>Represent Huron Pines at public meetings (i.e., Local Governments, Planning Board, Watershed Committees, etc.) related to land management activities.</p> <p>Participate in Land Protection Committee Meetings and work with staff, board, volunteers and community members to develop management plans and meaningful education events for Huron Pines preserves.</p> <p>Advise on land management needs and costs during consideration of potential new Huron Pines fee ownerships and ensure all sound transaction practices are occurring.</p> <p>Ensure strong relations with neighbors of Huron Pines preserves are established and nurtured.</p> <p>Ensure preserve and easement documentation are kept in accordance with Huron Pines’s record-keeping policy and that Huron Pines ongoing and proposed activities are in compliance with any restrictions on the land.</p> <p>Research and assemble information necessary for the preparation of regional conservation plans and strategies, including land ownership, land use patterns, resource values, legal and other issues related to conservation acquisitions.</p> <p>Provide ideas for land protection and organizational outreach to convey effective messages and help solicit funding for programs.</p> <p>Set goals and provide support and supervision for stewardship staff.</p>	
<p>Advance Land Conservation Regionally</p> <p>Work cooperatively with communities, state and local agencies and other conservation partner organizations to maximize land stewardship impacts. Participate in state and basin-wide conferences when appropriate.</p> <p>Assist the Department of Natural Resources, and other agency partners, with priority land acquisition projects. This includes engaging the community to garner support and preparing resources for grant applications including Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and Forest Legacy Program.</p> <p>Partner with land trusts to further land protection and conservation stewardship in Northern Michigan. This may include engaging in land protection policy issues, developing joint proposals and providing needed services in our region.</p> <p>Provide advice and assistance to local governments with planning, acquisition and management of protected lands.</p>	<p>30%</p>



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QUALIFICATIONS:

- A minimum of five years successfully managing land protection projects
- Bachelor's degree (master's preferred) in ecology, landscape architecture, watershed management, land use planning or a related field
- Demonstrated knowledge of real estate transactions, including appraisals, title work, due diligence, escrow instructions, closing principles, practices of land conservation, real estate and land use planning and regulations and zoning
- Capacity to understand complex concepts and translate scientific information into practical guidance including planning documents and outreach materials
- Understanding of emerging public policy issues affecting land use and land preservation, including habitat protection, water quality and quantity, sustainable agricultural and forest land management and climate change
- Experience in building and maintaining collaborative relationships with co-workers, partner organizations, government officials, public agencies, community groups and the general public
- Ability to work effectively with project management in a team setting
- Excellent verbal and written skills
- Evidence of strong relationship skills, including assertiveness, tact and the ability to manage contractors and work with a wide variety of stakeholders
- Demonstrated ability to handle multiple tasks and prioritize workload
- Commitment to the mission and goals of Huron Pines with thorough understanding of the organization's ability to apply skills for the development and implementation of projects

On occasion this position requires work to be conducted off site, on weekends/evenings, and may involve all weather activity. A valid driver's license is needed and use of a personal vehicle may be required to perform duties. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform essential job functions.

Huron Pines is an at-will employer and this is a full-time, exempt position with benefits provided and a competitive salary based on experience. Detailed conditions of employment and employee benefits are discussed in the Huron Pines Employee Handbook.

Kindly submit your resume and cover letter by April 1, 2019. Interviews with top candidates will be conducted in April 2019. Huron Pines anticipates this position to start in May 2019.

Please send resume and cover letter indicating the position you are applying for, in PDF format via email to:

Jill Scarzo, Program Assistant
jill@huronpines.org