

Title: Monitoring Assistant

The Carp Watershed Monitoring Assistant is part of a pilot project to assessing the viability of a Carp Watershed Monitoring program modelled on Stream Watch Programs used in other jurisdictions. The primary goal is to develop a self-sustaining network of volunteers who collect water samples for analysis on a regular basis or monitor a rain gauge and report the results. The secondary goal is to raise awareness of the Carp River and its tributaries in both the urban and rural sections of the sub-watershed.

Carp Watershed Monitoring Assistant will organizing water level and precipitation monitoring workshops for community volunteers, help set up a network of volunteers, distribute monitoring equipment and formulate a system for collection and analysis of the data. They will be the main MVC liaison for stream watchers; answering inquiries, troubleshooting problems and providing feedback.

Position intended for a student in environmental studies such as biology and water management, ecosystem studies, geography etc.

The position will provide experience in environmental project management, field experience in water monitoring protocols (including water sampling techniques, fish habitats assessment, stream channel morphology measurements, stream flow measurements) and other skills such as data management, analysis and mapping.

Work Description:

The position supports a team of environmental planners on a wide range of administrative and research functions.

In addition to the liaison function, you may be required to work on some or all of the following tasks:

- Conduct research, perform analysis and input data
- Prepare and organize correspondence, perform data entry and word processing functions, and create various documents
- Assist with small or large scale archival / filing projects by following a prescribed set of rules to store or destroy files; use technology to file documents
- Plan, organize, coordinate and manage daily assigned work

You will assist in compiling environmental data from a variety of sources including MVC, the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ministry of the Environment, volunteers and local municipalities. The specific tasks will include:

- Compile existing water quality data from all available sources and identify gaps in that data
- Compile stream levels, stream flows, groundwater levels and climate data.
- Collect data/inventory natural heritage features (fish community and habitat, aquatic vegetation, wetlands, wildlife and wildlife habitat, invasive species, species at risk)
- Assist with data input for the nutrient budget model
- Undertake land use classification using computer based mapping tools (GIS) to map and quantify land use and to document potential point sources and non-point sources of nutrients
- Assist in communication of findings through various mediums (i.e., reports, presentations, website material).

Skills and Abilities Needed

- The ability to interact with volunteers of all ages and speak in front of groups.
- The physical ability to hike on moderate terrain to check out potential stream watch sites.
- The physical ability to lift 20 pounds.
- Willingness to work as a team member.
- Willingness to get your hands dirty and feet wet.
- Email and phone access required for communication and scheduling.
- Familiarity with WINDOWS software helpful (WORD, EXCEL, etc.).

Mentors and Supervisor: MVC's Watershed Planner, and will also work closely with Friends of the Carp (Coordinator: Linda McCormick) and MVC's planning, biology and monitoring staff who will provide leadership and mentorship in a variety of environmental disciplines. The student and supervisor will meet on a daily basis to review tasks and responsibilities. When working away from the office, the student will have the ability to communicate with the supervisor, or a designate, by vehicle radio, portable radio or designated cell phone. Supervisors are always available for support and guidance.

Training: To be determined by MVC.

The student will receive training on a variety field and water monitoring protocols including water sampling techniques, fish habitat assessment, stream channel morphology measurements, stream flow measurements, etc.

Health and Safety Training:

The student will be given Workplace Hazardous Material Information System (WHMIS) Training, Occupational Health and Safety training and First Aid training. The supervisor will review with the student the Mississippi Valley Conservation Department summer student safety manual which includes material safety data sheets, traffic hazard assessments and water safety training. The student will also complete a road test.

Location and Work Site: Mississippi Valley Conservation office, 4175 Hwy 511, Lanark.

Work Schedule: Flexible – depends on mutually agreed upon times, but it is anticipated that most of the work will fall within MVC's regular business hours of 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.. Occasional weekend or evening hours may be required to meet with stream watchers at a mutually agreed upon time or participate in demonstrations.

Tentative dates: May 28 to September 8

Pay: \$10.75 per hour

Please send your resume with an email summarizing your experience and interests to Alyson Symon (asymon@mvc.on.ca) no later than **6 p.m. May 21, 2012**. Interviews will be conducted May 24 to 25.