



Position Announcement
Urban Forestry Research and Extension Associate
at Virginia State University

Virginia State University's College of Agriculture will hire an arborist or urban forester to lead and assist various research and outreach activities.

Description and Responsibilities:

Urban forest management can help solve urgent issues in the US and Virginia. Under the direction of VSU Faculty, the Urban Forestry Research and Extension Associate will design and implement outreach programs and research projects to increase knowledge and understanding of the appropriate selection, location, and maintenance of trees in urban and suburban spaces to increase environmental benefits and reduce costs and risks.

Research: Under the direction of VSU Faculty, the Associate will design and implement scientific research projects related to management of trees in urban/suburban spaces, potentially including issues of water quality, species testing, and socio-economics. She/he will lead or contribute to research publications.

Extension/Outreach: Together with VSU Faculty and Staff, the Associate will coordinate and implement educational programs for urban resource professionals, volunteers, officials, and the general public about arboriculture or urban forestry. Coordinate Cooperative Extension activities with Faculty at VSU and its partner institution, Virginia Tech. She/he will lead or contribute to extension publications. The Associate may be called upon occasionally to guest-lecture or team-teach university courses on arboriculture or urban forestry.

Qualifications:

- A Master's degree or equivalent experience in Urban Forestry, Arboriculture, Horticulture, Natural Resources, Forestry, Environmental Conservation, Biology, or related field. Candidates may include, but are not limited to, recent graduates of Master's or PhD programs, or current PhD Candidates (e.g., "All but dissertation" candidates).
- Knowledge of arboricultural practices such as the following: tree inventories; tree pruning; tree removal; tree cabling and bracing; tree transplanting; tree root pruning and root barrier

installation; tree disorder diagnosis; application of pesticides and fertilizers; operation of equipment such as bucket truck, chipper, stump grinder, chain saws, etc.; and tree structure evaluation and risk assessment.

- General knowledge/understanding of urban forest issues and policies in the Mid-Atlantic.
- Demonstrated ability to design and implement research projects. Preference for experience with research related to arboriculture or urban forestry.
- Outstanding verbal and written communication skills.
- Experience teaching in formal or non-formal settings.
- Ability to effectively communicate difficult concepts to an audience.
- Strong interpersonal skills and ability to deal professionally with diverse audiences.
- Self-motivated, with ability to work independently or as a part of a team.
- Ability to manage multiple projects simultaneously.

About VSU:

Virginia State University, founded in 1882, is located 20 miles south of Richmond, adjacent to Petersburg in the village of Ettrick. VSU was the first fully state-supported four-year institution of higher learning for blacks in America, and is Virginia's 1890 Land Grant University. With a current student population of 5,300, the University sits atop a rolling landscape overlooking the Appomattox River with expansive views of Petersburg. VSU includes a 236-acre main campus and a 416-acre agriculture research facility.

Starting date: to be determined

Duration: up to four years

Position Type: hourly

Wages: competitive rate based on qualifications

Location: Petersburg, VA

To Apply:

Interested applicants should send a cover letter and CV to Dr. Gregory Frey at gfrey@vsu.edu; 804-524-5057 (fax); or PO Box 9081, Petersburg, VA 23806.

Other inquiries to gfrey@vsu.edu or 804-524-6967.

Applications will be accepted until June 7, 2013 or until a qualified candidate is identified.