

Native Plant Nursery Manager

RISE (Rockaway Initiative for Sustainability and Equity) is a community-based organization in Far Rockaway, New York, that provides enriching youth and public programming to instill individual and civil respect for nature and contributes to advancing social equity and the physical well-being of our vibrant coastal neighborhood in Queens.

RISE is seeking an experienced Native Plant Nursery Manager to oversee RISE's new 1 acre native plant nursery at Arverne East. The Nursery Manager will report directly to the Programs Director, and is responsible for the development, implementation, and monitoring of an effective nursery operation.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **Nursery Management:** Oversee the day-to-day operations of the native plant nursery, including propagation, cultivation, inventory, and distribution of plants.
- **Garden Stewardship:** Oversee the stewardship of the adjacent educational garden and ensure the space remains an inviting and beautiful community space. Care for installed native plants and remove any competing invasive plants.
- **Staff Leadership:** Supervise, train, and motivate a team of nursery workers. Foster a collaborative and educational environment to promote team growth.
- **Plant Care:** Ensure that all plants are cared for according to best practices, including watering, pest management, pruning, and disease prevention.
- **Inventory Control:** Maintain an organized inventory of plant stock, keeping accurate records of plant varieties, quantities, and health/success.
- **Sustainability Initiatives:** Implement and oversee environmentally sustainable practices within nursery operations, including water conservation, waste management, and the use of organic growing methods.
- **Collaboration:** Work closely with community partners, research institutions and government agencies on projects related to habitat restoration and environmental preservation.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Bachelor's degree in Horticulture, Environmental Science, Botany, or a related field (preferred).
- Minimum of 3-5 years of experience in nursery management, plant propagation, or similar roles, with at least 1-2 years in a leadership position.
- Knowledge of native plant species and their ecological benefits.
- Strong organizational and communication skills.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team.

- Proven experience managing staff and training others in nursery practices.
- Ability to handle physical work in various weather conditions (lifting, bending, planting).
- Excellent problem-solving skills and attention to detail.
- A passion for native plants and environmental stewardship.
- Experience working and/or living in the Rockaway community, preferred.
- Strong verbal, written, and computer communication skills. Bilingual in English and Spanish is a plus.
- Authentic commitment to the mission and values of the organization

This is a full time (35 hours/week) position Monday – Friday with occasional weekends for community events. Schedule will shift in accordance with the growing season, with longer days in the spring/summer/fall and shorter days in the winter. Salary is commensurate with experience. RISE offers a benefits package including health care, vacation/sick days, and 401k.

Rockaway Initiative for Sustainability & Equity (RISE) is an Equal Opportunity Employer, M/F/D/V

To apply, please email a cover letter and resume to Executive Director Jeanne DuPont at jdupont@riserockaway.org and cc Programs Manager Alana Danieu at adanieu@riserockaway.org.

Workplace Conditions and Environment

- We value team members and community partners from all backgrounds and cultures with different skills, abilities, and perspectives
- We ensure that everyone has an opportunity to contribute to our mission fully.
- Ability to lift up to 20 lbs. and to perform light physical activity

*Please note that this position is based at the RISE Center located at 58-03 Rockaway Beach Blvd, Far Rockaway, New York in Queens. Please map our location before applying.