



# Liberty Prairie

**Position Title:** Garden Stewards Volunteer

**Last Updated:** 8/9/24

Liberty Prairie is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit in Grayslake, Illinois. **Our mission** is to build skills and pathways toward land, human, and local economic health. Liberty Prairie manages a 94 acre farm with annual, perennial, and natural land area within the Prairie Crossing community.

In spring of 2024, we announced our plans to expand our farm and learning campus, now known as the Living Laboratory. In the midst of all of these exciting changes, we are seeking support from our community of volunteers, in order to build hands-on educational spaces that inspire future generations of land stewards, farmers, and change makers. With your support, we will create themed garden spaces from scratch, engage in creative projects, and participate in a variety of garden-based activities. This is an opportunity to help build and nurture something beautiful. Volunteers can anticipate the program growing and evolving along with the new garden spaces.

## **Expectations**

At this time, we are recruiting volunteers for scheduled service day opportunities, with the possibility for more consistent/frequent work days to take place in the future. We anticipate 2-3 scheduled service opportunities per month with a flexible time frame of 2-3 hours, typically taking place on Tuesdays and Saturdays. There will be both adult/Level II (Tuesday) and family geared opportunities/Level I (Saturday, open to all audiences). Service days may change with the seasons. As a garden steward volunteer, you can expect to engage in moderately challenging outdoor physical activity. In order to participate in service days, you must register as a Liberty Prairie volunteer using our volunteer platform, Civic Champs. All individuals must sign a waiver and photo release. You may be asked to complete a background check. Youth under the age of 13 must be accompanied by a parent in order to participate. Individuals under the age of 18 will require parental consent in order to participate.

## **Essential Qualities**

We are seeking enthusiastic team players that are passionate about gardening and land stewardship with a commitment to safety. Basic gardening experience, flexibility, a willingness to learn, and positivity are essential qualities. Capability to perform physical tasks such as planting, weeding, digging, watering, and pruning for extended periods is required.

*We look forward to welcoming you to our community and cultivating something extraordinary! Prospective volunteers should join the [volunteer email roster](#) and [register as a volunteer on civic champs](#), via [Liberty Prairie website](#).*

# Level I

## “Growing Stewards”

- Open to all ages
- Occasional, non-committal
- Weekend service days
- Work is always family friendly
- Little/no experience needed
- Little/no training required

Track time using  
Civic Champs

RSVP for service days

Waiver/photo release required

Minors require parental consent

Physical, outdoor work

Can participate in both  
groups, with some  
restrictions

# Level II

## “Seasoned Stewards”

- Geared for adults, children 13+ welcome with parent consent
- Meet every other Tuesday morning
- Also welcome at Level I events
- Once a month minimum commitment
- Seeking gardeners with basic experience (at minimum)
- Training required
- Signature on role description required

Role Distinctions within the “Garden Stewards” Volunteer Program



**Title:** Garden Stewards Volunteer

**Location:** [Prairie Crossing Farm](#), 550 Harris Rd, Grayslake IL, 60030

**Role Summary:** Stewards help build and care for garden spaces and grounds of the Living Laboratory

**Reporting to:** the Volunteer Manager

**Mission:** To build bridges and pathways toward land, human, and local economic health.

**Objectives Include:**

- Plant care including planting, pruning, and watering
- Maintenance tasks such as weeding, deadheading, pruning, and brush removal
- Greenhouse work including seeding, thinning, and cleaning
- Assistance in maintaining compost areas
- Prep tasks including digging, turning soil, edging, and raking
- Harvest and plant processing
- Creative projects
- Community engagement duties such as connecting the public with Liberty Prairie programs, communications, and resources
- Other tasks as assigned

**Desired Skills/Experiences:**

- Basic knowledge of horticulture or a willingness to learn
- Enthusiasm for gardening, education, and community care
- Interest in holistic land management, sustainability, organic farming/gardening, and conservation
- Ability to perform physical tasks and work outdoors in various weather conditions
- Strong communication skills and a positive attitude
- Reliability and a commitment to the success of Liberty Prairie outdoor programs
- Interest and knowledge of Liberty Prairie, Prairie Crossing, and the [good food movement](#)
- Multi-lingual

**Additional Expectations:**

At this time, we are seeking Level II volunteers that can offer occasional support at least once a month. Level I opportunities occur more infrequently, and therefore do not have service minimums. Service as a Garden Steward involves physically challenging work. Physical activities may include lifting, carrying, bending, kneeling, pushing, crouching, reaching, standing and walking. Volunteers will be expected to freely lift up to 40 lbs, and up to about 75 lbs with

tools and/or assistance (i.e. wheelbarrows). All reasonable accommodations will be taken into consideration.

**Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB)**

Liberty Prairie NFP works to create an environment that welcomes folks from a variety of backgrounds, perspectives, cultures, skills, and experiences, knowing that the more inclusive we are, the more successful and creative we will be. We recognize that the people we serve are unique in their backgrounds, beliefs, opportunities, and challenges. We strive to embody and embrace that in our work, acknowledging and celebrating the differences within each other. We value accountability and hold ourselves and others to high standards of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging. We learn and grow collectively and create opportunities for others to join us on this journey.

Note: the following section is to be completed as instructed by the Volunteer Manager

**Acceptance of Volunteer Opportunity**

The role of Garden Steward Volunteer is being offered to \_\_\_\_\_ (*printed name*) by the Volunteer Manager, Penny Burke on \_\_\_\_\_ (*today's date*). Your signature indicates your agreement for volunteer service, and your understanding of the aforementioned responsibilities.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Volunteer Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature (if volunteer is under 18 y/o)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Volunteer Manager Signature