

THE TRUST FOR GOVERNORS ISLAND

Senior Gardener

Department: Horticulture

FT/PT: Full-Time

Job Status: Non-Exempt

Reports to: Director of Horticulture

OVERVIEW

A popular year-round destination, Governors Island is a 172-acre island in the heart of New York Harbor located between Lower Manhattan and the Brooklyn waterfront. For almost two centuries, the Island was closed to the public, operating as a military base for the U.S. Army and, later, the Coast Guard. Today, an award-winning new park is complemented by dozens of unique historic buildings, educational and cultural facilities, a rich arts and culture program and a 22-acre National Monument managed by the National Park Service. Looking ahead, the long-term vision for Governors Island focuses on continuing to expand year-round public access by enlivening it with transformative public art and culture, extraordinary recreational and open space, and research and education dedicated to addressing the global climate crisis.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Senior Gardener leads a team of Gardeners and Seasonal Gardeners to monitor and maintain the gardens and natural areas on Governors Island. Working closely with the Director of Horticulture, the Senior Gardener helps develop seasonal management plans and establish weekly work priorities. This position provides hands-on, in-the-field mentorship and monitors progress to ensure that work is completed efficiently, and horticultural standards are consistently upheld. The Senior Gardener assumes additional leadership responsibilities to promote a safe, productive, and well-organized work environment. The ideal candidate possesses excellent organizational, interpersonal, and communication skills and can work collaboratively and effectively in a fast-paced environment.

Responsibilities may include, but are not limited to:

- Work with the Director of Horticulture to create and track seasonal goals and weekly work assignments in assigned zone.
- Take a leadership role in horticulture back-of-house, including the maintenance of the nursery, tool inventory and irrigation systems.
- Assist the Director of Horticulture in supervising contractors.
- Plan and procure replacement of herbaceous plants, shrubs and trees seasonally, including the assessment of plant species failures and the development and implementation of replacement planting plans.
- Participate in the creation and management of a horticultural database.
- Participate in the maintenance of an Island-wide tree inventory and management system.
- Maintain horticultural assets in assigned zone including planting beds, trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals, vines and bulbs.

- Perform work including planting, damage/corrective/structural tree and shrub pruning, cabling and staking, weeding, deadheading, thinning, cutback, hand-watering, raking, mulching and transplanting.
- Have familiarity with Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies and ability to execute in assigned zone.
- Participate in Island-wide seasonal clean-up activities.
- Manage weekly zone volunteers. Work with corporate volunteer groups to address large horticultural projects.
- Communicate with the Operations team regarding park infrastructure, cleanliness, zone usage, and programming.
- Act as an ambassador for Governors Island, answering questions from visitors about horticulture, park design, park history and general information.
- Other duties, as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS

Education:

A degree or certification in a professional horticulture program is preferred.

Experience:

Four or more years of horticultural experience, preferably in public horticulture, with in-depth knowledge of herbaceous and woody plant identification and maintenance. At least one year of supervisory experience. ISA Arborist certification is a plus. NYS Pesticide Technician certification or ability to obtain within six months of hire date.

Skills and Abilities:

- Ability to prioritize seasonal tasks in the landscape.
- Ability to lift and/or move up to 50 pounds.
- Position requires the employee to perform physical labor (lifting, bending, squatting, etc.) in all weather conditions.
- Experience supervising volunteers.
- Strong interpersonal, communication (oral and written), organizational and problem-solving skills.
- High level of personal accountability, self-organization, autonomy, and discipline.
- Ability to be flexible and make sound professional judgments.
- Ability to work overtime, weekends, and holidays, as needed.
- Proficiency in all Microsoft Office programs and familiarity using data collection software and work order management systems.
- Valid driver's license.

Salary: \$31-\$33 per hour

Generous paid time off and excellent benefits package including medical/dental/vision/life insurance, and retirement plan with company contributions.

Location and Schedule: All positions are located on Governors Island. The position is in-person (five-day work week).

TO APPLY

Please send a cover letter and resume as a single PDF document to jobs@govisland.org with “Senior Gardener” in the subject line. No phone calls, please.

The Trust for Governors Island values the importance of inclusion, accessibility and a diverse pool of applicants. The Trust for Governors Island does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, disability, genetic information, marital status, membership in an employee organization, military service, national origin, parental status, political affiliation, race, religion, sex (including gender identity), sexual orientation, sexual and other reproductive health decisions, or other non-merit factor.

ABOUT THE TRUST FOR GOVERNORS ISLAND

The Trust for Governors Island is a nonprofit corporation created by the City of New York. It is responsible for the redevelopment and operation of 150 acres of Governors Island. The Trust's mission is to realize the full potential of Governors Island for the inspiration and enjoyment of all New Yorkers, demonstrating a bold vision for public space. For more information, visit www.govisland.org

