



Aquatic Health Field Assistant Maitland Conservation

The Maitland Valley Conservation Authority is currently accepting applications for an Aquatic Health Field Assistant in our Watershed Health Assessment and Monitoring Services area. This is a 16-week contract position.

Maitland Conservation is a community-based organization dedicated to providing leadership to protect and enhance local water, forests and soil. Our area of jurisdiction covers the watersheds of the Maitland, Nine Mile and Eighteen Mile Rivers, and smaller watersheds along the Lake Huron shoreline.

Location: Maitland Conservation Administration Office – Wroxeter, ON

Anticipated Start Date: May 5, 2025

Job Description:

The Aquatic Health Field Assistant will report to the Watershed Ecologist and Watershed Monitoring Specialist. The Assistant is responsible for assisting and supporting data collection and conducting field work for the Aquatic Health Assessment Program.

The assistant should expect to work in the field daily including over summer months when weather can be variable. During extreme weather events work in the office will include data entry and trouble-shooting and fixing equipment. The assistant can expect daily physical exertion carrying and operating field equipment in a riverine and aquatic environment that requires stamina and strength.

Tasks:

The assistant will accompany the Ecologist and/or Monitoring Specialist into the field to gather data using the standard fieldwork methodology including Ontario Stream Assessment Protocol (OSAP) and Vegetative Survey Protocol (VSP). Training on both protocols will be provided. Sampling fish communities using standard industry techniques and protocol will also be expected. Training will be provided.

The field assistant will contact landowners and secure access to one or more field sites a day, including safe, efficient access to the field site. ArcGIS will be used to make maps and geo-locate/navigate to field sites.

The assistant is also responsible for having all field gear ready for each day including:

- troubleshooting and problem solving when field equipment isn't working, cleaning
- sending equipment for repair when necessary
- purchasing components

- disinfecting (if necessary)
- organizing and tracking to ensure gear or its components aren't lost.

The assistant will work in watercourses and in the riparian zones to take measurements and field samples, and to record measurements both electronically and/or through written field notes, as directed. The field assistant is responsible for ensuring data is recorded legibly and accurately then to upload and transfer data to electronic databases. The assistant will also ensure manual field records, and any field samples will be organized and stored appropriately.

Office work consists of helping with data validation, data entry as required depending on monitoring/assessment task at the direction of the Ecologist or Monitoring Specialist.

This position will assist with the following: field sampling of watercourses using Ontario Stream Assessment Protocol (OSAP) including sampling of geomorphic parameters, max/min temperature survey, and electrofishing, as well as riparian sampling using the Vegetative Survey Protocol (VSP). Tasks also include recording data precisely, ensuring data is uploaded to databases, Data QC/QA.

The assistant will be encouraged to exercise decision making on daily tasks with supervisors and to share insights with respect to daily work planning and project completion.

The assistant will also be expected to explain the program to the public and answer questions.

Qualifications:

The ideal candidate will have the following qualifications:

- Attending or graduate with a college diploma or university degree in environmental studies/sciences with a specialization in biology, ecology or physical geography.
- Enjoy working with technology and a willingness to take the initiative to troubleshoot field equipment and keep it operational, as well as learn new technologies.
- Be able to anticipate and help solve problems.
- Be attentive to safety including safe navigation to sites, safe operation of vehicles and equipment and safe work habits in the field and office.
- Detail oriented and an ability to conscientiously learn and apply standard data gathering protocol to make observations, measure and record data.
- Strong time management skills including prioritizing tasks and weekly, monthly and daily scheduling of activities.
- Demonstrate initiative by completing routine or anticipated tasks ahead of time if possible.
- Excellent organizational skills including tracking and accounting for equipment and sorting and retrieving information including data, maps, contacts, field sheets.
- Patient and hardworking under adverse conditions with an ability to work outdoors in rivers and streams for extended periods during heat and sun.

- Ability to carry field equipment for extended periods of time while working on uneven terrain.
- Proficiency in MS Windows environment (Excel, ACCESS, MS Word, Settings, Email Aps and Google Docs). Familiarity with ARC GIS, Survey 123 and other applications for field navigation and data gathering an asset.
- Willing to take and follow direction while working independently and as a member of a team. Demonstrate initiative by completing routine or anticipated tasks ahead of time if possible.
- Ability to communicate effectively to transmit information, ask clarifying questions, problem solve and complete tasks both verbally and in writing.
- Basic identification skills are helpful in the following major groups helpful: herbs and forbs, trees, aquatic invertebrates and fish.
- Must have valid Standard First Aid / CPR certification.
- Valid driver's license.

Working Circumstances

- Normal working hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday. Working hours may need to be adjusted occasionally to meet workplan and Authority needs.
- This is a summer field position; the effective execution of duties requires long hours in hot environments while ensuring field measurements are collected. There is the possibility of adverse conditions including heat, rain, insects and rough terrain.

Wage Rate: \$23.90

How to Apply: Apply by email with a cover letter and resume to Erin Gouthro, Watershed Ecologist, at egouthro@mvca.on.ca . Please submit applications in .pdf format with "Aquatic Health Field Assistant" in the subject line.

Application Deadline: Wednesday March 19, 2025 by 4:00 p.m. EST

We thank all applicants for their interest, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

Maitland Conservation is an equal opportunity employer. Personal information provided is collected under the authority of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Accommodation will be provided in all parts of the hiring process as required under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation. Applicants are asked to make their needs known in advance. Please note that this position requires work in natural areas. Many field study areas are not accessible to those with mobility impairment.