

## **MANITOGA / The Russel Wright Design Center LANDSCAPE COLLECTION & CONSERVATION MANAGER (full-time)**

### **Summary of Opportunity**

Manitoga is the nationally landmarked former House, Studio and 75-acre woodland landscape of industrial designer Russel Wright (1904-1976) and his family in Garrison, New York. With a creative vision that integrates nature, architecture, and design to a remarkable degree, it has become one of the great modernist destinations within reach of New York City and is one of the few 20<sup>th</sup>-century modernist homes with original landscape open to the public. **Manitoga/The Russel Wright Design Center seeks a full-time Landscape Collection & Conservation Manager to work on all aspects of the management, preservation, and stewardship of Manitoga's variable and naturalistic landscape which encompasses woodland gardens, quarry ledges, foot paths and trails, an outer forest as well as the green roofs and quarry terraces of the landmarked buildings.**

### **Position Description**

The Landscape Manager reports to the Senior Landscape Curator who guides design intent and stewardship and works under the overall supervision of the Associate Director for Design & Preservation. Together with a part-time Landscape Assistant, s/he will support the site's growing needs in the areas of habitat restoration, forest management, mapping, and site documentation. The position requires the ability to engage creatively and experimentally with an understanding of Russel Wright's original design intent, ecological approach, and goals to preserve and celebrate native plantings.

### **Key Responsibilities, include but are not limited to:**

#### DESIGN MANAGEMENT

- Regular monitoring of landscape and site conditions, including tour paths and foot trails.
- Manage part-time Landscape Assistant and landscape volunteers.
- Oversee routine contractual work - mowing, arborist, and stonework.
- Create and implement standards and safety guidelines for trail accessibility and public programming.
- Create planting plans for landscape restoration.
- Implement GPS plotting and update GIS network database.
- Provide data and technical content as needed to support grant applications.
- Lead volunteers in workday tasks.
- Assist with implementation of the Art + Design Residency outdoor installations and performances and with site set up for special events, programs and crowd control, as needed.

#### GARDENING

- Transplanting and installation of new plantings; creating protection and providing care.
- Improvements to paths; resurfacing and attention to trail sustainability.
- Pruning, raking and weeding in variable habitats to include woodland gardens, rock cliffs, and ponds.
- Identification of invasive plants and the implementation of a management/removal plan.

## Qualifications and Experience

- College degree in one or more of these areas, or a related field: Landscape Design, Ecology, Horticulture, Environmental Studies.
- Gardening experience / forestry and trail building background with recommendation from employers or customers.
- Knowledge of trees and plant communities of Hudson Highland/ Northeast US region will be necessary. Please include evidence of knowledge in recommendations.
- Latitude for independent initiative and judgement.
- Ability to work outdoors, hands-on in landscape, using pruners, handsaws, shovels, rakes, as well as power tools: blowers, trimmers, and mini chain saws.
- Capable of lifting heavy loads (40 lbs.) as in hauling brush, carrying water packs to new plantings, and readjusting stone steps.
- Stamina and fitness for hiking (rock climbing and kayaking a plus) are necessary to cover a rugged terrain that spans a 500 ft ascent and two+ miles of foot trails with nearly eighty landscape features needing regular attention (foot bridges, water crossings, overlooks).

**Terms and Compensation:** This is a full-time, year-round salaried position with a salary range of \$48,500 - \$52,500 a year. Position requires an initial 9-month approval and training period.

M/WRDC is an equal opportunity employer. We celebrate diversity and are committed to creating an inclusive environment for all employees.

## Application Procedure

Please send cover letter, resume with work experience and list of references to:  
Emily Phillips, Landscape Senior Curator, at [ephillips@visitmanitoga.org](mailto:ephillips@visitmanitoga.org) (845-228-8350)

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## Manitoga and Its History

The story of Manitoga began in 1942 when Russel and Mary Wright bought a former industrial property in the eastern Hudson Highlands. After Mary's premature death, Wright continued their shared dream of home, completing the House and Studio, *Dragon Rock*, in 1961. Over 34 years, he reclaimed the quarry landscape with design vision and ecologically sensitive methods, and in the early 1970s, welcomed the public to the foot trails. In 2001, Manitoga / The Russel Wright Design Center embarked upon critical restoration and officially opened the site in 2008. Today, we celebrate good design and living in harmony with nature through tours, programs and events, engaging visitors whose numbers have tripled in recent years. In 2021, the Russel & Mary Wright Design Gallery, featuring the Wright's groundbreaking product designs for the American home, opened to the public. Manitoga's choreographed trails have been enjoyed year-round, free of charge for over four decades and are now permanently conserved for future generations in partnership with Open Space Institute.