



McKinney Midwest Climate Project

2022 McKinney Climate Fellow – Shirley Heinze Land Trust

Who We Are:

Shirley Heinze Land Trust (SHLT) has been protecting natural land in the southern Lake Michigan watershed of Indiana since 1981. SHLT manages more than 2,700 acres that have been permanently preserved for their natural values. Included in SHLT's holdings are examples of the entire spectrum of natural communities in the area: tallgrass prairie, high dune, oak savanna, boreal flatwoods, dune and swale, woodlands, marshes, swamps, ponds, bogs, fens, and riparian habitat. SHLT relies heavily on partnerships – with a diverse group of individuals, nonprofits, government agencies, and business entities – to maximize efforts to achieve its goals. In addition to land protection and stewardship, the organization also focuses on educational programming, community conservation, as well as agricultural land protection and water quality monitoring across its geography.

Position Summary:

The McKinney Climate Fellow will work with the Project Manager and Stewardship Director, and will be responsible for developing a framework to quantify the existing and future climate resilience impacts of SHLT's work in the East Branch of the Little Calumet River watershed. This will take into consideration land protection, restoration, implementation of agriculture best management practices, public access and community managed open space, water quality improvements and impacts, and equity considerations to analyze the impacts of existing and future work in the watershed. The framework will help analyze SHLT's work and the climate resilience of the region, track the impacts of future efforts, prioritize target areas in the watershed, and communicate the importance of our work to the communities that SHLT is building partnerships with.

Duties will include:

- Research watershed resiliency and the effects of climate change on a watershed system
- Review impacts of land use changes, best management practices, and conservation stewardship
- Create a GIS map documenting existing land in watershed including size, use, tillage, etc.
- Quantify existing and future impacts of land protection, restoration, and stewardship in the watershed
- Conduct a demographic analysis of the watershed to inform target area prioritization
- Develop a framework to track impacts of future conservation, best management practices, and stewardship efforts, as well as prioritize target areas in the watershed for future work
- Present summary of work to SHLT staff and board members in presentation and report formats

Qualifications:

- Prior quantitative coursework or research experience in environmental science, environmental management, environmental engineering, or a related field
- Experience with map production and analysis using ArcGIS Pro and ArcGIS Online
- Experience with data analysis, management, and presentation
- Effective verbal and written communication skills, especially for a public audience
- Ability to prioritize and manage multiple ongoing tasks
- Ability to work remotely if required



Compensation:

Compensation will be in the form of a scholarship through the McKinney Climate Fellows Program. The Fellow will work full time for 10 weeks, beginning in late May and ending in August 2022.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

The McKinney Climate Fellows Program supports the continual advancement and development of diverse, inclusive, and equitable spaces. Indiana climate change solutions should be equitable in implementation, and projects with equity considerations are encouraged to reduce climate change impacts on marginalized communities in the state.

Feedback and Evaluation:

The Fellow will be given regular feedback from staff on progress and performance. Success in the fellowship will be determined by the completion of specified projects in a professional and timely manner.

Application Process:

To apply for this position, complete an application on the Environmental Resilience Institute website. If you have questions about the program or any of the jobs available, email Danni Schaust, McKinney Climate Fellows Program Manager, danmcphe@iu.edu. The application deadline is February 14th, 2022.