BRANCH OUT!

Careers in Conservation

There is a growing need for professionals who work in conservation, especially around riparian forest buffers—trees, shrubs, and other plants that grow next to streams and rivers. If you have an interest in conservation, this may be a good time to pursue education and/or a career in this area.

Even if you love nature but not the idea of being out in it every day, there is a position for you! Conservation jobs range from primarily indoors to abundant outdoor time. The symbols on the scale below show how much outdoor time is associated with a typical position.



Primarily outdoors

Planting, buffer and landscape maintenance, and growing trees



A mix of both

Site design, meeting with property owners, research, and volunteer management



Primarily indoors

Grant writing, communications and marketing, program management, and GIS support

Below are examples of job titles in the conservation field.



- · Arborists and foresters
- Grounds managers and other maintenance professionals
- Horticulturists
- Integrated Pest Management (IPM) technicians or licensed pesticide applicators
- Landscape contractors and technicians



- Green infrastructure, Low Impact Development (LID), stormwater professionals
- Landscape architects and designers
- Soil/environmental scientists
- Agricultural and natural resources



Riparian Consortium

- Engineers
- Easement specialist
- Nutrient management (fertilizer) planners
- · Urban planners
- Community outreach and communication

MEET SOME PROFESSIONALS



Daniel Grubb

Job Title: Senior Project Coordinator Organization: Conservation Services, Inc.



"As a project coordinator I am involved with many different aspects of the planting such as planning, installation, and maintenance. It is rewarding for me to see a project come to life from the beginning; and care for that project until its successful completion."

Kelly Snoddy

Job Title: Senior Conservation Specialist Organization: Peter Francisco Soil and Water Conservation District



"I work closely with agriculture producers and landowners in Buckingham and Cumberland Counties to educate, plan and install conservation practices that improve water quality through the administration of the Virginia Agricultural Cost-Share Program, funding provided by the Department of Conservation and Recreation."





David Wise

Job Title: Watershed Restoration Manager Organization: Stroud Water Research Center



"Stroud Water Research Center helps equip folks on the ground with insights based in science on what works. This might be methods for successfully establishing forested buffer, or what watershed restoration practices are best returns on investment. Stroud Center is about ideas and information."

MORE RESOURCES





Learn more at the Upper & Middle James Riparian Consortium's Careers in Conservation page (scan the QR code or visit jamesriverconsortium.org/careers) for information about:

- Internships
- Volunteering

- Continued Learning
- Job Opportunities