Ruskin Mill Trust

Job Description

Position: Ruskin Mill Valley Horticulturist/Gardener (restoration project)

Post Reference No: Secondment - 6 months until the end of August 2022

Field of Practice: Genius Loci and Biodynamics (Field 1 and Field 3)

Grade: 6:7

Responsible to: Senior Land Manager

Location: Ruskin Mill College

Job Purpose

To ensure that the Ruskin Mill Valley is maintained to the highest standard and that it’s aesthetic is true to the vision and values of the Trust.

To maintain and improve the aesthetics of Ruskin Mill Valley in conjunction with the senior land manager and founder for Ruskin Mill Trust with regards to managing the land, lakes, ponds and ornamental flower beds and landscape.

To give guidance to appropriate work for staff and volunteers, using biodynamic/organic agriculture principles and methodology.

The post holder will be expected to embrace, articulate and work with the Trust’s objectives, vision, values, purpose and method, ensuring that the Trust’s paradigm of biodynamic agriculture, Anthroposophical medicine and practical skills education, which is informed by Steiner Education, is maintained, implemented and integrated within the provision of the College.

The post holder is to contribute to the whole life of the College and Trust, always remembering that our core purpose is to improve the education and lives of the young people at the College.

Evening and weekend working might be required.

Corporate Contribution

The post holder will be expected to contribute as required and uphold the aims, objectives and commitments of Ruskin Mill Trust.
Main Duties

1. To ensure the restoration and development of the Ruskin Mill Valley to show case the aesthetics of the Trust to members of the public and students, staff and visitors.

2. To work with the Senior Land Manager to plan the project ensuring that priorities are shared and work plans represent the priorities.

3. To manage the land, ponds, and ornamental flower beds of Valley landscape, maintain and develop all areas of the site using biodynamic/organic agriculture principles and methodology.

4. To develop all flower borders, beds and lake areas to a high standard of beauty and interest. This will include following the present design of the garden in conjunction with the Senior Land Manager and the founder and CEO of Ruskin Mill.

5. Undertake general maintenance of the gardens to a high standard to ensure the valley maintains a well-kept environment, making sure there is continuity of “beauty both in and out of term time.

6. Regular watering, weeding, trimming and pruning flowerbeds, flower borders ensuring they look attractive throughout the year.

7. Hedges to be kept neat and tidy to the agreed height throughout the year - scheduling main cuts and carrying out regular trimming throughout the year to maintain an attractive presentation.

8. To ensure all gardening work meets requirements for Demeter certification (biodynamic status),

9. To work with and supervise biodynamic trainees, staff and volunteers on the site when present.

10. To ensure that RMT’s Health and Safety framework is followed during all activities undertaken as part of Upper Grange garden operation. This includes:
    • Regular monitoring and review of potential hazards and risk assessment;
    • First Aid procedure and equipment;
    • Fire precaution and equipment;
    • Manual Handling assessments;
    • COSHH regulations and assessments.

11. To ensure safe use, storage and maintenance of all machinery.

General

1. To share the Trust’s commitment for promoting and safeguarding the welfare of students.

2. To be responsible for promoting and safeguarding the welfare of students, children and vulnerable adults that you come into contact with.

3. To carry out the above duties in accordance with the Trust’s Health and Safety Policy.
4. To actively support and promote equality and diversity throughout the Trust.
5. To work co-operatively with other staff within the Trust.
6. To work with students as and when required.
7. To comply with all the policies and procedures of the Trust.
8. To maintain exemplary standards of professionalism, honesty and respect at all times, and not abuse the privilege of access to confidential information.
9. To be responsible for the care and development for your working area.
10. To attend meetings and supervision as required.
11. To deliver training or development opportunities as required.
12. To maintain a ‘duty of candour’ and to be open and honest at all times, ensuring that concerns are raised promptly through the appropriate management routes.
13. To undertake training and development as required by the Trust and the Hiram Education and Research Team. To be committed to professional self-development, through participation in-service training as necessary for the successful carrying out the role.
14. To undertake work related continued professional development (CPD) as required by the post.
15. May, from time to time be required to work additional hours as shall be reasonably necessary to discharge properly your duties and responsibilities outlined in this job description.
16. To undertake any other duties appropriate to this level of post which will evolve as the job progresses until the job description is reviewed.

**Staff Management and Supervision**

The Valley Landscape Gardener has no direct staff responsibility but may be required to supervise staff as required.