

# THE TRUST FOR GOVERNORS ISLAND

## GARDENER

### BACKGROUND

Governors Island is a 172-acre island in the heart of New York Harbor nestled between Lower Manhattan and the Brooklyn waterfront. Eight minutes from the energy and excitement of the City, the Island is a popular seasonal destination. A resilient new park is complemented by dozens of unique historic buildings, environmental educational facilities, a rich arts and culture program and a 22-acre National Monument managed by the National Park Service. Unlike anywhere else in New York, Governors Island offers peaceful settings with sweeping views of the Harbor, lower Manhattan skyline and Statue of Liberty. Looking ahead, the Island will be activated year-round as a sustainable campus for learning and entrepreneurship, with plans for expanded commercial and non-profit uses in its future.

In 2018, Governors Island will be open to the public every day from May 1-October 31. Island operations continue year-round, with a public high school, artist residency program and new commercial tenancies.

### THE POSITION

The Trust for Governors Island (“The Trust”), seeks Gardeners for seasonal care and maintenance of the landscapes and grounds on Governors Island. This is a full-time, seasonal position with a duration of 8 months, from March 5 to October 31. The Gardener will be responsible for all aspects of monitoring and caring for the diverse landscapes within the park and the Island’s Historic District. This position requires superior organizational, interpersonal and communication skills and the ability to work effectively as a team member in a fast-paced environment.

The Gardener will report to The Trust’s Director of Parks and Public Space and will work closely with the Manager of Stewardship and Sustainability, the Horticulture Coordinator, a team of gardeners and landscapers, corporate and community volunteers, the Friends of Governors Island and other programming partners

### RESPONSIBILITIES

- Care for diverse plantings of trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals, vines and bulbs.
- Perform seasonal landscape work including planting, pruning, weeding, watering, raking, mulching, transplanting, soil mixing, clean-up, fence installation, leaf removal, and lawn and turf care.
- Hand-water and monitor irrigation systems, including inspections and repairs as needed.
- Remove trash and debris from the landscapes, report any unsafe conditions to facilities.
- Collect, document and analyze soil samples, tree health and growth data and other plant-related information.
- Load and unload plant material and horticulture supplies onto and from transportation vehicles.
- Maintain horticulture back-of-house, including inventory and maintenance of tools and equipment, upkeep of raised planting beds, hoop house and tool storage shed.
- Lead corporate and community volunteer groups working within the landscapes.
- Actively promote and contribute to the Island’s sustainability initiatives, including coordination with on-Island program partners.
- Act as an ambassador for Governors Island, answering questions from park visitors, including horticulture, park design and history and general information.
- Assist with training and support of seasonal horticulture volunteers.

## **REQUIREMENTS**

- Two or more years of horticultural experience with in-depth knowledge of plant culture, maintenance and identification.
- Degree/Certification in horticulture or related field preferred.
- Experience supervising volunteers.
- Ability to perform physical labor (lifting, bending, squatting, etc.) in all weather conditions.
- Strong interpersonal, communication (oral and written), organizational and problem-solving skills.
- High level of personal accountability, self-organization, autonomy and discipline.
- Ability to work with people at all levels with an open and engaging personality.
- Ability to be flexible and make sound professional judgments.
- Ability to work overtime, weekends, and holidays, as needed, including at least two weekend days per month.
- Proficiency in all Microsoft Office programs.
- Valid driver's license.

## **TO APPLY**

Please send a cover letter and resume as a single PDF document to [jobs@govisland.org](mailto:jobs@govisland.org) with "Gardener" in the subject line. No phone calls please.

The Trust for Governors Island does not discriminate in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy and gender identity), national origin, political affiliation, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, genetic information, age, membership in an employee organization, parental status, military service or other non-merit factor.

## **ABOUT THE TRUST FOR GOVERNORS ISLAND**

The Trust for Governors Island ("The Trust") is a nonprofit corporation created by the City of New York. It is responsible for the redevelopment and operation of 150 acres of Governors Island. The Trust's mission is to transform Governors Island into a vibrant resource for New York City, making this island at the center of New York Harbor a destination with extraordinary public open space, as well as educational, not-for-profit and commercial facilities.