Geospatial Project Manager
Chesapeake Conservancy - Annapolis, MD

Chesapeake Conservancy is seeking a Geospatial Project Manager with at least three years of professional GIS and project management experience. Applications will be accepted from March 3rd through March 17th, with the goal of an April start date.

ABOUT THE CONSERVANCY
Chesapeake Conservancy is a non-profit organization based in Annapolis, Maryland, dedicated to ensuring a healthier Chesapeake Bay watershed where fish and wildlife thrive, and everyone enjoys healthy waters and abundant forests, wetlands, shorelines, and open spaces.

With the human population in the Chesapeake watershed approaching 18 million and growing and with tens of thousands of acres of open space vanishing each year, the Conservancy works to connect people with its wildlife and history; conserve landscapes and rivers; and restore the region’s natural resources.

The Chesapeake Conservancy serves as a catalyst for change, advancing strong public and private partnerships, developing and using new technology, and driving innovation throughout our work. From our founding, we have embraced the National Park Service's Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail as an inspiration and framework for our work in the region.

The Conservancy works in close partnership with the National Park Service Chesapeake Bay Office, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, as well as other federal, state and local agencies, private foundations, and corporations to advance conservation.

POSITION DESCRIPTION
The Geospatial Project Manager will be responsible for overseeing the full lifecycle of GIS projects within the Chesapeake Conservancy’s Conservation Innovation Center (CIC), as well as for contributing analysis efforts to projects. This involves working with CIC management to scope projects based on overall grant or project timeline, available staff, and available budget. With minimal guidance, the Project Manager will be responsible for timelines and deadlines; coordinating project staff; workflow development, training, and rollout; troubleshooting; deliverable quality; and report writing. Types of projects include mapping high-resolution land cover and flow paths, researching best technical and scientific practices in academic and professional literature, prioritizing restoration efforts of stakeholder groups, producing compelling visuals such as maps and tables for under-resourced partners, and building desktop as well as web analysis tools to facilitate GIS access. Several software packages will be used in producing deliverables, including ArcGIS, ENVI, R, and eCognition.

Essential functions include:

1. **Providing project planning and oversight.** The candidate must have demonstrated success with managing full lifecycles of complex, client-oriented GIS projects, from scoping to delivery. Ideal candidates will have demonstrated success with balancing multiple projects simultaneously.

2. **Overseeing and collaborating with project members.** Candidates must be able to lead and navigate team dynamics gracefully and tactfully. This includes setting team morale, holding team members accountable for tasks, engaging peers and supervisors in problem solving, and providing constructive feedback on ideas.

3. **Developing, testing, and rolling out GIS workflows to meet project deliverables and deadlines.** The successful Project Manager will be able to manage methodologies by curating or developing innovative technical solutions to challenges, training analysts on the methodologies, collaboratively testing these solutions on a large landscape scale, soliciting and incorporating feedback from team members, and constructing documents that communicate finalized procedures both internally and to clients.
4. **Troubleshooting team technical issues.** Much of the Conservancy’s work involves finding unique, customized solutions to partners’ challenges. Errors and unknowns will be encountered. The Project Manager will be required to handle a range of technical challenges, to devise solutions based on available web resources, and to assist team members in the same process.

5. **Compiling deliverables and writing project or grant reports.** Projects may be delivered as maps, memos, short or long reports, slide decks, datasets, or grant reports. Applicants should be able to write concisely and effectively, design impactful maps, and communicate progress to funders.

Other duties include:

- **Obtaining, organizing, and processing component datasets.** The Project Manager, with his/her team, will be working with a variety of spatial data, including satellite and aerial imagery; LiDAR; national, state, and local vector data; and ecological models. Organization and attention to detail are key skills in working across projects with high volumes of complex data.

- **Automating large, complex as well as repetitive processes.** Efficiency is extremely important to the Conservancy. We maintain a high volume of ongoing projects with limited staff, and to do so, we emphasize automation. Typical strategies include constructing iterative tools in ModelBuilder, Python scripting, and running batch processes. The Project Manager will automate processes for his/her own work and their team’s progress.

- **Communicating projects to the public.** Candidates should be comfortable articulating highly technical projects to the public in presentations (large and small), press releases, and at networking events.

**KEY QUALIFICATIONS**
The Geospatial Project Manager should be exceptionally organized, dependable, and goal-driven. The Conservancy’s GIS team is a highly collaborative and innovative group with an entrepreneurial culture. Candidates must be able to challenge conventions, to thrive independently as well as on a team in a dynamic, open office, and to think creatively.

A Bachelor’s degree is required, and a Master’s degree is preferred, ideally with a concentration in Environmental Science or Geography. Since the position will be focused almost entirely on geospatial analysis, candidates must demonstrate strong GIS and remote sensing experience. Other essential skills include project management, adaptability, independence in problem solving, strong oral and written communication, and an ability to teach others technical material. Candidates must be adept with geospatial analysis software platforms (ArcGIS Desktop 10.x). Ideally applicants will have experience with ArcGIS Pro, remote sensing software (ENVI, eCognition), and web and/or Python scripting.

Candidates must have authorization to work in the United States. Salary and benefits are commensurate with the candidate’s relevant professional experience and/or education. The Conservancy offers a competitive employee benefits package that includes health and dental insurance, life insurance, disability insurance, paid vacation and sick leave, and participation in a retirement savings plan. Opportunities for advancement and professional development are available.

Chesapeake Conservancy is an equal opportunity employer.

**LOCATION**
Annapolis, Maryland

**TO APPLY**
Interested candidates should reply with a resume and cover letter that explain how your skills and background fit this position. Send application materials to cpallai@chesapeakeconservancy.org. Applications will be accepted from March 3rd through March 17th, with the goal of an April start date.