

Job Description – Urban Conservation Lead at Creekside Education Trust

Job Title	Urban Conservation Lead
Salary	Gross Salary - £34,000 per annum, pro rata as per below
Days of work	3.5 days per week
Hours of work	24.5 hours per week
Responsible to	Creekside Education Trust CEO
Type of contract	Two Year Fixed Term Contract, with potential for permanency
Probationary period	Six months
Annual Leave	22 days, + bank holidays & Christmas closure
Based at	Creekside Discovery Centre, Deptford, SE8 4SA, with flexible working by arrangement

Creekside Education Trust

Creekside Education Trust is a local nature conservation and outdoor education charity, operating from our Creekside Discovery Centre on the banks of Deptford Creek. We are a small team yet since our inception in the early 2000s we have had a large impact. We manage some of the most diverse habitats, terrestrial and intertidal, in central London and since 2002 over 50,000 people – from the ages of 8 to 80 – have had the experience of wading in Deptford Creek at low tide. During this time many more people and organisations have engaged with Creekside through a variety of ways, from events and activities to collaborative projects and ecological consultation. Through all of what we do, our purpose is to inspire people to connect with the wonder of urban wildlife.

We do this through:

- Delivering and enabling informed nature conservation management for resilient local habitats
- Providing and enabling lifelong learning for all through adventurous, hands-on activities
- Collaborating and connecting with partners and communities to grow the reach of our work
- Ensuring the sustainability of Creekside through diverse income streams and exciting projects
- Engaging volunteers to join Creekside in achieving all parts of our mission

Our team of staff, volunteers and trustees are all passionate about our work and believe that we can grow the reach of our impact. The Creekside Discovery Centre is a fun and friendly place to work and we're looking for new people to join our team and mission. This role is an exciting leadership opportunity which will guide how Creekside delivers and enables nature conservation and community engagement, inspiring human connection with and understanding of urban wildlife.

Job summary

We are looking for an enthusiastic individual who is passionate and knowledgeable about urban nature conservation and who believes in the value of communities engaging with the wildlife around them. This is a leadership role within a small team, requiring strong collaboration with staff, volunteers and trustees, and line management of Creekside conservationists.

Foundational to this role will be working closely with our skilled and knowledgeable conservationists to coordinate Creekside's programme of practical conservation work, ecological consultancy and urban conservation projects. While the role will include some hands on habitat management, its primary focus is on developing, planning and delivering a growing portfolio of externally funded conservation initiatives and consultancy contracts. You will play a key part in securing and managing project income that enables Creekside to protect, enhance and celebrate the diverse wildlife of the Creek and beyond.

To inspire connection with urban wildlife, the role will collaborate across the team to broaden our events and activities, reaching new audiences and creating opportunities for meaningful engagement. This will involve delivery of community projects, paid activities and partnership-funded initiatives that support long term environmental stewardship.

Other duties and responsibilities require close collaboration with the Creekside Manager and Learning Lead, ensuring that all projects and activities benefit from shared expertise, learning and resources. This includes strengthening our communications around urban conservation impact, and supporting volunteer processes and core organisational functions. This is an exciting role which will help ensure that urban conservation contribute effectively to Creekside's resilience and strategic goals.

Key tasks and responsibilities

- Lead the planning, coordination and delivery of Creekside's conservation management programme, ensuring high-quality practical habitat work across all sites and habitats.
- Develop, secure and manage externally funded urban conservation projects, including preparation of funding applications, project budgets and reporting requirements.
- Support the growth of Creekside's ecological consultancy offer to external stakeholders.
- Lead the monitoring, evaluation and communication of conservation impact, ensuring learning and evidence are shared internally and externally to strengthen Creekside's profile and effectiveness.
- Support delivery of an expanded programme of community engagement activities, including paid events, partnership-funded initiatives and projects delivered outside normal office hours.
- Build and maintain strong relationships with external partners, funders, landowners and community stakeholders, representing Creekside and advocating for Deptford Creek and local wildlife.
- Line management of the Lead Conservationist and Conservationist roles.
- Collaborate closely with the Creekside Manager and Learning Lead to ensure conservation and community projects benefit from shared knowledge, resources and organisational coordination.
- Contribute to communications and outreach, including providing conservation-related content for social media, newsletters, the website and other platforms.
- Support core organisational functions, including volunteer processes, financial planning for conservation activities, and preparation of reports and documentation as appropriate.

- Assist the Creekside Manager with the development, management and reporting of larger-scale programmes, ensuring urban conservation activities contribute to Creekside’s strategic goals.

Person Specification

Experience

Essential

- Strong knowledge of nature conservation, habitat management and urban environmental issues.
- Proven experience developing and delivering conservation or environmental projects.
- Experience in securing and managing external funding, such as grants, commissioned work or partnership-funded projects.
- Experience working collaboratively with community groups, volunteers and external partners, delivering agreed outcomes.
- Experience leading or coordinating community engagement activities, events or projects.
- Experience working as part of a small, effective team, with responsibility for volunteers/ staff.

Desirable

- Experience of ecological consultancy, including client communication, planning and coordinating consultancy outputs (e.g., surveys, reports, recommendations).
- Line management in a formal work context

Skills

Essential

- Excellent written, verbal and presentation skills, with the ability to communicate conservation impact clearly to a range of audiences, including funders, partners and the public.
- Strong project management skills, including planning, prioritisation, budgeting and reporting.
- Strong interpersonal skills with the ability to build and maintain effective working relationships across diverse stakeholders.
- Competent IT skills, including Microsoft Office and the ability to learn new digital tools quickly.
- Ability to work both autonomously and collaboratively, contributing to shared Creekside goals.

Desirable

- Skills in content creation, such as writing blogs, social posts or public-facing conservation updates.
- Understanding of financial processes, such as budget setting, tracking and reporting for projects.

Personal Attributes

- A friendly and approachable manner, willing to learn and grow in your role
- Highly organised, proactive and methodical, with an attention to detail
- Confident representing Creekside externally, acting as an advocate for urban and local wildlife.
- A strong belief in Creekside’s mission and a passion for connecting people with urban wildlife.