



Intern Position Solano Land Trust Landscape Design for Rush Ranch Nature Center

The Solano Land Trust is offering an intern position for a project located at Rush Ranch. The Land Trust is currently building a 4,800 square foot Nature Center, which will include a classroom, a science lab, offices, and living quarters for a caretaker and visiting scientists. The center and the living quarters are joined by a covered courtyard. Both buildings are completely off-grid, using solar and wind energy power. The buildings are constructed with “green” materials wherever possible. We hope to obtain Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification.

The highlight of the Nature Center is the view of the Suisun Marsh, uninterrupted by buildings, power lines, or other human inventions. Home to hundreds of wildlife species, rare and common, Rush Ranch is a jewel of an open space. The property has been owned by Solano Land Trust since 1987 and is currently operated as a working cattle ranch, protected marsh and public open space. Rush Ranch is also part of the San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve and is an integral part of many research projects. It is open to the public five days a week. With the construction of the Nature Center, the Land Trust anticipates double the current public usage to 12,000 visitors per year by 2010, expansion of the Rush Ranch Education program for school-aged students, expansion of Access Adventure (a program for disabled persons using horse-drawn carriages), increased ranch use for agriculture students such as 4-H and FFA, and increased interest in coming to the Ranch to learn about the natural history of this unique place.

The landscape intern will design the landscaping for an open courtyard and area abutting the new Nature Center. Very little water is available at this property. The design should include drought tolerant native plants adapted to the marsh uplands. A collaborative process will be used for the design process. The intern will gather ideas from the Rush Ranch management team comprised of staff, docents, researchers, and user groups. A series of design goals and guidelines will be compiled and a timeline proposed. The intern will then provide design ideas and report them back to the committee. After comment, a final scaled design and a list of materials and planting schedule will be created. Some stages of the design process will involve Land Trust executive director, Marilyn Farley, or other staff members. The intern will have his or her name on the project and will be recognized in signage at the site.

Rush Ranch is south of Suisun City, located 1.6 miles from Highway 12 on Grizzly Island Road.

The Land Trust is offering a \$ 500 stipend for this project. To receive the stipend, the project design must be completed within an agreed upon time.

To apply for this intern position, the landscape design student must submit a one-page letter explaining what you can offer this project, a one-page resume, two letters of recommendation and samples of prior student or professional work.

Send to: Solano Land Trust
Nature Center Design Project
1001 Texas Street, Suite C
Fairfield, CA 94533-5723

Questions can be directed to: Marilyn Farley, Executive Director at 707-432-0150 x 201 or marilyn@solanolandtrust.org