

Estate Gardener, Afterglow Farm, Port Washington, Wisconsin

Afterglow Farm is a 120-acre private country residence in the town of Port Washington, WI, along the shore of Lake Michigan. Afterglow features large informally planted country gardens and lawns. Afterglow Farm also has a small orchard and an enclosed, formally structured circle garden. This is set within a landscape of mixed woodland and meadow with ravines, walking trails, beaches, and bluffs. There is currently a staff of five full-time individuals to manage and care for Afterglow Farm. The gardens have been featured on several occasions as a participant in the Garden Conservancy's Open Days event. Additional information is available in *Fine Gardening* magazine's April 2020 issue #192.

Afterglow Farm seeks a qualified, experienced/trained gardener. This person will assist and take direction from a lead gardener in the maintenance of annual and perennial gardens, lawns, shrubs, and trees. This is a full-time, 40+ hours a week garden maintenance position. While there are no supervisory responsibilities currently, there is potential for career growth. The gardens are a physically demanding and labor-intensive work environment; only persons prepared for this should apply.

Areas of Responsibilities, Duties, and Activities

The daily care and maintenance of the property and gardens include:

- Weeding, watering, deadheading, mowing, pruning, planting, dividing, edging, raking and mulching, brush and tree removal, and chipping.
- Recognizing and reporting any signs of pest, disease, or cultural problems to the lead gardener.
- Maintaining garden tools.
- Participating in team staff meetings.
- Cleaning and organizing of workspaces, offices, and bathrooms.
- Shoveling and snow removal as needed.

This list is not all-inclusive of potential responsibilities, duties, and activities that may be required. In addition, responsibilities, duties, and activities may change, or new ones may be assigned anytime with or without notice.

Desirable Qualifications

- Horticultural education or demonstrated professional horticultural/gardening experience.
- Strong plant identification skills. A familiarity with a variety of garden annuals, perennials, shrubs, and trees. Knowledge of plants' cultural requirements.
- Knowledge and experience of horticultural techniques and an understanding and appreciation of organic approaches.
- Experience executing detailed garden work.
- A familiarity with common garden weeds and their cultural control.
- Experience using hand tools such as an edging spade, fishtail weeder, hedge shears, and pruning shears; experience using power tools such as a chain saw, brush mower, hedge trimmer, string trimmer, and walk behind lawn mower.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills.
- The ability to take and follow directions and ask questions when necessary.
- The ability to prioritize tasks and work efficiently.

- The ability to monitor one's own work to ensure quality.
- The ability to work independently as well as with others and maintain a respectful relationship with the general manager and all other employees.
- The ability to respond to specific needs of property owners and an understanding of the need for privacy, confidentiality, and discretion.
- Dependability and punctuality.
- Willingness to work occasionally on weekends.
- Valid Driver's License.

Essential physical abilities

- Ability to lift and/or move up to 50 lbs.
- Ability to perform strenuous physical work in a variety of weather conditions.
- Ability to climb, balance, kneel, bend, crouch, crawl, and stand for extended periods.
- The ability to wear personal protective gear correctly for lengthy periods.
- Specific vision abilities include close vision, distance vision, color vision, and depth perception.

Compensation and Benefits

- Salary negotiable.
- Health insurance including medical, dental, and vision.
- 401k plan.
- Life, short-term, and long-term disability insurance.
- Four weeks of paid time off
- Paid holiday time off.

Additional Information

The qualified individual should submit a cover letter describing their interest in the position and their interest in gardening, as well as their salary requirements and contact information. Please include a resume and other descriptions of your work experience and education, along with references. Those applicants we choose to interview may also be asked to complete a job application and a brief hands-on demonstration of garden technique.

All application information should be either mailed to Afterglow Farm 1345 North Jefferson Street PO Box 271 Milwaukee, WI 53202-2657 or emailed to gardenerapplication@gmail.com. We appreciate your interest, but please note that we will only be contacting successful applicants.

Afterglow Farm is an equal opportunity employer, and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin, disability status, genetics, protected veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or any other characteristics protected by federal, state or local laws.