



JEWISH COMMUNITY GARDEN COORDINATOR

Position Summary

JFS is hiring, on behalf of a community partnership, a Community Garden Coordinator for our new Jewish community garden. The garden is the result of an innovative community partnership between Vancouver Talmud Torah, Congregation Beth Israel and Jewish Family Services. It is approximately 6000 sq. ft., with approximately 1800 sq. ft. of growing areas. Growing areas include a blend of native perennials and trees, edible perennials, annual vegetables, annual ornamentals, and fruit trees. This is a new role, as the garden will be built summer 2022. The Community Garden Coordinator will be involved in stewardship and maintenance of all planted areas, gathering spaces, garden infrastructure, and oversee all associated programs throughout the year. This is an exciting opportunity for an experienced grower who is passionate about facilitating community engagement through learning gardens.

Jewish Community Garden Partners

Jewish Family Services

JFS has been enhancing the quality of life for individuals and families in the Lower Mainland for 85 years. The agency delivers a continuum of social service programs to the Jewish and broader community, throughout the Lower Mainland. JFS has a long-standing reputation for creative and professional response to community needs.

Congregation Beth Israel

Beth Israel is western Canada's largest Conservative congregation and boasts over 640 member families. BI is committed to Jewish values and practices and is dedicated to the strengthening of all aspects of Jewish life, including worship and Torah study, religious, educational and social activities for all ages, and the observance of life cycle events.

Vancouver Talmud Torah

Vancouver Talmud Torah is an inclusive Jewish community day school committed to academic excellence and nurturing lifelong learners who engage the world through Jewish traditions and values. At Vancouver Talmud Torah, we provide a stimulating and challenging educational environment infused with meaningful learning experiences. VTT serves families from a diverse range of Jewish backgrounds and religious practices.

Benefits & Compensation

JFS offers a competitive benefits package including generous paid time off, paid sick days, paid health and dental benefits and RRSP matching. This is a part-time position; 28 hours per week; with the possibility of increased hours as the program grows. Annual salary is \$36,400; with three weeks of vacation in the first year. JFS is an equal opportunity employer. All applicants will be considered for employment without attention to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, or disability status.

Duties and Responsibilities

Reporting to the JFS Director of Food Security, the Community Garden Coordinator is responsible for:

- Garden planning and management; creating and coordinating planting and maintenance work
- Maintaining all garden equipment, tools, and irrigation system
- Program planning and management; coordinating volunteers, partner agency staff and associated programs
- Operating within and managing a budget



- Collaboration with partner agencies to coordinate student and community-based learning activities
- Working with partners to ensure all garden grown food is utilized through programmatic activities or donated
- Oversight of shared use of garden areas (and associated systems) by partner agencies
- Offering occasional workshops and/or classes to partner agency communities
- Communicating effectively in writing and verbally with community members and partner agencies
- Tracking all garden-related data; reporting results via presentations and reports when called upon
- Ensuring ongoing communication and collaboration with JLG steering committee and partners
- Ongoing communication and collaboration with Congregation Beth Israel facilities manager

Requirements and Qualifications

- Excitement about gardening, local food systems, and helping the community engage with learning gardens
- 1-3 years' experience with applied production garden skills; including oversight and maintenance of:
 - Native pollinators and trees
 - Edible perennials
 - Annual vegetable production
 - Fruit tree production and maintenance
 - Annual and perennial flowers
 - Irrigation systems
- Able to carry out a variety of physical tasks; including bending, squatting, lifting up to 50lb, repetitive motion
- Equipped, willing and able to work outdoors in all weather conditions
- Excitement about a Jewish community garden and integrating a Jewish lens into all things gardening
- Knowledge of the Jewish calendar year and Jewish agricultural laws and/or a desire to deepen one's knowledge in these subjects
- Demonstrated experience recruiting, training, mentoring and supervising volunteers
- Experience coordinating multi-agency projects and/or programs
- Experience teaching, training, and/or facilitating learning for adults
- Experience working in a community learning garden

Core Competencies

- Able to organize, multi-task, prioritize duties, delegate, problem-solve and remain flexible within a fast-paced and changing environment
- Excellent oral and written communication skills across various mediums
- Excited to form relationships with community members and stakeholders
- Patience and a sense of humour
- Able to give and receive feedback
- Enjoy working independently as well as in collaboration with a team

Vaccination Policy

JFS requires that all employees and volunteers are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Anyone hired after January 1, 2022 will be required to show evidence that they have received at least one dose of the vaccine prior to employment, and we will require that they be fully vaccinated within 30 days of their start date.

Start Date

June 2022



To Apply

If you are qualified and interested in this opportunity, please forward a cover letter and resume quoting “Community Garden Coordinator” to Rachel Shanken, Director of Operations at jobs@jfsvancouver.ca by May 16, 2022. Applications will be considered on a rolling basis. Please note that only qualified candidates considered for an interview will be contacted.