

Lynn Grower's Assistant – Lynn, MA

Who We Are

Since our founding in 1991, The Food Project has grown into an internationally recognized non-profit organization that works at the intersection of Youth, Food, and Community. For over 26 years, youth and adults from diverse backgrounds have come together to produce healthy food for residents of the city and suburbs and build local, sustainable food systems. Each year, our youth crews work with our staff to farm on 70 acres in eastern Massachusetts in the suburban towns of Beverly, Lincoln, and Wenham and partner with our neighbors in Lynn and Boston's Dudley neighborhood to create the food system they imagine. We believe that food is a unique vehicle for creating personal and social change. Nothing else ties us so intimately to each other and to the planet we share, affecting our health, the climate, and culture. Moving into the future, our goal is to transform the food system into a more just, community-engaged model that supports food security for all.

What We Seek

The Food Project is seeking a full-time Grower's Assistant to work on our Lynn urban farm for the 2019 season. The Grower's Assistant will support all aspects of crop production and distribution at our Lynn site, which includes a 1-acre urban farm, 2 community gardens, a brand-new 1,200 square foot greenhouse, and a new ¼-acre farm plot. The farm is intensively managed to produce thousands of pounds of produce each year, distributed through our farmers' market, mobile markets, wholesale accounts, and donations to hunger relief organizations. Most of our market sales are made to customers using SNAP benefits.

This position is ideal for an individual with interest in both sustainable agriculture and community engagement. It is well-suited for someone with at least one full season of experience working on a production farm, who is ready to take on a leadership role as part of an urban ag team. Our farms are run in partnership with youth and community members, therefore a candidate must have a passion for teaching and leading others, particularly young people. Our youth and neighbors reflect the tremendous cultural, racial, and socio-economic diversity of the city of Lynn. Candidates with experience working in multicultural settings are strongly preferred.

Responsibilities

- Work in partnership with the Urban Ag Manager to oversee production on the Ingalls farm site throughout the season, including field preparation, planting, cultivation, harvesting, and ongoing maintenance.
- Work in partnership with the Urban Ag Manager to build a new ¼-acre farm plot on city property. The Grower's Assistant will take the lead supervising groups of volunteers, youth, and TFP staff to work on this project, as we push to finish the site by mid-July.
- Lead and support 1-2 weekly volunteer groups in field work on the urban farm site in the spring and fall.



- During July and August, lead once a week field work with participants in our Seed Crew, an intensive 6-week summer experience for teenagers. This work is done in partnership with dedicated youth development staff.
- Support youth in harvesting for our markets and wholesale deliveries, and assist in distribution at our West Lynn Markets in the summers.
- Assist in harvest and distribution for our Central Square Market and school mobile markets in the fall.
- Serve as the primary liaison and support for our community gardeners, at Essex Street Garden and at North Shore Community College. Routinely maintain these garden spaces (weed-whacking, mowing, trash pick-up, etc.)
- Perform other fieldwork and maintenance tasks throughout the week as needed and determined by farm priorities, in consultation with Urban Ag Manager. Work may be done independently or while supervising small groups of youth and volunteers. May include greenhouse seeding and watering, wholesale deliveries, irrigation, weed-whacking, etc.
- Cover weekend greenhouse watering, on a schedule TBD with Urban Ag Manager (probably one weekend per month).
- Work a Tuesday-Saturday schedule in the spring and fall, to be present for weekend youth programming and volunteer groups on the farm.
- Attend weekly field walk and check-in with Urban Ag Manager on Fridays.
- Participate in regular staff meetings and trainings, and/or community meetings as necessary.
- May assist in supervising student fellow(s) in the field during the summer months (TBD).

Qualifications

- At least one full-time season of field experience on a production farm
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Dependable, responsible, flexible and open to learning
- Ability to work a flexible 40-hour schedule: Tuesday-Saturday in the spring and fall, Monday-Friday in July and August. Daily start and end times will be more varied in the summer.
- 21+ years of age with a valid driver's license and clean driving record (required for use of TFP vehicles)
- Experience working with or teaching youth
- Experience leading groups safely and productively
- Experience working in multicultural community settings
- Team-oriented with a good sense of humor
- Knowledge of the Lynn community is a plus. Bilingual in Spanish, Russian, or another language is also a plus.

Recruitment Process

This is a full-time, seasonal position from April 2nd – November 2nd, 2019, with a salary of \$600 per week. The compensation package includes worker's compensation and employer-sponsored health insurance. The Grower's Assistant has 4 paid holidays (Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day and Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples Day), which



can be taken on the day of the holiday, or amassed in order to take a longer holiday over the course of the summer.

Recruitment Process

We will review all submissions, identify viable candidates and contact ONLY those individuals selected to continue in the search process. The position will be filled when the desired candidate is found.

Please send resume and cover letter via email to: jobs@thefoodproject.org. In the subject line, write your name and the position for which you are applying, eg: "Jordan Smith – Grower's Assistant- Lynn". Additionally, please ensure that your name is in the saved title of your resume and cover letter.

The Food Project is an Equal Opportunity Employer that is committed to creating a multicultural organization. We actively seek a diverse pool of candidates for this position.

