



ORMLT Volunteer Assignment Description

Drone Specialist – Land Monitoring

About the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust

The Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust is a charitable organization that focuses on conserving the ecological integrity of the Oak Ridges Moraine. Our mission is clear: "Create a thriving and everlasting ecosystem on and near the Oak Ridges Moraine." We recognize the critical ecological services provided by the Oak Ridges Moraine and Greenbelt, such as water filtration, climate change mitigation, habitat for rare and at-risk species and other ecological services, and actively work to preserve these services, ensuring the long-term sustainability of the region. We work with passionate and caring landowners and volunteers to protect and steward environmentally sensitive lands. Together, we nurture these lands, promoting health and sustainability for future generations.

Our three core areas of focus include:

- Protecting land forever. We protect beyond legislation.
- Stewardship and monitoring the properties we protect.
- Educating the public about the importance of conservation.

Position Summary and Objectives

As a Drone Specialist, you will play an important role in supporting the ongoing monitoring and protection of our Nature Reserves, particularly those that are less accessible by road. Monitoring our Nature Reserves by air provides a unique perspective and valuable data that wouldn't be easily accessible otherwise. Your role will contribute significantly to understanding and managing these natural areas.

Capturing aerial perspectives can offer insights into the overall health of the ecosystem, habitat distribution, wildlife behavior, and potential threats like illegal activities or invasive species. This data is crucial for making informed conservation decisions and adaptive management strategies.

You'll also have an opportunity to use your drone skills to capture videos and images that showcase the beauty and importance of our Nature Reserves. These visuals may be used for educational programs, promotional materials, and raising public awareness about conservation efforts.

Supervisor/Contact, Accountability

ORMLT volunteers receive support from program staff who possess expertise in conservation and eco-management, along with guidance from the Coordinator of Volunteers and Community Partnerships. Continuous communication and consultation ensure that volunteers feel comfortable in their roles and receive the necessary assistance when required.



Time Commitment

A commitment of 3-4 shifts annually is required, although volunteers are welcome to participate more frequently if they wish. Monitoring is conducted mainly from April through late October, with some occasional monitoring during the winter months.

Location

Monitoring is conducted at our Nature Reserves across the Moraine. Volunteers can choose to focus on sites that are in locations convenient to them. A list and locations will be provided to the volunteer annually.

Responsibilities & Duties

Drone Specialist – Land Monitoring Volunteers key responsibilities include:

- Monitoring properties via a drone. This will include taking video images from a variety of angles in order to capture all areas of the property.
- Document specific property features and habitat via drone images.
- Capture close ups of unique features of the property being monitored (e.g. a kettle lake, wetland, etc).
- Complete a property record form and report back to the ORMLT team.
- If interested, work with video footage to prepare a short video clip that could be used for education or marketing purposes.

Qualifications & Requirements

- Comfortable working outside under various conditions and terrain.
- **Own a drone, with good experience operating it and knowledge of all regulations for safe use.**
- Any technical skills/qualifications specific to operating a drone or video editing.
- An interest in the land protection, local ecology or conservation.
- Volunteers can choose the site that would be of interest and convenient to them, however they will need to have their own transportation to and from the property.
- Regulatory Compliance: Ensure that you follow all regulations and guidelines specific to drone operations in the area. This includes obtaining necessary permits, adhering to flight restrictions, and respecting wildlife and visitor safety.
- Equipment Maintenance: Keeping your drone and associated equipment in good working condition, performing regular maintenance checks, and troubleshooting any technical issues.

Training/Safety/Risk Management Requirements

- Complete a general orientation to the organization.
- Participate in role-specific training as required (on-site and virtual).



- Review volunteer handbook and role specific safety and risk management guidelines and resources.
- Complete a risk management and confidentiality waiver.
- Wear a high visibility vest while on an ORMLT property.

Benefits

- Work as part of a dedicated team supporting the ORMLT mission and our commitment to conservation, stewardship and education.
- Gain skills and experience relating to conservation and land management.
- Meet and learn from staff and consultants with expertise in eco management and conservation.
- Expand your network – meet other volunteers interested in protecting land and conservation across the Moraine.

Appendix Documents

Safety Guidelines

Guidelines and Restrictions. Volunteers Should Not:

- Access a property without notifying ORMLT to get approval, a minimum of 24 hours prior to the visit (please allow extra time during weekends and holidays).
- Enter confrontational situations with individuals found harming the property or engaging in illegal activities.

Engage in activities that may pose unnecessary risks to themselves or the property and its features.