

Forest Farmer at Arcosanti Food Forest

Arcosanti, an experimental town and community located 1 hour north of Phoenix, is looking for a forest farmer. This is a part-time position to manage and further develop a multi-strata agroforestry system for food production. Position starts in early 2023.

About Arcosanti and its Food Forest

The 1 acre food forests was started in 2021 planting various fruit trees like mulberry, plum and pear as well as berry shrubs. We are continuously planting based on donations, and now want to create a denser and more productive system.

Arcosanti is a diverse community that works on being an example of eco-integrating architecture. The *Cosanti Foundation* support the site development. *Arcoarchitecture* is a microbusiness that started the food forests and focuses on food production at *Arcosanti*.

www.arcosanti.org

www.arcoarchitecture.org

Your tasks:

Managing and anticipating the food forest developing over space and time

- Caretaking of a complex agroforestry system with fruit and nut trees and shrubs, herbs and groundcover in a high-desert environment
- Maintaining the food forest through pruning, mulching, irrigation and efficient and effective management techniques that are aligned with nature, natural cycles, etc.
- Harvesting, delivering and communicating with the on-site café about the produce
- Selecting companion plants for (re)planting, grafting, and increasing the productivity of the system
- Setup of a nursery for the system and potentially for sale in the Arcosanti shop

Educating, monitoring and marketing

- Coordinating volunteer support for maintenance and harvesting
- Monitoring yields, pricing produce, account keeping and reporting
- Exploring marketing and processing options with the Arcosanti community & network
- Assist in planning and implementing educational courses and tours

Job requirements / Head, hands & heart:

- Bachelor or Master degree in one of the following areas: agroforestry, agriculture, forestry, horticulture, biology, ecology, landscape architecture, agroecology, or green business economics. As an alternative to a degree: around 3 years of work experience in horticulture/professional gardening or 2 years working on an agroforestry farm.
- Expertise in managing one of the following areas (min. 2 years' work experience) and an interest to learn proactively and self-organized about the others:
 - fruit or nut orchards
 - herbaceous perennials

- culinary or native herbs
- perennial vegetables
- Well organized to manage a complex biodiverse agroforestry system, anticipating the growth of the system in space and time, its varying products and potential markets. Flexibility and foresight regarding a changing climate and culture.
- Business management know-how with an entrepreneurial attitude and sustainability values. This includes experience with and an interest in monitoring yields, calculation of potential cost and revenues, business planning, account keeping, market research, knowledge of the food system, product development, etc. in efficient, effective and eco-friendly ways. Being able to envision and communicate how the food forest benefits the community and land is of advantage.
- Hands-on gardening work, physical strength and motivation for outside activity
- Passion and commitment to grow in a growing, developing community: A person who chooses to take up the work of the Arcosanti Food Forest will also need to have the capacity to learn and grow with this diverse, young and - at times - challenging community. Ideally the candidate has experienced living in and a knowledge of the Arcosanti community (through workshops and/or work experience with us). Time spent living in a close community, sharing resources and recognizing values that reinforce working within a team is a very helpful experience.
- Have great people skill (able to work with a diverse community and its network) and a solution-oriented attitude, be a team player with a sense for both plants and people
- Basic computer, administrative and documentation skills, in particular Microsoft Excel or similar. Knowing GIS, Auto-CAD or similar programs for site design is of advantage.

What we offer: (to be decided)

- *Salary:*
- *Benefits:* E.g., accommodation, food, educational support, training budget
- *Infrastructure:* E.g., office space, monitoring equipment, material budget