



Job description

Title:	Assistant Gardener
Department:	Gardens
Responsible to:	Head Gardener
Salary:	£17,500 per annum
Hours:	37.5 hours per week, 5 days out of a 7 day period
Holiday:	20 days' holiday plus 8 days' public holidays pro rata

American Museum & Gardens

The mission of the American Museum & Gardens is to educate, stimulate, and inspire its visitors in order to further the understanding of American history and culture. The Museum carries out this mission through the presentation of its historic rooms, its decorative art and folk art collections, and its special exhibitions, publications, learning programmes, and gardens. Our organisation is the only one of its kind outside the boundaries of the United States. We welcome, on average, 40,000 visitors a year, the vast majority of them British.

About the Gardens

The past five years have seen the gardens at the American Museum undergo an exciting transformation. In 2018 the New American Garden was installed becoming the first European commission for Washington DC-based landscape architects Oehme, van Sweden.

The Garden has since featured in publications such as *Gardens Illustrated* and *The English Garden* and has been described as an unashamedly American-style garden set within a quintessentially English setting featuring a bolder, more emphatic planting style than British audiences are perhaps used to. Grasses and perennials are laid out in bold colourful swathes that bring drama against the stunning backdrop of the Limpley Stoke Valley.

With the development of our new Children's Garden last year, it is certainly an exciting time to be at the American Museum & Gardens as we look to expand our visitor experience and attract new audiences. Due to retirement, we're seeking to recruit a diligent and hard-working Assistant Gardener, who is keen to learn from the existing garden team and help maintain and develop this important garden and landscape.

About the role

You will work with the Head Gardener, Garden Team and Volunteers, taking a pro-active role in maintaining & developing the Gardens, its plants and supporting infrastructure to the highest standards and in accordance with any established policy and as directed by the Head Gardener.

This is very much a hands-on position and under the guidance of the garden team you will be involved with a broad variety of horticultural tasks such as, but not limited to, planting, weeding, staking, watering and renovating borders; mowing, strimming and maintaining lawns and grassland; glasshouse work such as feeding and propagation; and working in the vegetable plot.

You will also ensure pathways, carparks and hard surfaces are kept clear of debris using blowers and pressure washers and clear of weeds using appropriate control methods. You will also help care for trees, shrubs, climbers and hedges and help maintain water features and drainage channels and ensure that all sheds and facilities are kept clean and tidy.

You will ensure all equipment and machinery is used with care and stored and maintained safely, efficiently and effectively for the needs of the garden.

This is an excellent opportunity to develop a career in horticulture as part of a supportive, close-knit gardening team. Importantly, you will have a willingness to learn and take on more responsibility as you grow within the role. You will have an eye for detail and take pride in a high standard of finish.

A big part of this role is working closely with volunteers and helping them to develop their skills, experience and enjoyment. You will work hard to ensure their enjoyment and to help them develop their skills.

With a positive, can-do attitude you will ensure that our visitors receive a warm welcome and a wonderful experience from the moment they arrive. You will interact with them in an understanding and confident way to give them a memorable visit.

At all times you will take your own health and safety and that of others who may be affected by your work seriously. You will assist with ensuring safe systems of work are carried out and observe and contribute towards all risk assessments and safe working practices. You will maintain personal records relating to health and safety legislation.

Personal specification

Essential:

- Ability to work well within a close-knit team with shared objectives for the gardens and supporting infrastructure.
- Ability to communicate well with a broad range of people including staff, volunteers and members of the public.
- Willingness to undertake on-the-job training to develop a career in horticulture and always strive to improve knowledge of gardening and plants.
- Commitment to health & safety legislation by taking reasonable care for the health and safety of themselves and others who may be affected by their work.
- Adopts a positive, hard-working attitude, gives best, seeks feedback and always willing to learn.
- Enjoys working outdoors in all weathers, physically fit, strong practical skills, enjoys being hands-on.
- Works in a methodical and safe and tidy way.
- Ability to use own initiative when it is appropriate.
- Keeps good records.
- Willingness to undertake courses such as tractor driving and spraying.
- Flexible attitude and willingness to work with the wider Museum team e.g. weekend events.

Desirable:

- Experience of a wide range of horticultural activities.
- One year's experience working within a recognised public garden.
- Level 2 horticultural qualification.
- Excellent eye for detail and high-quality presentation in a garden environment.
- Experience of working with volunteers.
- Well-organised and excellent time-keeping skills and punctuality.
- Working knowledge of risk assessments.
- Experience of using wide range of garden machinery.
- Full driving licence.
- First aid at work certificate.
- Knowledge of American horticulture, gardens and plants.
- IT literate.

Other information

The American Museum & Gardens is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people, and vulnerable adults, and expects all staff members to share this commitment.

This role may be subject to a basic Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. If called for interview you will be asked to disclose details of any convictions which are not yet spent.

The American Museum & Gardens is an equal opportunities employer.

To apply

Please send an CV and covering letter (maximum 2 pages) outlining how you meet the person specification, by 5pm on Monday 3rd May 2021, to andrew.cannell@americanmuseum.org or by post to The American Museum & Gardens, Claverton Manor, Bath BA2 7BD.

Interviews will be held during the week commencing 12th May 2021.

Benefits for working at the American Museum include:

- 20% discount on purchases in our café and 10% discount in our shop
- Free parking
- Flexible working whenever possible
- Free entry to the museum
- Pension scheme of up to 10% basic salary