

PARK NATURALIST

FUNCTION OF THE JOB

Under supervision, to perform professional work developing and conducting, ecological assessment, nature study activities, environmental education, and to perform other duties as required.

CHARACTERISTIC DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Observes and classifies, plant and animal species in parks and proposed park sites.
2. Develops curricula and presents environmental education activities for preschool through high school students.
3. Assists in planning, developing, and coordinating special events for the promotion of the naturalist program.
4. Manages the propagation, breeding, planting, culture, and study of a variety of native seeds, flowers, trees, and shrubs.
5. Contributes to the planning and design of proposed and existing park developments and acquisitions through the preparation or use of intensive plant and animal studies.
6. Monitors wildlife and vegetative management programs including periodic mowing, controlled burning, herbicide application and habitat plantings.
7. Contributes information and ideas to current and long-range outdoor education and land use planning projects.
8. Encourages individuals, interested groups, and the general public to take advantage of park services and nature study areas by conducting tours and nature hikes and by presenting lectures and other educational programs.
9. Prepares horticultural and nature study brochures, pamphlets, exhibits, newsletters, and other educational and promotional materials.
10. Conducts field surveys and research projects and compiles and records data on a variety of subjects related to the naturalist program.
11. Inspects to ensure the upkeep and maintenance of trail and nature study areas.
12. Assists in assessing the environmental quality of existing County parks and proposed park sites.
13. Recommends corrective action to solve pollution problems and may contribute to the preparation of environmental impact statements.
14. Responds to public information requests related to environmental problems and issues.
15. May assign and review work of seasonal Park Naturalists, interns, and volunteer groups.
16. Performs other duties as required.

QUALIFICATIONS

Essential Knowledge and Abilities

1. Working knowledge of plant materials, ground cover, trees, shrubs, and animal species.
2. Working knowledge of environmental education principles and practices.
3. Working knowledge of the principles and techniques used in ecological, horticultural, and nature study research, reporting, and planning.
4. Working knowledge of plant diseases and pest, plant, and animal control methods and procedures.
5. Ability to plan, develop and present environmental education programs.
6. Ability to independently conduct field studies and surveys and to collect and summarize data.
7. Ability to write, design, and lay-out detailed technical reports, brochures, newsletters, and other educational and promotional materials.
8. Ability to utilize word processing, database, and spreadsheet programs.

QUALIFICATIONS

Essential Knowledge and Abilities (continued)

9. Ability to effectively communicate both orally and in writing.
10. Ability to plan and direct the work of others.
11. Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with employees, interested groups, and the general public.
12. Ability to effectively interact with sensitivity with persons from diverse cultural, socioeconomic, educational, racial, ethnic, and professional backgrounds, and persons of all ages and lifestyles.

Training and Experience

1. Bachelor's degree from a recognized college or university with major courses in environmental education, botany, zoology, forestry, natural resource management or a closely related field.