

CONSERVATION BIOLOGIST

FUNCTION OF THE JOB

Under supervision, to perform senior level professional work involving natural land management, research projects, ecological assessment, environmental education, and nature study activities, and to perform other duties as required.

CHARACTERISTIC DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Develops, directs, and oversees the implementation and refinement of all natural areas management plans and projects for Waukesha County parklands, greenways, and trails.
2. Identifies and develops collaborative partnerships with potential sponsors and conservation-related organizations.
3. Conducts field studies and research projects and compiles detailed facts and records on pollution, plant and animal species, and other subjects related to the naturalist program.
4. Observes, classifies, and inventories plant and animal species in parks and proposed park sites.
5. Promotes the use of the Retzer Nature Center facilities through informative programs for the public.
6. 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.
7. Recommends and initiates corrective action to solve pollution problems and contributes to the preparation of environmental impact statements.
8. Recommends the location of nature study areas through intensive studies based on the inventory of plant and animal species.
9. Initiates and monitors wildlife and vegetative management programs including periodic mowing, controlled burning, herbicide application and habitat plantings.
10. Assesses the environmental quality of existing County parks and proposed park sites.
11. Develops programs for the control of herbaceous plants and pest animals.
12. Assists in the planning, development, and coordination of special events for the promotion of the naturalist program.
13. Recruits, trains, and oversees volunteers on citizen science and natural land management projects.
14. Contributes information and ideas to current and long-range outdoor education and land use planning projects.
15. 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.
16. Prepares complex and detailed horticultural and nature study brochures, pamphlets, exhibits, newsletters, hand-out sheets, and other educational and promotional materials.
17. Conducts field surveys and research projects and compiles and records data on a variety of subjects related to the naturalist program.
18. Inspects to ensure the upkeep and maintenance of trail and nature study areas.
19. Manages the propagation, breeding, planting, culture, and study of a variety of flowers, trees, and shrubs.
20. Responds to public information requests related to environmental problems and issues.
21. Assigns and reviews work of seasonal Park Naturalists, interns, and volunteer groups.
22. Performs other duties as required.

QUALIFICATIONS

Essential Knowledge and Abilities

1. Considerable knowledge of plant materials, ground cover, trees, shrubs, and animal species.
2. Considerable knowledge of environmental education principles and practices.
3. Considerable knowledge of the principles and techniques used in ecological, horticultural, and nature study research, reporting, and planning.
4. Considerable 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.
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.
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.
2. Two years of experience performing duties involving or relating to nature study activities, ecological assessments, or environmental education.