

McHenry County Conservation District

Job Description

Job Title: Habitat Technician
Division: Land Preservation and Natural Resources
Reports To: Plant and Wildlife Ecologist
FLSA Status: Non-Exempt/ Full-Time
Location: Lost Valley Visitor Center
Salary Level: Grade 9 (Technical)
Approved By: Executive Director
Approved Date: 2/18/2016
Modified Date: 12/07/2020

Summary

The Habitat Technician position is a two-year, entry-level job offering experience through fieldwork. This position is intended for individuals who have completed their college degree within the last five calendar years, and is designed to provide practical training and experience in the field of ecological restoration. Individuals in this position will assist with land management projects as well as biological inventory and monitoring activities, in order to provide them with practical working experience and skill development in numerous aspects of the discipline of ecological restoration.

This position is responsible for assisting in the implementation of Natural Ecosystem Management Plans and land restoration activities designed to improve the ecological health of District lands. Activities include, but are not limited to, herbicide application, brush removal (utilizing power equipment such as chainsaws & brush cutters), and harvesting and planting native seeds. Individuals will learn biological survey techniques for various species groups. They will learn to assess the results of management and write summary reports, and prepare and present public programs on natural resource management activities.

This position works closely with the Field Station Ecologist, Restoration Ecologists, Natural Resource Manager, other LPNR staff, volunteers, and short-term employees. The individual's work will be reviewed based on the achievement of specific goals and objectives, their ability to optimize crew and equipment efforts, and for their adherence to established policies and procedures.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities include the following. Other duties may be assigned.

1. Assists in prescribed burns, brush cutting activities, and weed control activities.
2. Clears brush utilizing chainsaws and brush cutters.
3. Assists in the collection of native seeds, plants native seeds in restoration projects, conducts noxious and problem weed control with herbicide, biological control agents and through mechanical means as needed.
4. Carries out routine maintenance of equipment and maintenance of Natural Resources support facilities.
5. Transports natural resource management equipment for utilization in the field.
6. Participates in the process of the development and formulation of management plans.
7. Assists with biological inventories as needed.
8. Maintains an awareness of worker safety guidelines and standards and applies these in performing daily activities and tasks.

Supervisory Responsibilities

This job has no regular direct supervisory responsibilities.

Qualifications To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily. The requirements listed below are representative of the knowledge, skill, and/or ability required. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

Education and/or Experience

Graduation from a college or university within the last five years with a bachelor's or master's degree in either biology, ecology, zoology, or another natural resource related field.

Certificates, Licenses, Registrations

1. Possess a valid driver's license.
2. Possess or be willing to obtain a valid USDA Pesticide Operator's license within three months of date of employment.
3. Possess or be willing to obtain prescription burn crew member training within the first year.
4. Possess or the ability to obtain First Aid/CPR certification within one year from date of employment.

Other Qualifications

1. Basic knowledge of ecological principles, and natural communities/ natural history.
2. Basic knowledge of the natural history of Illinois and the Midwest.
3. Basic knowledge of the methods, practices and techniques involved in land restoration projects.
4. Familiar with Midwestern Ecological Communities.

Reasoning Ability

Ability to apply common sense understanding to carry out instructions furnished in written, oral, or diagram form. Ability to deal with problems involving several concrete variables in standardized and unstandardized situations (e.g. burning).

Computer Skills

To perform this job successfully, an individual should have basic working knowledge of Microsoft Word, Excel, and Outlook software programs as well as Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

Other Skills, Abilities, and Requirements

1. Demonstrated effective oral and written communication skills.
2. Interpersonal skills needed to effectively communicate and maintain relationships with staff, service providers and the general public.
4. Demonstrated skill in dealing tactfully, courteously, and professionally with members of the public and District staff, exercising sound and effective judgment in doing so.
5. Ability to drive a motorized vehicle to perform essential job related functions.

Physical Demands The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

While performing the duties of this Job, the employee is regularly required to stand; walk; use hands to finger, handle, or feel; reach with hands and arms; stoop, kneel, crouch, or crawl and talk or hear. The employee is frequently required to sit and climb or balance. The employee must regularly lift and /or move up to 50 pounds. Specific vision abilities required by this job include ability to adjust focus.

Work Environment The work environment characteristics described here are representative of those an employee encounters while performing the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

While performing the duties of this Job, the employee is regularly exposed to outside weather conditions. The employee is occasionally exposed to moving mechanical parts; fumes or airborne particles from prescribed burns and toxic or caustic chemicals from herbicides/ pesticides. The noise level in the work environment is usually loud.

The above is intended to describe the general content of and requirements for the performance of this job. It is not to be construed as an exhaustive statement of duties, responsibilities or requirements.