

Job Description

SEASONAL LAND STEWARDSHIP TECHNICIAN (rev 01/05/23)

Organization:

The Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) is a local elected park agency responsible for roughly 1500 acres of Township park land as well as the Oakland Township portion of the Paint Creek Trail. The PRC manages a 10-year park millage as well as a 10-year land preservation millage. These two millages fund all Township park/natural area acquisition, planning, development, operation and maintenance.

As one of the first communities in the state to place conservation easements on local parkland and to devote funds to natural areas preservation, Oakland Township strives to be a leader in the identification, preservation, and protection of natural areas.

Oakland Township has demonstrated its long-term commitment to the identification and preservation of natural areas through the purchase of parks to protect these resources. Most of the parks acquired by the Township contain defined high-priority natural areas, including glacial lakes, prairie remnants, oak-pine barrens, and Clinton River tributaries. Conservation easements have been dedicated to protect key parkland natural areas.

Position:

The Stewardship Technician position is a full-time, seasonal, hourly position to be employed by the PRC during the period from April through the end of September. Duties include the management of the Township parks' natural areas under the direction of the Natural Areas Stewardship Manager. Work tasks may include species monitoring, invasive species control, prescribed burning, and assisting on volunteer stewardship workdays. This position will require cooperation with PRC staff, partner organizations, volunteers, and the general public. This position may be ideal for a candidate seeking an academic internship, experience in the natural resource management field, or continued education in stewardship and land management. It is the responsibility of the Stewardship Technician to make any and all arrangements with an accredited institution if an internship is desired.

Supervision/Organization:

Technicians will be supervised and led by the Natural Areas Stewardship Manager, who reports to the Parks and Recreation Director.

General Duties:

This position is approximately 90% field work (70% invasive species control, 5% native garden maintenance, 5% seed collecting, 10% monitoring) and 10% office/other (5% volunteer/outreach, 5% office work).

Applied stewardship activities may include:

- Implementing stewardship plans and activities as directed by the Natural Areas Stewardship Manager such as: invasive species control, fashioning burn breaks, assisting with prescribed fire activities, plant installation, seed collection, and protecting wildlife of concern
- Data organization, manipulation, interpretation, collection, and entry

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- Using GIS and GPS to map natural features within parks and create maps
- Assisting with natural features monitoring and inventory
- Recording all stewardship activities into specific formats
- Equipment repair and maintenance
- Burning brush piles

Outreach responsibilities may include:

- Assist with and lead volunteer workdays and programs
- Assist volunteers with monitoring activities
- Communicate stewardship activities to the public in a positive manner

Position Requirements:

Must possess an awareness of conservation issues and knowledge of general biological and ecological principles as they relate to natural areas management; able to identify plant and animals species; able to operate GPS units and interpret maps; skill in field data collection and management; able to use tools safely; possess a willingness to attain additional training (provided by Township); possess an ability to perform physical work in harsh conditions and inclement weather; and able to work under minimal supervision. Must be willing to provide their own transportation if needed. Must be willing and able to work a flexible schedule, including some evenings and weekends.

Physical Requirements:

Work requires the ability to operate a motor vehicle, to operate hand controls on equipment, the ability to distinguish colors and to hear audible alarms.

Incumbent may be exposed to hazardous physical conditions and poor atmospheric conditions. In addition, the work may require seasonal exposure to extreme weather conditions, including rain, humidity, intense heat and sunlight.

Ability to climb ladders, handle heavy brush, walk for extended periods, stand for long periods, perform routine moderate lifting and to carry up to 50 pounds over rough, uneven terrain and wet and slippery surfaces.

Special Requirements, Licenses, and Certifications:

Technicians must possess and present a valid Michigan driver's license (or be willing to obtain one) and a satisfactory driving record. No felony convictions. Driving and criminal background checks will be completed.

Pre-placement physical exam at department's expense will be required.

Must possess or be willing to obtain a Michigan Commercial Pesticide Applicator's License

Must possess or be willing to obtain Red Cross First Aid and CPR training

NWCG Wildland Firefighter Type II certification or equivalent a plus, but not necessary.

Qualifications:

Technicians should have or be working towards a BS/BA degree in conservation biology, ecology, natural resources management or related field.

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Experience working with or knowledge of natural systems including ecosystem restoration, invasive species control, herbicide application, prescribed burning and seed processing preferred.

Experience participating on prescribed fire crews preferred.

Experience working as part of a team and with the public.

Ability to recognize Michigan plant and animal species as required in order to implement land management activities.

Ability to interpret and work with maps/plans oriented towards natural resources, land use, development, or engineering/construction.

Ability to safely use and maintain land stewardship tools and equipment including: hand powered tools, brush cutters, and construction tools.

Proficiency in Microsoft Word, Excel, and Power Point.

Experience working with GPS and GIS.

Willingness and ability to work flexible schedule including occasional evenings and weekends.

Ability to perform physical work, sometimes under adverse conditions or in inclement weather.