

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGER - RESTORATION ECOLOGIST

The Forest Preserve District of Will County is accepting resumes for a Restoration Ecologist. This is a full-time position that is responsible for contributing to the day-to-day planning and implementation of District Natural Area Restoration projects, with an emphasis on flora and natural communities.

The Restoration Ecologist position is a Grade 10, with a salary range of \$50,319 to \$72,460 per year commensurate with experience. See the attached Job Description outlining duties, skills, abilities, training, experience, and working conditions, or visit ReconnectWithNature.org for more information.

Resumes will be accepted until April 25, 2025.

Application Procedure: Send a cover letter describing interest and a resume to:

Veronica Frausto-Sarwark, Director of Human Resources
Forest Preserve District of Will County
17540 W. Laraway Road
Joliet, Illinois 60433
815-722-5669 (desk)
815-722-3608 (fax)
Humanresources@fpdwc.org

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Bringing People and Nature Together

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**WILL COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
JOB DESCRIPTION**

TITLE: RESTORATION ECOLOGIST
DEPARTMENT: CONSERVATION
FLSA STATUS: EXEMPT
LOCATION: SUGAR CREEK ADMINISTRATION CENTER

DATE: APRIL 2025

BASIC FUNCTION

The Restoration Ecologist contributes to the day-to-day planning and implementation of District Natural Area Restoration projects, with an emphasis on flora and natural communities.

ORGANIZATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

Reports to:

- Ecology Coordinator

Supervises:

- None
- This position will require occasional coordination of Resource Management Crew and Operations Department staff.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Prepare and implement site restoration and management plans for natural and degraded ecosystems at the direction of the Ecology Coordinator or Ecological Management Supervisor.
2. Contribute to the development of annual work plans, schedules, summaries, and reports, some requiring other agency sign-off.
3. Assist with the annual budget preparation process and expense tracking.
4. Develop grant proposals and administrate grant projects to ensure compliance.
5. Secure and manage contractual services according to established policies and procedures.
6. Participate in the implementation of the District's prescribed fire management program with the ability to function as Crew Boss.
7. Assist in completing environmental reviews on proposed land use and development within or adjacent to preserves.
8. Contribute to baseline site inventories, implementation of monitoring programs, and data management systems to evaluate the effectiveness of various restoration and management programs.
9. Coordinate with resource management crew and other resource management staff to implement tasks identified in annual management schedules.
10. Represent the District and/or Natural Resource Management section in various inter- or intra-agency teams, meetings, and working groups as assigned.
11. Other duties as assigned by supervisor or director.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES

- Must have knowledge of Midwest natural communities, native and non-native plant species identification, area restoration techniques, ecology, and conservation biology principles.
- Must have technical skills to perform surveys, data collection and analysis, and report preparation.
- Must effectively communicate, written and oral, with a variety of professional staff, consultants, and volunteers.
- Basic computer skills in Microsoft Office (word processing, spreadsheet, and database) and ArcGIS mapping software.
- Must possess or attain a valid Illinois Pesticide Applicator's license.
- Must possess and maintain a current and valid Motor Vehicle Operator's license.

TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE

Education: Bachelor's degree (Master's degree preferred) in environmental science, ecology, natural resource management, or related field.

Experience: Five years of related experience in natural areas restoration and management planning and implementation preferred. Three years of related experience participating in prescribed fires varying in size and complexity preferred.

Certifications: Possession of, or willingness to procure course work in prescribed fire management and behavior: National Wildfire Coordinating Group S130/190 (S290 and S390 preferred) or Chicago Wilderness Midwest Ecological Prescription Fire Crew Member training.

WORKING ENVIRONMENT AND CONDITIONS

Work environment characteristics 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.

1. Semi-active job: while performing the duties of this job the employee is frequently required to stand; walk; sit; use hands and fingers to manipulate objects, tools, or controls; reach with hands and arms; climb stairs, talk and hear.
2. While performing the duties of this job the employee occasionally works near moving parts; works in outside extreme heat or cold weather conditions; lifts and/or moves up to 50 pounds; is exposed to fumes, airborne particles, smoke, and toxic or caustic chemicals and potentially hazardous plants and animals.
3. Specific vision abilities required by the job include close vision, distant vision, color vision, peripheral vision, depth perception, and the ability to adjust focus.
4. The noise level in this job is usually moderate but can be high.

OTHER INFORMATION

This 40-hour/week position entails working Monday - Friday with the possibility/option to work flexible weekday, evening, and weekend shifts. Occasionally extended hours and weekend workdays will be

required. This position includes the option of a maximum of 16 hours of remote work per week, after 6 months per the District's remote work policy, subject to the supervisor's approval.

PAY RANGE, ANNUAL SALARY, AND BENEFITS

Pay Range: Grade 10

Minimum: \$50,319

Midpoint: \$60,383

Maximum: \$72,460

Schedule: Full Time

Benefits: Medical HMO/PPO HDHP, dental, vision, basic life/AD&D, and voluntary life/AD&D, IMRF pension, paid sick time, vacation, and holidays following the current handbook, employee assistance program, options to purchase voluntary insurance, and deferred compensation.