

Job Title: Natural Areas Technician Intern
Department: Natural Resources Management
Reports to: Joshua Sage, Natural Resources and Natural Areas Mgr.
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Position Summary:

This position functions to assist in implementing natural resources management of the Boone County Conservation District (BCCD). Additional responsibilities include: * Working in cooperation with managers and employees as needed to carry out the mission of the BCCD; *Assist with the everyday tasks associated with natural resources management and habitat restoration.

Compensation Range: \$9.00-\$11.00

Essential Function/Percentage of Time Spent on Each Activity.

1. Maintenance on recently developed habitats - Controlling invasive plant species throughout conservation district properties and projects. 30% (percentage of time spent on this activity)
2. Spraying and mixing herbicides - Use unrestricted pesticides on invasive species within habitat areas both remnants and restorations. An herbicide training and certification is needed. 25% (percentage of time spent on this activity)
3. Collect and Clean Seed - Collect seed from native plant material on district property. This is done throughout the year. A large emphasis on seed collecting is in the fall. 15% (percentage of time spent on this activity)
4. Educational Programming - Design and implement programs relating to natural resources management. These programs will be presented to summer camp and the general public. 5% (percentage of time spent on this activity)
5. Loading, unloading, and transporting heavy equipment - must be able to assist with loading and unloading large equipment such as tractors, skid steers, and mowers. Must be competent in driving a large vehicle pulling a trailer. 5% (percentage of time spent on this activity)
6. General Maintenance - Because we are such a small organization interns might need to help with daily general maintenance. This can include the following: litter clean-up, fixing equipment, light construction, vandalism repair, painting, mowing and storm damage clean-up. 5% (percentage of time spent on this activity)
7. Tree and Brush Removal - Remove nonnative and invasive trees and brush within restorations and remnants. Knowledge in chainsaw safety and technique is required. 5% (percentage of time spent on this activity). *if an intern is working through the winter months 70% of the job will focus on brush removal.

8. Prescribed Burning - Assist with ecological prescribed burning with BCCD staff, this involves burning, preparation, and training. 5% (percentage of time spent on this activity)

9. Plant native plugs - Implement plantings of trees, shrubs, forbs, grasses, and sedges both in the field and in a greenhouse setting. This requires constant bending, kneeling, and crouching. 5% (percentage of time spent on this activity)

Tasks

- Controlling invasive plant species in natural areas throughout BCCD properties.
- Propagate native seed in a greenhouse setting.
- Transplant seedlings in a greenhouse setting.
- Develop and present educational programs relating to natural resources management.
- Mix and apply herbicides in accordance with labels and training.
- Collect native seed to be used in projects on BCCD property.
- General maintenance, which can include the following: litter pick-up, tree and brush removal, and minor general maintenance on equipment, light construction, vandalism repair, mowing, and painting.
- Safely operate district vehicles.
- Safely operate district vehicles while pulling a trailer.
- Load and unload equipment such as ATV's, tractors, skid steer loaders, and mowers.
- Use hand held tools and landscape equipment such as: drills, reciprocating saws, chainsaws, clearing saws, pole pruners, hedge trimmers, weed eaters, and rototillers, in a safe and efficient manner.

Minimum Job Requirements

- Must pass a pre-employment background check, drug screen, and physical.
- Must be eighteen years of age or older with a valid driver's license.
- Work with a minimum amount of supervision and able to solve problems.
- Ability to operate District vehicles and landscape equipment in a safe manner.
- Ability to learn and understand BCCD rules, regulations, and district information and can convey this information to conservation area users.
- Ability to work weekday evenings and or weekend hours.
- Ability to work as part of a crew.
- This position requires manual physical labor including: lifting, bending, walking, and standing in extreme weather conditions. Position requires the ability to lift 45 lbs.
- Ability to work outside/inside and under all types of weather conditions.
- Ability to work overtime when needed.

Preference will be given to applicants who have:

- 1- Experience with chainsaws along with completion of a safety course.
- 2- Certified Illinois Pesticide ID card, Applicator preferred.
- 3- Basic knowledge of native and invasive species of Illinois.

Applications and Resumes will be accepted until positions are filled.

EOE