

## CONSERVATION TECHNICIAN

### CLASS DESCRIPTION

#### General Responsibilities:

This is technical support and manual work in relationship to the City's Conservation Parks. This work involves the performance of a wide variety of conservation parks and facilities maintenance and construction activities in maintaining, restoring, and land management of 2000 acres of conversation park land; cross-country ski trail grooming and maintenance; and minor maintenance and repair of facilities and equipment. The work is performed under the general supervision of the Conservation Resources Supervisor. Employees in this class may also provide direction to seasonal/hourly employees.

#### Examples of Duties and Responsibilities:

Engage in management of native plant communities. Perform or assist with prairie restoration and management including planting, mowing, burning, and collecting seeds. Monitor parks for the presence of invasive species and recommend appropriate action to the Conservation Resources Supervisor. Mow, burn, cut and or treat plants with herbicides to control non-native vegetation. Remove non-native vegetation with a chain saw, brush saw, or other equipment. Plant and transplant native trees, shrubs, grasses, and wildflowers. Inventory native plant species.

Construct and maintain mowed paths, gravel and woodchip trails, boardwalks and bridges, observation platforms, fences, gates, signs and maps. Mow trails for people and vehicle access. Trim back and remove trees, shrubs and brush to maintain paths and service roads. Rake and seed new trails. Groom trails as required and maintain proper trail signing. Monitor trails for encroachment and off-trail activities. Remove litter, trash, and debris.

Perform minor maintenance and repair of all buildings and grounds and a variety of related equipment, including lawn mowers, tractors, brush saws, ski trail groomers, and chain saws.

Perform cross-country ski trail grooming and maintenance. Install and maintain trail signage. Remove trail hazards, such as low or downed trees. Perform daily maintenance on trail grooming equipment.

Engage in public outreach activities on behalf of the Parks Division. Formulate and implement volunteer projects. Answer questions from parks visitors. Enforce and educate park visitors regarding ordinances. Write ordinances as appropriate. Lead interpretative public walks.

Perform safety checks on vehicles as required.

Safely operate a wide variety of power and manual equipment, including chain saws, pole saws, mowers, tractors with loader buckets, grooming machines, ATVs, snowmobiles, bobcats, skid steers, and sharpeners.

Perform related work as required.

## QUALIFICATIONS

### Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

Working knowledge of broad ecological relationships relative to plants and animals. Working knowledge of native plant identification, methods of care, and methods of management and restoration-e.g. prescribed burns, brush mowing with tractors, applying herbicides. Working knowledge of the tools and equipment used in conservation parks maintenance, construction, development and management. Working knowledge of the methods and equipment used in basic carpentry, mechanics, landscape construction, grounds maintenance and forestry. Ability to perform heavy manual labor requiring physical strength and endurance. Ability to perform outdoor work under adverse weather conditions. Ability to understand oral and written instructions. Ability to operate and perform basic maintenance and adjustments on equipment used on conservation parks and cross-country ski trails. Ability to provide directions to seasonal/hourly personnel. Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with co-workers and the public. Ability to understand and interpret ordinances. Ability to maintain adequate attendance.

### Training and Experience:

Generally, positions in this classification will require:

One year of experience in the care, restoration, and maintenance of a natural area(s) similar to a conservation park. Such experience would normally be gained after completion of a 2 year conservation resources, natural resources, or other similar program. Possession of a 4 year degree from an accredited college or university in a field such as wildlife ecology, conservation resource management, or related field, which included a field internship, may be substituted for the above requirements. Other combinations of training and/or experience which can be demonstrated to result in the possession of the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to perform the duties of this position will also be considered.

Specific training and experience requirements will be established at the time of recruitment.

### Necessary Special Qualifications:

Possession of a valid Class B Commercial Driver's License. The successful candidate must have passed the written portion of the relevant Department of Transportation testing process before starting employment. A condition of continued employment is passage of the skills portion of the test and obtaining the required operator's license within a specified timeframe. Specific endorsement requirements will be determined on a position by position basis.

Possession of, or ability to obtain a Wisconsin State Pesticide Certification during the probation/trial period, and to maintain certification. Failure to obtain the certification within the required time period may result in forfeiture of the position, absent extenuating

