

PARK NATURALISTDEFINITION

Under general supervision, plans, evaluates, implements and coordinates activities related to the enhancement, protection and study of the natural resources and habitats of City parks.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO

Plans, develops and implements educational programs, activities and exhibits related to the study of natural resources and habitats. Develops and implements strategies to promote public awareness of and access to the city's natural resources and habitats. Stays current with municipal, state and federal codes and regulations relating to wildlife and plant management. Recognizes floral and fauna pests and works with Park Maintenance staff to eradicate. Makes presentations to and works directly with a variety of groups such as neighborhood associations, community groups, youth groups and others to promote the study and protection of the natural resources, flora and fauna of city parks. Analyzes recreational use of parklands and makes recommendations for restoration plans. Uses available software applications to develop training and educational documents, oral presentations, reports, grant proposals and other related materials. Using standard tools and equipment found in parks maintenance activities, designs interior and exterior exhibits related to the study of natural resources, wildlife, flora and fauna. Operates scientific field equipment, such as spotting scopes and botanical keys, when performing monthly or seasonal field tests. Develops and recommends potential grant funding projects; assists with preparation of grant proposals; assists with or oversees grant budgets. Takes inventory of animal and plant life to monitor and manage the ecosystem for natural balance. Performs liaison functions with local schools, community colleges and universities regarding program and activity planning, educational opportunities and research projects. Actively participates in improvement programs such as Total Quality Service. Provides assistance and training to other Park Maintenance staff. May lead and train subordinate staff; may recruit and oversee the work of consultants for compliance with contract provisions or municipal, state and federal guidelines and laws relating to natural resources and enhancement. May oversee research programs and activities. May represent the city at Council Meetings, Boards and Commissions Meetings and other public gatherings or meetings. Performs other related duties as assigned.

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS

This single-position classification is distinguished from other Park Maintenance classifications by its responsibility to develop and implement programs and activities that require specialized knowledge of natural resource and habitat protection and enhancement. The Park Naturalist reports to the Park Maintenance Superintendent.

MINIMUM BASIC QUALIFICATIONS

Two years of progressively responsible experience related to the study, design and implementation of natural resource and natural habitat projects or programs; graduation from high school supplemented by college-level coursework in natural sciences, ecology, environmental studies, or other related disciplines; or any equivalent combination of experience and education which provides the knowledge, skills and abilities listed below.

### DESIRABLE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES

Knowledge of: regional botany, wildlife and geography; municipal, state and federal codes and regulations related to wildlife and plant management; basic grounds maintenance practices; methods, materials, tools and equipment used in exhibit design and light maintenance and repair operations; principles and practices of public relations and customer service; effective oral and written communication.

Some Knowledge of: principles and practices of project and program management specific to the study of natural resources and habitats; some knowledge of municipal budgeting and grant management.

Skill in: public relations and public speaking; the design, development and implementation of training and educational programs; the use of a personal computer and current office software applications such as Microsoft Word, Access, or Excel.

Ability to: plan, design, implement and revise programs, projects or activities related to the study of natural resources and habitats; interpret and apply policies and procedures, and applicable federal, state and local laws, codes, and regulations; research, develop, and prepare educational exhibits and displays, reports, oral presentations, publicity materials and related; monitor the work of contractors; identify species of animals, flora and fauna commonly found in municipal park areas; interpret landscaping plans; establish and maintain professional and effective working relationships with coworkers, subordinates, other city employees, vendors, and the general public; effectively coordinate and train assigned personnel; communicate effectively both orally and in writing; make effective oral presentations to neighborhood associations, community groups, youth groups, and other employees.

### SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Must possess and retain a valid California Class C Driver's License.

### SPECIAL WORKING CONDITIONS

Must be willing and able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays as needed. Must be willing and able to work outside in a variety of weather conditions.

### CHARACTERISTICS OF SUCCESSFUL PERFORMERS

The successful Park Naturalist is flexible and adjusts readily to varied work assignments. This knowledgeable employee is a well-organized and motivated individual who supports and balances the maintenance and protection of habitat with the public's right to access and use City parks. This individual communicates effectively to a variety of individuals and is pleasant, courteous and professional when dealing with coworkers and the general public.

Class title established per Council Resolution 2003-062,  
effective 7-7-2003

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