

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM: NATURAL RESOURCES



POSITION TITLE: Herbicide Volunteer
COMMITMENT: 2+ Years/Participate as schedule allows
LOCATION: District-wide
APPLICATION DEADLINE: None
MINIMUM AGE: 21

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE POSITION

This position involves assisting with accomplishing the restoration goals for an ecologically valuable natural area. After passing the exam(s) and receiving a pesticide Operator or Applicator license from the Illinois Department of Agriculture, you will be certified to apply herbicide at an assigned preserve site under the direction of the site steward and the Stewardship Program Coordinator.

PRIMARY VOLUNTEER DUTIES TO BE PERFORMED

- Assists staff and site steward in managing invasive or aggressive herbaceous species and working toward mutually agreed upon restoration goals.
- Uses various herbicide applicator equipment (backpack, pump sprayer, hand sprayer) to apply specific herbicides to target species.
- Accurately completes and submits required herbicide application logs at least once a month.
- Attends District workshops, meetings or training sessions. Acknowledges all verbal and written updates from NR staff and Stewardship Program Coordinator.
- Works in cooperation with staff and other volunteers.
- Adheres to ethical and ecologically-sound principles. All ecological management work must receive pre-approval by the Stewardship Program Coordinator.
- Reports personal physical injuries, new immediate threats to natural area communities and anything else of an urgent nature within 24 hours.
- Records accurate volunteer hours in Volgistics for government accounting standards report.
- Performs other duties as assigned.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

- Interest in natural area conservation and restoration.
- Skilled with plant identification.
- Passes the General Standards exam to receive Operator license, or passes an additional Aquatics or Rights of Way exam to receive a Applicator license from the Illinois Department of Agriculture. Licenses are renewed and exams are taken every three years.
- Ability to interact positively with the public and staff, effectively communicate, interpret and apply verbal instructions, and willingness to learn from staff and accept feedback.
- Understanding of and compliance with District safety standards.
- Completes District volunteer application, including waiver and consent for criminal background check.
- At least 21 years old and willing to make a minimum two-year commitment.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS

The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by a volunteer to successfully perform the duties of the volunteer position.

The volunteer is regularly asked to sit, stand and walk. The volunteer may be asked to balance or stoop, kneel or crouch. The volunteer may be asked to lift and/or move up to 10 pounds, occasionally lift and/or move up to 25 pounds. The volunteer will use hands to feel, finger or handle; reach with hands and arms.

VOLUNTEER ENVIRONMENT

The volunteer environment characteristics described here are representative of those a volunteer encounters while performing the duties of the volunteer position.

The volunteer is regularly exposed to outside weather conditions. There may be uneven or rough terrain. The volunteer is occasionally exposed to fumes or airborne particles, including allergens. The volunteer is occasionally exposed to wet and/or humid conditions. The noise level in the work environment is usually moderate. The volunteer may perform duties in dim or low light.

PROVISIONS

This is an unpaid volunteer position, which exists to assist staff and to provide supplemental support for the District's programs. This position is undertaken freely on the part of the volunteer with no payment or expectation of payment of salaries, wages, compensation or other types of benefits. The District may from time to time alter or terminate volunteer positions and programs. Volunteer status may be changed or discontinued by the District at any time and for any reason, including a volunteer's failure to comply with District ordinances, policies and direction governing conduct in the performance of volunteer duties in the field or on District premises.

PURPOSE

The purpose of Volunteer Services Program at the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County is to engage volunteers who are willing to donate their time, talents and resources to support the programs and staff in carrying out the mission, purpose, and guiding principles of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County and the volunteer programs.

FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF DUPAGE COUNTY MISSION

As mandated by the Illinois Downstate Forest Preserve Act, our mission is "to acquire and hold lands containing forests, prairies, wetlands, and associated plant communities or lands capable of being restored to such natural conditions for the purpose of protecting and preserving the flora, fauna and scenic beauty for the education, pleasure and recreation of its citizens."

PURPOSE

To acquire, preserve, protect and restore the natural resources in DuPage County while providing opportunities for people to connect with nature.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Stewardship, Sustainability, Community Engagement, Innovation, Empowerment, and Diversity & Inclusion.
Visit dupageforest.org to learn more.

For more information contact the Volunteer Services Department at (630) 933-7233 M-F 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.