

Position Description

Job Title:	RSI - Ecosystem Management Intern	Revision Date:	3/20/2024
Department:	Philadelphia Parks & Recreation	Hiring Manager:	Dhan Parker
Hourly Rate:	\$17.50/hour	Application deadline:	Open Until Filled
Position Type	Temporary/Seasonal Employment; Three (3) to Six (6) Months in Duration		

Overview of City of Philadelphia

With a workforce of over 30,000 people, and opportunities in more than 1,000 different job categories, the City of Philadelphia is the fifth largest city in the United States and one of the largest employers in Southeastern Pennsylvania. As an employer, the City of Philadelphia operates through the guiding principles of service, integrity, respect, accountability, collaboration, diversity and inclusion. Through these principles, we strive to effectively deliver services, to resolve the challenges facing our city, and to make Philadelphia a place where all of our residents have the opportunity to reach their potential.

Agency Description

Philadelphia Parks & Recreation (PPR) advances the prosperity of the city and the progress of her people through intentional and sustained stewardship of over 10,200 acres of public land and waterways as well as through hundreds of safe, stimulating recreation, environmental, and cultural centers. PPR promotes the well-being and growth of the City's residents by connecting them to the natural world around them, to each other, and to fun, physical, and social opportunities. PPR is responsible for the upkeep of historically significant Philadelphia events and specialty venues, and works collaboratively with communities and organizations in leading capital projects and the introduction of inventive programming. To learn more about Philadelphia Parks & Recreation, visit us at www.phila.gov/parksandrec, and follow @philaparkandrec on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or Tumblr.

Position Summary

The Recreation Specialty Instructor (RSI) will serve as an Ecosystem Management Intern in support of Parks & Recreation's emerald ash borer suppression project.

The emerald ash borer (EAB), an exotic wood boring beetle, is infesting and killing ash trees in Philadelphia and threatens to eliminate this integral component of our urban forest unless these trees are protected by injecting them with an insecticide (emamectin benzoate). Interns will treat these individual trees with systemic insecticide, using micro-injection equipment, and collect treatment data with ArcGIS software.

Additionally, beech leaf disease (BLD), a disease complex threatening beech trees, was identified in Philadelphia in 2022. Interns will monitor and map the spread of the disease symptoms to prepare a management strategy.

Other responsibilities will include monitoring and maintaining trails and related infrastructure and deer enclosure fence system that protect forest restoration sites.

Training will be provided on plant identification and pesticide application.

Responsibilities

- Work with PPR staff to obtain Pennsylvania Registered Pesticide Technician certification.
- Learn to identify a variety of Philadelphia forest plants, both native and non-native/invasive.
- Drive to various sites throughout the park system to treat ash trees.
- Work effectively and efficiently as a member of a team.
- Use sharp cutting tools, including chain saws, to cut invasive trees, shrubs and vines and to clear the base of ash trees.
- Learn the skills required to properly measure trees, calculate quantities and use micro injection equipment.
- Use pesticides safely and carefully to minimize personal and environmental exposure.
- Maintain and care for field equipment, including micro injection equipment and hand tools.
- Collect field data using ArcGIS software
- Work in a logical and consistent manner to maximize productivity.
- Communicate regularly with PPR Project Manager.
- Communicate clearly and politely with citizens.
- Other related duties as assigned

Competencies, Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

- Ability to obtain the PA Registered Pesticide Application Technician training and apply insecticide and herbicide
- Ability to work in various field conditions, carry equipment, and walk long distances over variable terrain
- Ability to learn basic plant identification skills for common Philadelphia forest plants
- Knowledge of electronic data collection and equipment use
- Excellent written and oral communication skills

Qualifications (Education and Experience)

- High school diploma or equivalent (e.g. GED)
- Experience working in parks and/or forests preferred
- Committed to working for the duration of the project is required, with some flexibility (approx. June – August 2024)
- Valid PA Driver's License
- Access to a reliable personal vehicle is preferred

Additional Information

- Successful candidates must be a city of Philadelphia resident as a condition of employment
- Interested candidates must submit a resume and cover letter to **dhan.parker@phila.gov**
- The City of Philadelphia is an Equal Opportunity employer and does not permit discrimination based on race, ethnicity, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, disability, marital status, source of income, familial status, genetic information or domestic or sexual violence victim status. If you believe you were discriminated against, call the Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations at 215-686-4670 or send an email to faqpchr@phila.gov. For more information, go to: Human Relations Website: <http://www.phila.gov/humanrelations/Pages/default.aspx>