Natural Resources Technician Internship.

**Department:** Virginia B. Fairbanks Art and Nature Park at Newfields

**Report To:** Gregory Butts

**FLSA Status:** Full Time (Hour may change depending on applicant)

**Year Created:** 2021

**Overview**
Work with Natural Resources team to design, install and maintain, permanent plantings to enhance the natural environment of this 100-acre Art & Nature Park along the banks of the White River. Assist in the development of the Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park at Newfields as a world-class destination for nature and the arts. Provide technical skill and labor necessary to maintain and develop the park, natural areas, and wildlife habitat.

**Primary Responsibilities:**
The following responsibilities describe the general nature of work the employees in this position, but this is not intended as an exclusive or all-inclusive inventory.

- General management of lakes, forests, plants, soil, and other natural resources within the parks land.
- Contribute to habitat restoration and maintenance plans, such as native tree and forb restoration and weed control strategies.
- Monitoring for and removing invasive species, maintaining the health of rehabilitated areas, establishing habitat for appropriate avian and mammalian populations.
- Operate equipment as assigned, including mowers, weed-eater, lawn edger, backhoe, chainsaw, chipper, forestry mower, loaders, stump grinders, trencher/pullers, box grade, etc.. (or willingness to learn)
- Perform other park maintenance tasks, including planting, pruning, installing sod, snow removal.
- Perform general maintenance, construction and repair of park and recreational facilities.
- Contribute to design and implementation of audience engagement and educational tools including interpretation and signage thought out the park.
- Monitor and implement erosion control measures.
- Assist Grounds, Horticultural and other departments as necessary with demonstrated ability to work effectively as a member of a team; desire to be part of an organization that values service, people, integrity, responsibility, innovation, and teamwork.
- Work with and lead volunteers’ groups on a variety of projects on park lands.
- Diagnose and treat pest, diseases, and invasive species appropriately with emphasis given on organic solutions and in compliance with Indiana Commercial Pesticide and Fertilizer Applicator Certification when necessary. With emphasis on Non-native woody and herbaceous plants.
- Serve as a Newfields ambassador in the Art and Nature Park through excellent customer service, guest relations and responding to requests in a cordial and friendly manner. Works with Park volunteers/docents developing long-term productive relationships and growing the size of the program overtime.
To perform the job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential function satisfactorily. The requirements listed are representative of the knowledge, skill, and/or ability required. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

**Required Skills**

- Knowledge of regional flora and fauna including non-native invasive species; knowledge of successional stages of ecological development.
- Knowledge of native plant identification, maintenance, installation, habitat, and their spatial requirements.
- Proficiency in the use of hand and power tools, including pesticide application equipment.
- Knowledge of irrigation systems including: new installation and expansion. Basic plumbing and irrigation technical knowledge concerning such things as valves, pumps, fittings, repair techniques, and specialized tools; understanding of proper irrigation applications techniques.
- Mechanical and technical skills. General knowledge of mechanics sufficient to recognize the existence of mechanical problems and sufficient knowledge of preventative maintenance practices to avoid preventable damage to equipment.
- Ability to evaluate changing weather conditions and make appropriate decisions regarding snow and ice removal practices. Job will require working in inclement weather conditions.
- Hands on Experience in Horticulture/Grounds, and Natural Resources.
- Problem solving Skills
- Active listening Skills
- Organizational skills
- Basic Computer skills
- Adhere to all OHSA safety requirements.
- Must have Valid driver's license
- Ability to drive a stick shift vehicle. Or willingness to learn.

**Education and /or Experience**

- Combination of education and experience with native plants, and land management practices (B.A. or B.S in related fields preferred but not required)
- Three to five years experience and/or training in the field of Natural Resources Management, Forestry, Wildlife and Park Management or a related field.
- Category 2 (Forest Pest Management) and or 6 (Industrial Weed Management) Indiana Commercial Pesticide and Fertilizer Applicator Continuing Certification. Or willingness to acquire within first 6 months of employment.
Physical Demands of Work Environment

The Physical demands and work environment characteristics described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of the job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

- **Physical demands**: While performing the duties of this job, the employee is occasionally required to stand, walk, sit, use hands to finger, handle, or feel objects, tools, or control; reach with hands and arms; climb stairs; balance; stoop, kneel, crouch, or crawl; talk or hear; taste or smell. The employee must occasionally lift and/or move up to 100 pounds. Specific vision abilities required by this job include close vision, distance vision, color vision, peripheral vision, depth perception, and the ability to adjust focus.

- **Work Environment**: The work environment characteristics described here are representative of those and employee encounters while performing the essential functions of the position. The noise level in the work environment will vary from soft to loud. Job will require wearing long pants and closed-toed leather shoes.

For this position applicants can send their resume and cover letter to gbutts@discovernewfields.org. Qualifying applicants will be contacted by our team to fill out a Newfields work application and background check.