

## BUFFALO SOCIETY OF NATURAL SCIENCES

### POSITION DESCRIPTION

**Department:** Tifft Nature Preserve

**Position Title:** Stewardship Technician

**Primary Reporting Responsibility:** Preserve Steward of Tifft Nature Preserve

**Status:** Full-time/Non-exempt/Temporary

**Overview:** Tifft Nature Preserve is a 264 acre nature preserve, owned by the City of Buffalo and operated by the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences. Situated near the Buffalo River and surrounded by industry, the property itself was once an industrial site, serving as a transshipment facility for the Lehigh Valley Railroad. In 1976, it was dedicated as a nature preserve by the City of Buffalo, thanks to many committed citizens who visited the property for years to view its unique flora and fauna - particularly its high diversity of spring migratory birds. Today, the preserve includes a diversity of habitats, including a 75 acre cattail marsh, several ponds, upland woodlands, and grasslands.

The preserve is widely celebrated in Western New York for its industrial heritage and the reclamation of nature that followed. Tifft Nature Preserve is a popular and accessible destination for Buffalo and surrounding communities, and provides a wide array of environmental education programs for local schools and the general public.

Over several decades, the establishment of invasive species, and high populations of deer, geese, and beaver have slowly degraded the health and quality of natural communities at Tifft Nature Preserve. In response, The Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences has been dedicated to ecological management at Tifft Nature Preserve, its "living collection," to improve habitat, species diversity, and ecological function.

**Summary:** The Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences is seeking a hard-working natural resource professional to assist with stewardship of Tifft Nature Preserve, including ecological restoration, land management, and preserve maintenance tasks. This position is 30 hours per week and temporary, running approximately from May-September 2019.

#### Essential Functions

- Perform ecological restoration and habitat improvement activities such as invasive species control, tree and shrub planting, and maintenance of existing projects
- Maintain trails weekly by mowing, trimming, and brush cutting
- Maintain and install preserve infrastructure, including signage, kiosks, fencing, and boardwalks
- Assist with vegetation and wildlife surveys, collect data on invasive species control efforts and monitor ecological restoration projects
- Work alongside and oversee stewardship volunteers
- Maintain and inventory tools and equipment required to perform the above functions
- Assist with work in other departments as needed, including public programming and events

#### Required Skills and Experience

- Minimum of Bachelor's degree in the physical or natural sciences
- Desire to work in the field of conservation, land management, and/or ecology
- Experience performing physical labor outdoors (agriculture, landscaping, construction, etc.)
- Basic knowledge of the plants, animals, and natural communities of Western New York

- Experience operating small engines, and land management equipment including chainsaws, brushcutters, hedge trimmers, power trimmers, or pumps
- Excellent recordkeeping and organizational skills
- Ability to work as part of a team, and to follow instructions with attention to detail
- Ability to work independently and to solve problems with limited resources
- Willingness to work in inclement weather and on rough terrain

#### **Desired Skills and Experience**

- Field experience in land management or ecology
- Horticultural experience, including plant propagation and care
- Chainsaw training and certification
- Ability to easily identify common Western New York plants and animals
- Experience with vegetation and wildlife survey methodology, or with other types of field data collection
- Basic carpentry skills

This position is physically demanding. Candidates should be able to work outdoors in all weather conditions, lift heavy items up to 40lbs, and handle living specimens. Most work days involve walking, standing, stooping, or bending over for extended periods of time.

The information provided in this description has been designed to indicate the general nature and level of work performed by incumbents in this position. This job description is not intended to be interpreted as a comprehensive inventory of all duties, responsibilities, qualifications, and work conditions of employees assigned to this job. Management has sole discretion to add or modify the duties of this position and designate other functions as essential at any point in time.

**To apply, please send cover letter and resume to [careers@sciencebuff.org](mailto:careers@sciencebuff.org), with subject line "Stewardship Technician." Deadline to apply is Friday, May 3rd.**