



SEASONAL GARDENER

SUMMARY:

The Parklands of Floyds Fork is seeking energetic, skilled, and hard-working professionals with gardening skills to join our operations team. Our ideal candidate will work within the Gardening team with oversight by the Head Gardener and the Horticulture & Natural Areas Director to ensure quality plant and horticultural landscapes for visitors within our park system.

The garden experience has become an important attraction for our visitors, and we have a great desire to elevate the beauty and landscape interpretation through plants and gardens in subtle and core areas. The use of naturalistic and formal ornamental styles with a focus on Kentucky native and cultural heritage plants that enhance the learning themes for our visitors and educational programs in plant-life, ecology and pollination. These gardens continue to evolve to further improve the beauty and appeal to the public.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

PRINCIPAL FUNCTION:

- To support the mission and vision of The Parklands through horticultural design and management practices to provide a safe, clean, fun and beautiful landscape experience for visitors.

HORTICULTURE:

- Follow direction from full-time staff on priorities to accomplish the design intent for garden areas to meet the awe-inspiring beauty and public educational goals through plant selection and organization
- Follow direction from full-time staff on general horticulture practices such as weeding, mulching, grooming & shaping, pruning, string trimming/brush cutting, watering/irrigation, and planting/transplanting
- Use IPM strategies to combat plant health issues while maintaining ecological and public safety
- Seed collecting for propagation opportunities for use in gardens
- Assist in the organization and oversight of volunteer gardening activities
- Assist in maintaining clean and organized work areas to ensure safety and proficiency in the work place

GUEST SERVICES & OPERATIONS:

- Answer visitor questions and respond to issues
- Assist with general park cleanliness and safety reporting
- Provide assistance to natural areas tasks; duties include invasive plant removal, tree plantings, and large scale natural areas conservation projects
- Aid in maintaining general park cleanliness, support events, minor turf management, storm clean up, and minor maintenance repairs

The above job duties and responsibilities describe the general nature and level of work for employees in this position, but this is not intended as an exclusive or all-inclusive inventory of all duties required of employees in this job.

EXPERIENCE, EDUCATION & QUALIFICATIONS:

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

An individual must be able to perform each essential duty listed above and any additional responsibilities as directed as well as satisfy the educational and skill requirements listed below.

EDUCATION & EXPERIENCE:

- Training, schooling, or practical experience maintaining gardens or relevant experience that provides required knowledge and abilities
- Valid Driver License

- Possess or have the ability to gain a KY Pesticide License within 3 months after hire.

SKILLS & ABILITIES:

- Take direction from staff and complete timely work projects independently and with colleagues to achieve work plan priorities as assigned
- Ability to learn horticultural maintenance practices and procedures involving proper tools and equipment
- Ability to learn to identify plants, especially weeds from garden plants
- Ability to learn IPM program and ecological/organic landscaping practices
- Must be able to lift 35 pounds and physically walk, stand, bend, and squat for prolonged periods in all-weather outdoor conditions
- Able to learn and physically able to operate a variety of power-driven maintenance equipment such as UTV, tractor, and lawnmower
- Clear written and spoken communication skills
- Proficiency with email and basic computer programs
- Establish and maintain effective working relationships with employees, volunteers, contractors and the public
- Utilize safe and efficient work practices, especially in high public use areas

It is critical this position applies their education and experience in aesthetics, plant-based learning, and conservation ecology. This position handles both routine and unusual problems related to Parklands landscape and general maintenance activities. The successful candidate will have capable outdoor experience in a professional setting and enthusiasm for gardening.

WORK SCHEDULE & BENEFITS

TYPICAL SCHEDULE:

This is a seasonal (approximately 8 months) full-time, non-exempt position working a standard regular 40-hour week. Typical work week is Monday through Friday, starting early mornings into the afternoon. Some weekends are required.

WORK MANAGEMENT:

The Seasonal Gardener will work both as part of a group and individually, and may have some responsibility for specific coverage of detailed garden zones. They are expected to provide on-site work direction to volunteers, while working along with Gardeners who are managed daily by the Head Gardener with oversight from the Horticulture and Natural Areas Director.

BENEFITS:

No benefits are available for this position except participation in the 21st Century Parks, Inc. 401(k) Plan.

APPLY:

To apply, send your resume, cover letter, and two references to “Seasonal Gardener Search”, The Parklands of Floyds Fork, 471 West Main Street, Suite 202, Louisville, KY 40202, or e-mail to careers@21cparks.org. Applications will be accepted until positions are filled. Please, no phone calls. Any recommended applicants for hire must appropriately pass a background check.

ABOUT THE PARKLANDS:

The Parklands of Floyds Fork is a systemic, world-class addition to Louisville’s park system that includes four major parks linked by a park drive, a first-rate urban trail system, and a remarkable water trail, all tracing Floyds Fork, a classic Kentucky stream. Ongoing maintenance and operations are funded solely through private donations and an endowment fund. This public/private project is a unique and truly city-shaping model. This is the largest fully funded non-profit park system in the nation. Learn more at www.theparklands.org.