



Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM LEAD

DEFINITION

Under general direction, oversees and administers the District's resource management volunteer program including leading, training, and recognizing/rewarding volunteers; overseeing and managing resource preservation and protection projects in assigned program; assisting with setting priorities and directing the work of assigned volunteers on a project or day-to-day basis; developing and implementing methods to sustain resource management volunteer participation; maintaining resource management volunteer records; and performs related work as required.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED AND EXERCISED

Receives direct or general supervision from the Volunteer Programs Manager. Exercises no direct supervision over staff. Exercises technical and functional direction over resource management volunteers in assigned program.

CLASS CHARACTERISTICS

This is a single-position classification that oversees and administers the District's resource management volunteer program. Responsibilities include working with maintenance, resource and volunteer management staff to identify opportunities for resource management volunteer projects; coordinating natural resource management projects and field assessment of the status of natural resources in assigned program area; recruiting, training and leading resource management volunteers, ensuring volunteers comply with all applicable District policies and procedures, and maintaining records and reporting statistics related to the resource management volunteer program, including tracking volunteer hours. The incumbent also assists in promoting the District's resource management volunteer program through participation in District outreach events and activities and performs other duties as required. This class is distinguished from the Volunteer Program Manager in that the latter is a higher level classification responsible for developing, implementing, and overseeing all of the District's volunteer programs.

EXAMPLES OF ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS *(Illustrative Only)*

Management reserves the right to add, modify, change, or rescind the work assignments of different positions and to make reasonable accommodations so that qualified employees can perform the essential functions of the job.

- Assists in planning, directing, overseeing, and coordinating the District's resource management volunteer program, including preparing and administering program budget, developing policies and procedures for assigned program, recruiting, training and leading volunteers, and preparing public outreach and information relating to District resource management volunteer program.
- Coordinates projects and resource management volunteer program involved in the management, enhancement and protection of the District's natural and cultural resources by assessing their status through field observation and research.
- Oversees resource management volunteers on assigned projects; inspects work to ensure quality control, proper use of equipment, and safety of participants; provides feedback, recognition, and additional training and direction as needed on performance of assigned groups.

- Monitors program performance; recommends and implements modifications to systems and procedures.
- Gathers scientific information regarding site conditions; surveys field sites for flora, fauna, and other natural conditions.
- Assists in planning, scheduling, prioritizing, and assigning resource management work for resource management volunteers; communicates status of resource management volunteer projects to appropriate personnel, working cooperatively to schedule projects in accordance with established and special operational priorities.
- Performs resource management tasks, including identifying, removing, and spraying non-native invasive plants, installing and maintaining plants and erosion control, identifying habitat concerns; provides information to resource management staff as needed.
- Inspects and evaluates work in progress and upon completion to assure that projects are performed in accordance with District standards and specifications.
- Reviews and guides resource management volunteer projects in assigned program to ensure they are consistent with the District's mission, policies, priorities, budget, and regulatory requirement and can be effectively and safely implemented.
- Trains assigned resource management volunteers in work methods, use of tools and equipment, and relevant safety precautions.
- Observes safe work methods and makes appropriate use of related safety equipment as required.
- Collects data using Global Positioning System (GPS) equipment and software; imports GPS data into existing database using GIS and GPS software.
- Maintains accurate logs, reports, and records of work performed and materials and equipment used.
- Communicate District goals, objectives, policies and procedures; respond to questions, complaints, referrals, and concerns from the public.
- Provides assistance in presenting program information at District sponsored events and outdoor service projects.
- Attends meetings, conferences, workshops, and training sessions; attends and participates in professional group meetings; stays abreast of new trends and innovations in the field of natural resource management other types of public services as they relate to the area of assignment.
- Performs other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

- Principles and practices of volunteer supervision, including work planning, assignment, and the training of volunteers in work procedures.
- Principles, practices, and methods of administering and coordinating a volunteer program within the scope of responsibility.
- Principles and practices of resource management, including site planning, resource protection, weed management and habitat restoration.
- Procedures used in conducting, documenting, and mapping field observations and monitoring programs.
- Local flora, fauna, cultural, and geological resources and methods and techniques of wild land resource protection and restoration and District lands and boundaries.
- Maintenance principles, practices, tools, and equipment for maintaining and repairing open spaces, parks, and related facilities.
- Techniques for dealing with a variety of individuals from various socio-economic, cultural, and ethnic backgrounds.
- Applicable Federal, State, and local laws, regulatory codes, ordinances, and procedures relevant to assigned area of responsibility.
- Modern office practices, methods, computer equipment, and basic computer applications.

- Principles and procedures of record keeping and reporting.
- Safe driving rules and practices.
- English usage, spelling, vocabulary, grammar, and punctuation.
- Techniques for providing a high level of customer service to the public, volunteers, vendors, contractors and District staff, in person and over the telephone.

Ability to:

- Plan, schedule, assign, oversee, and participate in activities of resource management volunteer personnel.
- Inspect the field work of resource management volunteers and maintain established quality control standards.
- Train volunteers in proper and safe work procedures.
- Identify and implement effective course of action to complete assigned work.
- Implement resource management techniques in the field, including: herbicide application, mechanical and manual weed removal, planting and seeding, and installation of erosion control materials.
- Establish and maintain relationships with diverse groups of volunteers and community groups.
- Interpret resource management programs to the general public; identify and respond to issues and concerns of the public, other District staff, and other boards and commissions.
- Assess status of natural resources through field observations, including GIS, GPS and other mapping techniques.
- Monitor changes in natural resource conditions and assist in determining causes.
- Interpret and apply the policies, procedures, laws, codes, and regulations pertaining to assigned programs and functions.
- Safely and effectively use and operate hand tools, mechanical equipment, power tools, and light equipment required for the work; perform routine equipment maintenance.
- Safely operate a vehicle on unpaved roads in District preserves.
- Learn local flora, fauna, cultural, and geological resources and methods and techniques of wild land resource protection and restoration.
- Learn District land and boundaries.
- Maintain accurate logs, records, and basic written reports of work performed.
- Coordinate a variety of projects simultaneously within assigned program.
- Prepare written reports and correspondence.
- Give, as well as, understand and follow oral and written instructions.
- Make accurate arithmetic calculations.
- Operate modern office equipment including computer equipment and software.
- Organize own work, set priorities, and meet critical time deadlines.
- Use English effectively to communicate in person, over the telephone or radio, and in writing.
- Use tact, initiative, prudence, and independent judgment within general policy, procedural, and legal guidelines.
- Establish, maintain, and foster positive and effective working relationships with those contacted in the course of work.

Education and Experience:

Any combination of training and experience that would provide the required knowledge, skills, and abilities is qualifying. A typical way to obtain the required qualifications would be:

Equivalent to an Associate's degree from an accredited college or university with major coursework in natural resource management, biology, ecology, natural lands management, or a related field combined with two (2) years of relevant experience working with the public and coordinating volunteer activities and one (1) year of experience in evaluating, surveying, or monitoring of natural resource systems (could be acquired simultaneously).

Licenses and Certifications:

- Possession of a valid California Driver's License.
- Possession of, or ability to obtain, Basic First Aid and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification within six (6) months of employment.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS

Must possess mobility to work in the field; strength, stamina, and mobility to perform medium to heavy physical work, to work in confined spaces and around machines, to climb and descend ladders, to operate varied hand and power tools and construction equipment, and to operate a motor vehicle and visit various District sites; vision to read printed materials and a computer screen; and hearing and speech to communicate in person and over the telephone or radio. The job involves fieldwork requiring frequent walking in operational areas to identify problems or hazards. Finger dexterity is needed to access, enter, and retrieve data using a computer keyboard or calculator and to operate above-mentioned tools and equipment. Positions in this classification bend, stoop, kneel, reach, and climb to perform work and inspect work sites. Employees must possess the ability to lift and carry materials and objects weighing up to 60 pounds and must possess the ability to push and pull objects weighing up to 100 pounds, with the use of proper equipment.

ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

Employees work both in an office environment with moderate noise levels, controlled temperature conditions, and in the field where they may be exposed to loud noise levels, cold and hot temperatures, inclement weather conditions, road hazards, vibration, confining workspace, chemicals, mechanical and/or electrical hazards, hazardous physical substances and fumes, and poison oak. May involve exposure to wild, and/or dangerous animals. Employees may interact with upset staff and/or public and private representatives and contractors in interpreting and enforcing departmental policies and procedures.

WORKING CONDITIONS

May be required to work evenings, weekends, and holidays. Must adhere to strict safety procedures and work habits. Depending on the exposure, employee is required to wear head, hearing, eye, foot, face, hand, and full protection equipment.

EFFECTIVE: February 2011
REVISED: N/A
FLSA: Non-Exempt