

Code: 3274

Title: NATURAL RESOURCE SPECIALIST

SUMMARY: Natural Resource Specialists (NRSs) perform a dual role of natural resources park management and the interpretation and preservation of natural and cultural resources in County parks. NRSs also patrol County parks to monitor compliance with rules and regulations to protect park visitors, property, and natural/cultural resources. NRSs also educate the public on the preservation of physical, natural, environmental and cultural features of County parks and open space lands.

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES: (Work assignments may vary depending on the department's needs and will be communicated to the applicant or incumbent by the supervisor.)

Resource Interpretation & Management Duties:

Answers questions from the public and interprets physical, natural and cultural resource features found in the County's parks, recreational areas and open space lands;
Monitors environmental factors affecting plants, animals, physical and cultural features in assigned areas and actively participates in their preservation;
Assists management in the development of resource management plans;
Conducts field research to locate, identify and preserve plants, animals, physical features and cultural artifacts requiring additional preservation or interpretation for inclusion in County parks programs;
Assists staff in the preparation of exhibits and publications concerning park resources and programs;
Leads other NRS and volunteers in park/program support activities;
Patrols assigned parks and areas on foot, in motor vehicles, on bicycles and all-terrain vehicles and on horseback to monitor property and natural/cultural resources;
Investigates complaints from the public using County parks and takes appropriate action;
Issues notices to violators of park rules and regulations;
Inspects park structures, features and equipment, investigates and documents suspicious conditions and reports instances requiring further investigation.

General Duties:

Monitors assigned parks and facilities for compliance with safety and sanitation requirements;
Maintains manual and computer-based records and submits routine, recurring and special reports to management;
Operates and performs operator-level maintenance and servicing of automotive and mechanical equipment, to include all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), bicycles, motor vehicles, trucks, generators, radios, etc.;
Performs rider-level care for horses and other animals used in the performance of assigned duties;
Coordinates repairs and maintenance of park facilities, roads, grounds and utility systems with County park maintenance work units;
Assists in the training of new and volunteer staff in resource preservation, interpretation and application of park rules and regulations;
Collects and accounts for fees and charges for use of park resources.

KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS:

Knowledge of:

- procedures and techniques used in park resources interpretation and preservation;
- management of natural resources, ecology and identification of plants and animals;
- cultural, biological and environmental resources common to the American Southwest;
- principles and techniques of public relations;
- principles and techniques of wildlife management;
- relevant Federal, State, local and park laws, rules, regulations;
- County policies and procedures for the calculation, collection and accounting for park use fees;
- techniques for creation and maintenance of activity records, and creation of routine, recurring and special management reports, using both manual and computer-based systems.

Skill in:

- interpreting natural, cultural and physical features of assigned park resources for the public;
- assessing environmental factors affecting plants, animals, physical and cultural features in assigned areas, assisting in development of management plans, and implementing preservation and mitigation plans;
- conducting field research to locate, identify and preserve park resources;
- monitoring park safety and sanitation requirements and issuing violation notices to park visitors for violations of rules and regulations;
- investigating and documenting suspicious conditions/situations in assigned parks and reporting findings to management for action;
- investigating park user complaints and taking appropriate corrective actions;
- dealing tactfully, firmly, courteously and impartially with park users;
- providing essential first aid to park visitors and staff;
- developing and delivering public education programs and materials to enhance park users experiences in assigned areas;
- leading and training staff and volunteers in implementing interpretation, preservation and mitigation plans;
- documenting and reporting preservation and mitigation plans; activities;
- communicating effectively, both orally and in writing;
- performing minor repairs to facilities and supporting systems, and coordinating more complex repairs/maintenance with departmental maintenance staff;
- performing operator-level maintenance and servicing of assigned vehicles, equipment, etc.;
- performing rider-care of animals used in performance of assigned duties.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: EITHER:

(1) An Associates or higher degree from an accredited college or university with a major in parks or recreation management, natural resources management, environmental education or wildlife management and at least six months of experience in parks or natural resource management, environmental education, wildlife management or open-lands management.

OR:

(2) Two years of full-/part-time experience in parks or natural resource management, environmental education, wildlife management or open-lands management. [Service as a Park Ranger, Park Police officer, Parks Interpretation Specialist or Docent in a parks or natural resource management environment is qualifying experience.]

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

Licenses and Certificates: All positions require a current Arizona Class D Driver's License at the time of appointment. All positions require maintenance of current certification in First Aid and CardioPulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) equivalent to the certifications issued by the American Red Cross. Failure to obtain/maintain current licenses and certifications is a condition of employment and failure to maintain them may be grounds for termination.

Special Notice Items: All positions have the potential for exposure to dangerous, poisonous or harmful wildlife and plant materials. Some positions may require bilingual abilities in English and another language, as determined by the Appointing Authority.

Physical/Sensory Requirements: All positions require the ability to react to emergency situations quickly and effectively, to traverse rough terrain on foot, in vehicles and on animals; communicate effectively by telephone and radio; perform duties in isolated or harsh conditions, e.g., extremes of heat, sun exposure, humidity, cold, inclement weather, at all hours;

This class specification is intended to indicate the basic nature of positions allocated to the class and examples of typical duties that may be assigned. It does not imply that all positions within the class perform all of the duties listed, nor does it necessarily list all possible duties that may be assigned.

