



JOB POSTING

Position Title: Ecological Restoration Assistant
Department/Division: Tifft Nature Preserve

Reports To: Director of Preserve Operations
Status: Full-time/temporary/non-exempt

Overview:

The Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences, which comprises the Buffalo Museum of Science and Tifft Nature Preserve, is a highly valued and historic organization in the Buffalo community dedicated to inspiring joyful exploration of science and nature through engaging experiences, unique resources, and exceptional staff. We believe that science creates opportunities and shapes our world. We take pride in providing an environment that inspires curiosity, self-directed learning, and fun for our guests of all ages.

Summary of Position:

Tifft Nature Preserve includes 264 acres adjacent to Buffalo's Outer Harbor. Protected as a natural area in the mid 1970s, the land was previously used as a dumping site and a transshipment facility between lake freighters and railroad. Nature has long since reclaimed the landscape and a 75-acre remnant of a once sprawling coastal wetland remains tucked away on the eastern half of the Preserve.

Since 1982 BSNS has operated Tifft Nature Preserve, providing environmental education, maintaining trails, and making habitat improvements. In recent years, BSNS has begun systematically removing invasive species and reintroducing native plant communities. The Ecological Restoration Assistant will assist staff and work with volunteers to implement a grant-funded ecological renovation of Tifft's East Canal. This multi-faceted position requires a passionate and motivated individual who has an interest in ecology and values the living environment. The successful candidate will take joy in performing physical labor outdoors on varied terrain in all weather conditions.

This staff position reports to the Director of Preserve Operations and will work closely with the Ecological Restoration Technician, long-term volunteers, and large volunteer groups. The individual in this role needs to be detail-oriented and must be able to work both independently and closely with other team members.

This position is seasonal with a start date of 5/28/2025 and end date of 8/19/2025.

Essential Responsibilities:

- Performs manual labor to assist with ecological renovation as designed, including planting trees, shrubs and aquatic vegetation; removing invasive species; and installing fencing and coir logs.

- Assists with maintenance of previous ecological improvement projects, including follow-up removal of invasive species at these sites and the care and protection of planted trees and shrubs.
- Assists with ecological monitoring and other ecological/wildlife management efforts as time allows.
- Assists with recordkeeping using ArcGIS and Microsoft applications.
- Uses or operates a variety of tools and equipment including (but not limited to) hand tools, cordless drills and saws, mowers, UTVs, pick-up trucks, and trailers.
- Works with other staff to keep equipment and supply storage areas clean and organized.
- Identifies plants as a regular part of decision-making for many aspects of the ecological renovation project including invasive plant control, protection of native species, and native seed collection.
- Uses herbicide and a variety of application equipment to control invasive plants.
- Works closely and professionally with a wide variety of people, including corporate volunteer groups, long-term individual volunteers, college interns, BSNS Programs & Experience staff, and BSNS Buildings & Grounds staff.
- Follows detailed directions to complete work with minimal supervision. Works closely with others as required.
- Interacts professionally with and serves as an informational resource to Preserve visitors.
- Additional duties as assigned

Education, Experience, Skills, and Qualities Required:

- In pursuit of a degree in biology, environmental science, or similar field. Equivalent experience may be considered in place of a degree.
- One season of experience in field biology or landscaping.
- General knowledge or strong interest of WNY wildlife and ecology preferred.
- Ability to identify plants commonly found in WNY, especially exotic invasive plants.
- Willingness to apply herbicides as an Apprentice under a NYS Licensed Commercial Pesticide Applicator
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills.
- Strong teamwork and collaboration skills.
- Familiarity with gasoline-powered landscaping or land management equipment
- Basic carpentry experience, including the use of cordless drills and saws.
- Familiarity with outdoor hand tools, including shovels, post hole diggers, landscaping rakes, and loppers.
- Maintain a professional and positive disposition with staff, volunteers, and guests.
- A valid NYS Driver's License is required.
- Desire to work in a fast-paced setting and produce experiences and products of the highest quality, as well as to sincerely enjoy work and colleagues

Physical Demands:

- Use of non-motorized watercraft to access work sites.
- Walking long distances and standing on uneven terrain often.
- Wading in water up to chest height often.
- Working outdoors in all weather conditions.
- Exposure to stinging insects, stinging/thorny plants, and ticks.

- Physical dexterity is required to access remote spaces as well as the ability to lift and move items of various weights and sizes.
- Lifting 25-50lbs frequently, 51-100lbs occasionally.

To Apply:

The hourly rate for this position is \$19.00 per hour. Interested candidates should send cover letter and resume to careers@sciencebuff.org.

Equal Opportunity Employer:

The Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences is an equal opportunity employer, and strongly encourages expressions of interest from people of color, individuals living with disabilities, women, and the LGBTQ+ community. All qualified applicants will be afforded equal employment opportunities without discrimination because of race, color, creed, religion, sex, age, national origin, citizenship, sexual orientation, marital status, or any other classification protected by federal, state, or local law.