

**Montgomery County Parks Department**

9500 Brunett Avenue Silver Spring, MD 20901  
Phone (301) 495-2504

**VOLUNTEER JOB DESCRIPTION**

**JOB TITLE:** Natural Resource Technician  
**LOCATION:** Park Planning and Stewardship, Resource Analysis Section, MRO Annex  
1109 Spring Street, Suite 800  
Silver Spring MD 20910  
Various field sites as required

**TIME:** Schedule worked out with supervisor

**JOB DESCRIPTION:**

The Resource Analysis Section staff plans and coordinates inter-agency and volunteer efforts for the inventory and monitoring of aquatic macro-invertebrates, fish and aquatic habitats in County Park streams, ponds and lakes in support of the Countywide Stream Protection Strategy, Watershed Restorations Plans, Area and Park Master Plans, Operation & Use Plans and special projects. Staff coordinates with Federal, State and local agencies on intra-agency watershed restoration efforts affecting County parkland, as well as the retrofit and maintenance of stormwater facilities on parkland.

The Resource Analysis Section also provides GIS capability to create, store, retrieve and analyze, accurate, up-to-date GIS data on natural and cultural resources in parks. Sensitive areas are mapped for all park projects during the earliest stages of the planning and development process. GIS mapping efforts facilitate maintenance, management and public safety efforts performed by staff in various Divisions in Montgomery County Parks. The GIS-based work effort also contributes important data to assess agricultural lease agreements and limits of these lease boundaries.

Volunteers will usually work directly with a Resource Analysis staff member, but may be asked to complete some assignments independently. Project assignments are dependent on the current needs of the Section and the education, experience, and interests of the candidate. In addition to general office work, possible projects include collecting and identifying fish in the field; installing, downloading, and retrieving temperature sensors; performing habitat evaluations; and measuring water quality parameters (dissolved oxygen, pH, conductivity) in the field.

**DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

1. Collecting and recording data in the field, either under direct supervision or independently.
2. Tabulating, graphing, and analyzing data.
3. Drafting figures, tables, and/or narrative sections of reports.

**QUALIFICATIONS:**

1. Background in some aspect of ecology, water quality monitoring or natural resource management.
2. Ability to follow directions, pay attention to details, and work within deadlines.

**REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Minimum age: 16 years
2. Demonstrate the ability to perform tasks necessary for project completion.

3. Demonstrate the ability to work independently, as well as to work cooperatively with other volunteers and staff personnel.
4. Be willing to commit to a pre-arranged schedule.
5. Be able to work under somewhat arduous field conditions (walk significant distances, carry equipment, work in fast-flowing water).
6. May drive Commission vehicle upon successful completion of Defensive Driving training.

**TRAINING:**

Orientation to the Department of Parks and the Park Planning and Stewardship Division will be provided by staff. Specific project requirements will be discussed with supervisory staff members. Field equipment and techniques will be demonstrated by the project supervisor.

**COMMENTS:**

Volunteers working within this program allow PPSD to accomplish tasks that would otherwise not be accomplished or accomplished in less detail. While providing the Department of Parks with additional resources, volunteers gain practical experience working with professional ecologists and resource managers.