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## **Job Announcement: Park Naturalist**

The Tulpehaking Nature Center, a growing nature center focused on interpretation of the Abbott Marshlands' history, culture and ecology, seeks an experienced and passionate environmental educator to create engaging programming and to facilitate visitor interaction and appreciation for the Abbott Marshlands. The nature center is owned by the County of Mercer and operated by the Mercer County Park Commission. The Park Naturalist position will be a full-time Mercer County Park Commission employee.

The nature center is the main educational facility for the Abbott Marshlands, a naturally and historically important area south of Trenton containing 3,000 acres of forest and tidal freshwater wetlands, 19 miles of hiking and kayaking trails, and one of the most significant American Indian archaeological sites in the Eastern United States.

### **General Statement of Work:**

Under the direction of the Nature Center Manager, the Park Naturalist will be responsible for the facilitation of programming, including, but not limited to curriculum development, scheduling, teaching and organizing per diem/seasonal staff coverage. S/He will be a year-round educator leading school field trips, scout badge programs, public programs and afterschool programs, both on and off site. Other duties include developing and maintaining nature center exhibits, program marketing, volunteer supervision and program evaluation. This position will also assist the Nature Center Manager as needed, including but not limited to: supervising interns, staffing information tables at fairs/festivals, coordinating volunteer events, and trail monitoring. Saturday or Sunday and evening availability required.

### **Responsibilities:**

- Create and lead nature center programs for a variety of audiences, including: families, elementary and middle school-aged children.
- Support and guide seasonal staff in leading a variety of school programs.
- Assist with other park-wide nature programs and events.
- Serve as the first point of contact for visitors, monitoring the front desk as needed, answering questions and communicating with the public about upcoming programs.
- Provide care and maintenance of teaching animals.
- Train and supervise volunteer teachers and nature center volunteers.
- Lead nature programs at other Park Commission facilities, as needed.
- Assist in development of interpretive materials; including signage, pamphlets, and social media updates.
- Assist with occasional trail work/maintenance or native garden maintenance.
- Assist the Nature Center Manager on other tasks as needed.

### **Qualifications:**

- Minimum Bachelor's degree in environmental education, science education, natural resources, or related subject.



Aaron T. Watson  
Executive Director

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Brian M. Hughes  
County Executive

- 3 + years of experience in formal or informal teaching.
- Knowledge of regional ecology and skills to identify flora and fauna.
- Working knowledge of education practices and skills for outdoor classrooms.
- Familiarity with Native American and early American history is a plus.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills, proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Publisher.
- Strong interpersonal skills, organization, attention to detail and ability to prioritize.
- Physical capacity to complete work related tasks in the field in many weather conditions.
- Available Saturdays or Sundays, and occasional evenings.
- Enthusiastic about nature, the environment, and/or history, and interest in sharing that with others.
- Must be people oriented, have a positive attitude, and the ability to professionally represent the Nature Center and Park Commission to the public.
- Comfort working independently as a leader and as part of a team; must be self-motivated.
- Ability to work in a dynamic fast-paced environment and juggle multiple, changing priorities; strong time and project management skills needed.

**To apply:** Please send cover letter and resume to Kelly Rypkema, Nature Center Manager, Mercer County Park Commission, 157 Westcott Avenue, Hamilton, NJ 08610 or via email to [krypkema@mercercounty.org](mailto:krypkema@mercercounty.org). *Applicants must be a resident of Mercer County. Application deadline June 30, 2019. Qualified candidates will be interviewed as applications are received.*

*Mercer County is an EOE/AA/ADA Employer.*



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