



Ottawa Conservation District Position Announcement

The Ottawa Conservation District is seeking three Ecological Technicians. This position will carry out work for the West Michigan Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (WMCISMA) funded by the Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program.

Date: February 18, 2020

Title: Ecological Technician

Number of Positions: 3

Location: Based in Grand Haven out of the Ottawa Conservation District office. Assignments performed throughout the WMCISMA counties, including Allegan, Kent, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, and Ottawa.

Position Details: This is a grant funded, limited term, and non-benefitted position. Anticipated time commitment is 40 hours per week, but hours can vary due to workload and weather conditions.

Start Date: May 2020

End Date: October 2020

Compensation: \$12/hour

Closing Date: March 8, 2020

Position Description:

The WMCISMA is hiring three Ecological Technicians to work out of the Ottawa Conservation District. The successful candidates will work under the direction of the West Michigan Cisma Coordinator to conduct field-based surveys, mapping, and treatment of invasive plant species throughout West Michigan counties. The position will be based out of the Ottawa Conservation District office, but daily travel to site locations will be required.

Ecological Technicians will conduct field based surveys and mapping of aquatic and terrestrial invasive plant species across West Michigan on both public and private land. Individuals will primarily work in teams of two to survey reported infestations, communicate with landowners to discuss projects and secure permissions, and regularly partake in manual plant removal and herbicide applications. Data will be collected using handheld GPS units and information will be recorded on data sheets. The Ecological Technicians will frequently use online and printed parcel and aerial maps. Plant identification training will be provided, but prior experience is useful. Individuals will be required to obtain a Michigan Commercial Pesticide Applicator Certification in Categories 2, 3B, 5, and 6 upon hire.

We are seeking self-directed, responsible, and highly motivated individuals who have the ability to work independently with minimal supervision. Individuals with the ability to communicate effectively with co-workers and the public in a professional manner, strong organizational and computer skills, and a background or interest in natural resources management or a related field are preferred.

While working in the field, Ecological Technicians will be working in inclement weather such as rain and extreme heat while doing physical work such as hiking for extended periods on uneven terrain while carrying a 40 pound backpack sprayer or kayaking turbulent waters. This position also requires the employee to have sufficient strength to lift supplies weighing up to 50 pounds with little to no

mechanical or other assistance. Regular use of herbicides is to be expected.

Desired Qualifications:

- Minimum of high school diploma or GED certificate
- Possession of Michigan Commercial Pesticide Applicator Certification is preferred
- If not already certified, candidates will be required to obtain Michigan Commercial Pesticide Applicator Certification in Categories 2, 3B, 5, and 6 upon hire
- Ability to recognize and properly identify aquatic and terrestrial native and invasive plants
- Knowledge of invasive plant species control techniques
- Experience in various invasive species control methods, especially herbicide use
- Proficient in Microsoft Office suite (Word, PowerPoint, Publisher, Excel)
- Experience with data entry and management
- Must have valid driver's license
- Must be detail oriented
- Be able to collaborate well with others
- Experience working in various field conditions

To Apply:

Send cover letter, resume, and references as a single PDF to drew.rayner@macd.org with "Ecological Technician" in the subject line. Application deadline: March 8th at 5:00 PM EST.

If you have any questions, please call Drew Rayner at (616) 402-9608.