



## **NATURAL AREAS CONSERVANCY PAERDEGAT ECOLOGY PARK STEWARD/ JUNIOR DOCENT (PART-TIME)**

### **ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW**

The Natural Areas Conservancy (NAC) is a non-profit organization that was founded in 2012 to advance the restoration and conservation of natural areas for a resilient and healthy New York City. Working in partnership with the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation (NYC Parks), we seek to ensure the high-quality management of NYC's 20,000 acres of forests and wetlands. Driving the NAC's work is the recognition that natural areas are increasingly vital to sustaining air quality, improving public health, providing New Yorkers with access to nature, and strengthening our communities. Our work includes conducting scientific research, restoring natural habitats, developing tools to inform data-driven management, and increasing awareness and opportunities for the public to experience NYC's abundant nature. More information about our work is at:

[naturalareasnyc.org](http://naturalareasnyc.org).

### **POSITION**

The part-time docent will work with NAC and NYC Parks staff to encourage use of the Ecology Park at Paerdegat Basin Preserve through public outreach, public events, and ecological stewardship of the park. Ecology Park is a 5-acre, enclosed subset of Paerdegat Basin Preserve, located on Jamaica Bay in Brooklyn, NY. The park includes a pedestrian walkway, viewing platforms and has been planted diversely to highlight the variety of plant communities that can be found around Jamaica Bay. The park has until now been closed to the public to allow these plantings to become established. A major component of this position will be hosting open hours, providing tours and engaging with local constituents to encourage use. This is a 3-month, part-time role, reporting to the Ecology Park Docent at Ecology Park (or remotely when needed during COVID).

### **MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Encourage use of the Park by hosting open hours for the public.
- Plan, schedule, and lead tours of the park to the public on a weekly basis. Tours will include information about the history of the park, the plant communities, NYC Parks, and the NAC. Background materials for these tours will be provided.
- Work with staff to execute a public outreach plan to raise awareness of the park with local residents.
- Plan, manage, and supervise hands-on volunteer events including invasive species management, debris removal and native plantings.
- Improve the Park through ongoing maintenance of the site. This work may include trash and debris removal, cleaning of benches and walkways as needed.
- With guidance, manage invasive species within the site. This work will include hand-pulling and cutting of invasive species throughout the plant communities.
- Maintain records and prepare written reports, including the regular entry of fieldwork into online database and tracking forms.
- Support additional natural areas service opportunities in the area as needed.

### **PREFERRED SKILLS/QUALIFICATIONS**

- Bachelors' degree is preferred but not required, preferably in environmental science or biology
- Public engagement and volunteer outreach experience



- Plant identification knowledge
- Experience working with and motivating volunteers
- Demonstrated ability to manage multiple projects and liaise with a wide range of stakeholders
- Ability to maintain a flexible schedule by working weekends and occasional evenings
- A motor vehicle driver's license valid in the State of New York

#### **JOB LOCATION**

Primary reporting location will be Brooklyn and Queens.

#### **DURATION & COMPENSATION**

Three months, part-time position (21 hours/week at a rate of \$17/hour)

August 31, 2020 – November 30, 2019

This position is not eligible for benefits.

To apply, please submit a cover letter and resume to: [jobs@naturalareasnyc.org](mailto:jobs@naturalareasnyc.org) and note the job title in the subject line.