



NOWCorps Natural Resources Technician

Contact for interested Members: Claire Ilersich, NOWCorps Member Coordinator at claire@tinkerscreek.org or 330-963-6863 x5104. Applications preferred by August 1, 2024, but position is open until filled.

About Us:

Northern Ohio Watershed Corps (NOWCorps) is a State and National AmeriCorps program, funded by AmeriCorps and ServeOhio, Ohio's Commission on Service and Volunteerism. *This is a paid service year position.* The NOWCorps program is sponsored by Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners (TCWP), a non-profit, 501(c)(3) watershed organization, whose mission is to protect and restore water quality and habitats of the Tinker's Creek watershed through community partnerships. NOWCorps partners with watershed groups, soil and water conservation districts, city and county government offices, and other conservation nonprofits who serve as host sites for our members. Through the host site, members facilitate outreach, education, capacity building, environmental stewardship, and stormwater management. NOWCorps position descriptions vary depending on the host site and service year focus and prospective members may apply to multiple NOWCorps positions at the same time.

Together with our partners, **Geauga Park District** recognizes the importance of maintaining water quality throughout Northern Ohio. We also believe in educating the public and regional leaders to support behavioral changes that positively affect our water resources.

Host Site Information:

The Geauga Park District recently celebrated its 60th anniversary. We proudly serve the citizens of Geauga County with over 10500 acres of protected land, with ample opportunities to explore unique ecosystems, hike over 85 miles of trails, camp, boat and discover nature.

Basic Position Information:

Location: *Geauga Park District, Meyer Center, 9160 Robinson Rd. Chardon, OH 44024 and 14085 Ravenna Rd. Newbury, OH 44065*

Reports to: *Paul Pira - Biologist, Matt Kneitel - Land Steward, Alex Haehn – Land Steward*

Member position begins October 8, 2024 and ends September 30, 2025. Mandatory orientation is scheduled October 8-11, 18, 2024, which will occur in person in Twinsburg, Ohio. This position is a **Full-time member** position and requires a minimum of 1700 hours of service over the service period. The member will receive a stipend of no more than \$22,000, and the stipend will be paid bimonthly.

The usual hours of service will be Monday-Friday, during the hours of 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. The ability to serve flexible hours, including weekend days and some evenings, is needed. Scheduled

hours may fluctuate, increase, or decrease in consideration of seasonal changes such as inclement weather or other extended activities.

Benefits:

- Paid Orientation and training included
- Programmatic and site-specific training. Content may include but is not limited to: First Aid, CPR, native species identification, hand and power tool training, volunteer engagement, and more
- Federal Loan Deferment
- Full-time members eligible for health insurance
- Full-time members may qualify for childcare assistance
- May be eligible for education award of \$7,395.00
- Additional training reimbursement stipend of \$125/quarter (\$500 total)
- Eligible mileage reimbursement
- Ample opportunity for professional development and networking
- Free attendance to the Ohio Stormwater Conference

The member will not be an employee of Geauga Park District and is not entitled to any of the benefits or compensation Geauga Park District provides to its employees.

AmeriCorps Requirements:

- Must have a GED or high school diploma
- Must be 18 or older by October 8, 2024
- Must successfully pass a National Service Criminal History Check (NSCHC)
- Must be a US citizen, national, or lawful permanent resident.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Possess a valid driver's license, be insured, and have own transportation
- Have an interest or plan to pursue a career in natural resource management, ecology, natural history, biology or other natural sciences.
- Have an interest or knowledge in invasive plant natural history and management
- Be self-motivated and able to work independently and on a team
- Strong communication, organizational, and interpersonal skills
- Demonstrate maturity and cultural competency
- Desire to serve the local community
- Ability to operate Park District equipment, including vehicles, tractors, mowers, watercraft, and chainsaws Proof of certifications are required to operate certain equipment.
- GPS and GIS experience helpful.
- Knowledge or experience with a variety of passive and active survey techniques
- Knowledge of issues affecting water quality in the region

Duties and Responsibilities of the AmeriCorps member:

General Member Responsibilities

- Promote the Northern Ohio Watershed Corps through education and outreach activities
- Enhance skills and knowledge applicable to position through participation in related workshops, conferences, and training
- Plan, facilitate, and participate in group service projects for National Days of Service
- Attend all NOWCorps required meetings and trainings
- Complete activity & data reports monthly, required timesheets weekly, and any other reporting in a timely manner.
- All other duties as assigned within the limitations of this member description

Host Site Responsibilities

- Performs the necessary labor to control and manage non-native/invasive vegetation.
- Assists with the maintenance and creation of habitat to meet fish & wildlife management objectives.
- Assists with flora and fauna inventory and survey work.
- Assists with wetland and stream assessments and survey work.
- Constructs, installs, and maintains wildlife structures.
- Implements erosion control measures.
- Uses hand tools, sprayers, chainsaws, mowers, and other equipment, as required.
- Cleans and conducts routine maintenance of equipment and facilities.
- Removes debris and trash from park properties to restore natural areas
- Monitors and marks park boundaries utilizing GPS & GIS.
- Monitors park properties to ensure environmental integrity and reports environmental impacts.
- Coordinates volunteer efforts on behalf of the department.
- Assists with data collection to facilitate wildlife research and management objectives.
- Assists with public educational programs revolving around conservation, land stewardship, and environmental issues.
- May plant woody and herbaceous plants and seeds and assist with the construction of deer exclosures.
- May assist with landscape projects.
- Assists other Geauga Park District departments with duties and tasks, as assigned.
- Be creative with exploring new survey and research avenues for the given service term
- Be creative with interpreting research and survey results as educational programs or social media outreach

Additional activities that fall within the goals of the program may be assigned with approval of the member, site supervisor, and NOWCorps staff.

Physical Requirements and Work Environment

The physical requirements and work environment described here are representative of those

that must be met by an individual to successfully perform the essential functions of this position. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

This position requires the following:

- Ability to follow written and oral instructions.
- Ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing.
- Ability to use required equipment, vehicles and tools.
- Ability to work effectively and cooperatively with staff, the public and co-workers, with diplomacy and tact.
- Ability to provide accurate and complete reports in a timely manner.
- Ability to solve routine and complex problems.
- Ability to make appropriate decisions and handle stressful situations.
- Ability to gather, sort, collate, analyze data and report findings.

In order to perform required physical duties of retrieving items/equipment/tools stored on shelves; and to carry, move or lift equipment, materials and other work related objects; as well as prepare exhibits and displays: The employee must be able to stand, walk, sit, talk or hear, use hands to finger, handle or feel, climb or balance, stoop, kneel, crouch or crawl and reach with hands and arms; routinely required to lift up to 25 pounds and may occasionally be required to lift up to 50 pounds; and is required to be able to use close vision and adjust visual focus. Physical activities in Natural Resource Management duties require the ability to lift up to 100 pounds, use and operate Park District vehicles and safely operate specialized equipment and tools. This employee normally works in the field as well as an office environment.

POTENTIAL HAZARDS:

The employee may be exposed to chemicals routinely found in office environments, such as copier toner and correction fluid. Will be exposed to herbicide and pesticide chemicals while wearing label-mandated PPE. May be exposed to hazards associated with the operations of power tools and vehicles. May be exposed to adverse weather conditions. May encounter stinging or biting insects while in the field.

Additional information: Geauga Park District is accessible to individuals with disabilities. Geauga Park District, Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners, and the Northern Ohio Watershed Corps will adhere to all regulations concerning nondiscrimination and equal opportunity regulations as outlined in federal and state law. This program will be made available to all without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, political affiliation, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and expression, marital or parental status, genetic information, military service, and religion.

The below signed recognize this as the Member Position Description and that the Member is to perform the duties detailed above during their Member Service Year. The below signed

recognize that activities outside of the scope of this description require prior written approval by all the below signed prior to execution of those activities.

NOWCorps Member Signature

Host Site Supervisor Signature

NOWCorps Staff Signature