

Naturalist: Gensburg-Markham Prairie



The Biology Department at Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) invites applications for a Naturalist at Gensburg-Markham Prairie. Located in Markham, Illinois, this 110-acre tallgrass prairie remnant is a Dedicated Illinois Nature Preserve and a National Natural Landmark. The successful candidate will be responsible for creating and executing a management, stewardship, and ecological restoration plan and for aiding in research, educational, and community outreach programs.

DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Site Stewardship & Ecological Restoration (50%):** Make management decisions based upon accepted ecological principles; collect and distribute native plant seeds to accelerate the restoration of disturbed plant communities; translocate and monitor imperiled plants and animals; remove and herbicide invasive plant species that have encroached upon the preserve; assist in planning and execution of prescribed burning of the preserve.
- **Education and Outreach (20%):** Provide on-site public lectures and trail guide service; participate in seminars sponsored by colleges and professional organizations. Direct public relations activities involving the local community, municipal and public utility representatives, and print and electronic media.
- **Research activities (15%):** Collect and analyze scientific data required for management, assist with monitoring plants of concern; support curation of specimens; seek external funding to conduct conservation-related research and activities at Gensburg-Markham Prairie and in the Chicago Wilderness region.
- **Site Maintenance (15%):** Maintain an accessible trail system, repair fences, install signs, and maintain tools and equipment. Coordinate such maintenance with partner institution The Nature Conservancy and local municipalities.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Bachelor's degree in one of the field biological or environmental areas or -OR- at least 4 years experience in ecological land management and restoration activities, with increasing levels of responsibilities -OR- equivalent combination of education and experience.
- Prescribed burning experience and NWCG certification(s), or willingness to learn and use.
- Skill in identifying Midwest US plant species, or willingness to learn.
- Awareness of environmental and/or social justice related work.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills.
- Ability to work out of doors in all seasons

SALARY: \$48,000 – \$52,000

TO APPLY: Review of applications will begin on November 1, 2021. Preference will be given to applications received on or before this date. Submit the following five items to CS-Employment@neiu.edu.

- Cover letter describing your interest in the position
- Current resume
- An unofficial copy of transcript(s)
- **[Employment Application](#)** (Original signature required. Electronic signature is not acceptable.)
- **[Affirmative Action Form](#)**

ABOUT NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Founded in 1867, Northeastern Illinois University enrolls about 7,000 students through the College of Arts and Sciences, the Daniel L. Goodwin College of Education, the College of Business and Technology, and the College of Graduate Studies and Research. Northeastern is regarded as the most diverse public comprehensive university in the Midwest and is designated by the U.S. Department of Education as a Hispanic-Serving Institution. We offer more than 40 undergraduate degree and certificate programs and more than 50 graduate degree, certificate, licensure and endorsement programs. The Biology Department serves 300+ undergraduate majors, 50+ minors and 30+ graduate students. Research and teaching interests of faculty in the department range from ecological to organismal and molecular. For further information, contact Dr. Jennifer Slate, Chair, at J-Slate@neiu.edu.