Conservation Technician

**Position Type:** Full-Time, Non-Exempt, Hourly  
**Compensation:** $17.00/ hour  
**Benefits:** Health, dental, vision, life & long-term disability insurance, paid time off (vacation, sick, holidays), employee assistance program, membership privileges, professional development, 403(b) plan and casual work environment

Are you an advocate for nature who enjoys helping to create healthy outdoor landscapes and balanced ecosystems? Join Fontenelle Forest’s team as a Conservation Technician and do the work you love while surrounded by the beautiful backdrop of the Forest! This position is responsible for various aspects of habitat restoration and maintaining the land and outdoor spaces, both of which are vital to providing a positive experience for our members and guests.

**JOB SUMMARY**
The Conservation Technician is responsible for conducting land stewardship activities, as well as maintaining outdoor areas. This critical position supports Fontenelle Forest’s mission and vision by helping ensure that Fontenelle Forest’s land is appropriately maintained, balancing restoration with human access. This full-time position generally works Monday – Friday, and a minimum of two weekend days per month. This position is part of the Properties team of facilities and land stewardship, works closely with other departments and reports to the Manager of Conservation or his/her designee.

**ORGANIZATION**
Founded in 1913, Fontenelle Forest a private nonprofit, one of Nebraska’s oldest conservation organizations and one of the largest private nature centers in the nation. Fontenelle Forest owns and manages Fontenelle Forest in Bellevue and Neale Woods Nature Reserve in Omaha. The properties encompass over 2,100 acres of forest, prairie, and wetlands along the Missouri River in the geographically significant Loess Hills. Fontenelle Forest aspires to be a national leader in environmental stewardship and education and the region’s premier nature center. Fontenelle Forest embraces the values of Integrity, Stewardship, Excellence, Engagement, and Sustainability.

Fontenelle Forest values its employees and is committed to maintaining a positive working environment; a culture and a value proposition that attracts and retains top, diverse talent. Beyond a personal commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, we are looking for candidates with a strong commitment to integrating equity and inclusion best practices into programs and services. People who have lived experience in historically marginalized and excluded communities are especially encouraged to apply.

**POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES**
- Conduct habitat restoration activities including assisting with planning, preparing for, and implementing prescribed burns, conducting invasive species control/thinning projects, and assisting with managed hunts
- Maintain outdoor areas designated for public recreation for safety and useability (trails, bridges, boardwalks, sidewalks, parking lots, etc.), using both hand tools and powered equipment, in all seasons, including assisting with snow/ice removal
- Conduct outreach activities such as presentations, written website content, and blog posts
- Maintain land stewardship vehicles, tools, and power equipment
- Monitor parking lots, trails, and entry points to provide a Forest presence
EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE
- High school diploma/GED required
- Minimum one (1) year experience in land/wildlife management, conservation, or related field

SKILLS/QUALIFICATIONS
- Demonstrated ability to perform rigorous physical work
- Competence in driving vehicles with manual or automatic transmissions and trailers.
- Demonstrated critical thinking skills and problem-solving
- Must be adaptable to changing schedules and work priorities
- General knowledge of best practices in ecosystem restoration and stewardship
- Competence in basic computer applications such as Microsoft Word, Excel, and Outlook
- Must maintain a valid driver’s license and be insurable
- Ability to successfully pass background check
- Must be able to work a flexible work schedule, including minimum of two weekend days per month; occasional overtime; evening/holiday availability will be required
- Has or willing to obtain through on-the-job training:
  - Adult/Pediatric First Aid/CPR – within 6 months of hire
  - Wildland Firefighter training (S130/190) – within 9 months of hire
  - Wildland Firefighter Chainsaw training (S212) – within 9 months of hire
  - Nebraska pesticide applicator certification

PHYSICAL DEMANDS
- The person in this position spends extensive amounts of time working outdoors in all weather conditions (including heat, cold, rain, humidity, and high winds); hiking up to seven miles during a workday over hilly, uneven, wooded and densely vegetated terrain, while carrying gear and equipment weighing up to 50 pounds
- While performing essential functions of this job, employee is frequently required to talk or hear; walk; balance; stand; turn; climb; stoop; kneel; sit; use close vision, distance vision, peripheral vision and depth vision; use hands and arms to type, lift, carry, pull, push, reach, finger, handle, or feel; lift and carry up to 50 pounds regularly and 70 pounds occasionally
- Position requires working from high, exposed places such as trails and embankments and safely working with power equipment, large tools (chainsaws, trimmers, mowers), and machinery
- Position has frequent exposure to skin irritants including chemicals, plants, and biting insects as well as regular exposure to fire, fumes, or airborne particles, toxic or caustic substances, and excessive noise, temperature extremes, and dampness/humidity
- Person in this position must be able to perform duties while wearing appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Safely utilize herbicides (under permit holder) and operate power tools and small hand equipment for extended periods of time
- Driving and operating a variety of equipment (trucks, trailers, plows, skid steer, tractor, etc.)
- Annually pass the National Wildfire Coordinating Group moderate work capacity test (walk two miles in under 30 minutes carrying 25 lbs.)
To Apply: Send introductory email or cover letter, resume or written description of work history and related experience, and three professional references to info@fontenelleforest.org. Please reference “Conservation Technician” in the subject line.

Fontenelle Forest is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, political ideology or status as a Vietnam-era or special disabled veteran in the administration of any of its employment related policies and practices.

Fontenelle Forest participates in E-Verify / Fontenelle Forest Participate on E-Verify.