

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

FARM TECHNICIAN II

GENERAL FUNCTION:

Under supervision, performs and directs others in a variety of farming functions to support an historic farm open to the general public. Functions include: program development and presentations; acquisition, maintenance and operation of modern and period farming equipment; selection, planting, irrigation, cultivation and harvesting of crops; orchard management; and all phases of appropriate care and husbandry of farm animals.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:

The essential functions of this position include, but are not limited to:

Crop Management

Under the direction of the Park Supervisor, determines type, variety and amount of acreage to be planted, field location and crop rotation, and potential markets for harvested crops; selects crops and crop cycles based on timing and/or variety to meet the needs of the interpretive and historic farming programs, (e.g., special "u-pick" events), potential to generate income, and the need for replanting later; crops include, but are not limited to corn, wheat, potatoes, vetch, hay, alfalfa, and soybeans; documents crop and field information, such as production rates, rotation schedules, soil analysis results. Prepares soil, plants, weed control, irrigates and harvests crops.

Orchard Management

Manages a large walnut orchard; works to restore the orchard to a level that will provide for public demonstration and educational programs; either personally and with the help of other staff, volunteers or contract personnel, prunes, replants, and explores root stock to best serve program needs and soil conditions.

Program Development and Delivery

Under the direction of the Park Supervisor, plans, coordinates and presents, oversees and trains others (Naturalists, Operations staff, volunteers, Student Aides, etc.) in farming presentations/demonstrations to schools, other groups, and the general public; lines up outside help to demonstrate historic equipment (e.g., combines, mills, etc.), and integrates crops, machinery, and animals into presentations and events; helps schedule events and programs based upon the crops that are planted, weather conditions, machinery, etc.; programs and presentations are developed with the goal of expanding park attendance and usage.

Equipment Acquisition, Maintenance, and Operation

Operates and maintains farming and park operations equipment and tools. Researches, acquires and/or restores period farming equipment, such as tractors, combines, balers, crawlers, threshing machines, etc.; locates or fabricates parts personally, with the assistance of experienced volunteers, or through vendors; operates or directs others in the operation of equipment as part of the planting, cultivating, and harvesting of crops or as part of public demonstrations during special events or programs; researches the history of farm equipment, machinery and tools for use in interpretive information and programs; regularly transports equipment.

OTHER FUNCTIONS & DUTIES:

Farm Animals

Sees to the care and feeding of a variety of farm animals, to include vaccinations, dehorning, control of reproduction schedules, assisting in birthing, etc.; contracts for veterinary services; constructs and repairs coops and other enclosures; harnesses and drives draft horse teams for wagon rides, ploughing, binding, discing, planting, and mowing; works in coordination with Farm Technician I, other staff and volunteers.

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Other tasks related to this position may include: trains, orients, and leads other District employees and volunteers; participates in building repair and maintenance as well as general maintenance of the park; operates a variety of hand and power tools. Performs related duties as assigned; acts as Park Supervisor. Personally and with the help of other staff, volunteers or contract personnel, plans, maintains and oversees the installation of the mobile irrigation system; coordinates harvesting either via public programs, school groups, or with concessionaires. Attends seminars and other formal presentations on nut, fruit, crop production, farm equipment, pest management, livestock, agronomy, irrigation and other farm related topics. Arranges for product sales as necessary. Performs or contracts for soil analysis and bulk soil amendments, and adjusts soil chemistry as necessary. Determines infiltration/percolation rates optimum for specific crop. Decides on type and amount of watering, cultivation schedule. Monitors and controls pests through a variety of methods. Works with County, IPM specialist, local water district, and farm concession.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- Education: A two year Degree from an accredited college or university with major course work in agriculture or a related field, and
- Experience: Three years experience in agricultural production, orchard management, farm equipment restoration and operation, animal husbandry, soil science, and/or irrigation.
- Or: An Equivalent Combination of Education and Experience

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES:

Working knowledge of organic and livestock farming methods. Ability to handle multiple tasks on an ongoing basis. Ability to safely and effectively operate and maintain a wide range of hand tools, power tools, vehicles, and equipment. Ability to select the appropriate tool(s) and/or equipment for each task given the type of crop, soil and weather conditions, project, and time available. Ability to weld. Ability to establish relationships and work closely with concessionaires, especially tenant farming operator(s), to include coordinating reaching mutually agreed goals. Ability to frequently lift and/or move up to 60 pounds. Ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing. Ability to perform basic mathematical computations. Ability to lead and instruct others. Ability to work outside, under adverse working conditions, and for extended hours. Ability to follow written and oral instructions. Ability to learn and operate the use of office equipment. Ability to establish and maintain positive and cooperative working relationships with those contacted in the course of work at all levels, including a culturally diverse general public, with a focus on quality service to internal and external customers.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT:

A valid California Class A driver's license is required. The license must be obtained within six months after being hired, and must be maintained on a current basis. An effective and valid California Pesticide Applicator's License is required by the end of the probationary period and must be kept current. As a condition of employment, a Farm Technician II will be required to be able to use respirators in accordance with CAL OSHA regulations and is required to work unusual hours, weekends, special events and holidays.

REPORTS TO: Park Supervisor

Employment Category: AFSCME Local 2428, Monthly Salary Range Effective 3/25/05: \$4,343.73 - \$4,745.87
Replaces Farmer job description adopted by the Board May, 1984
Salary Revised per Joint Equity Committee Effective 1/1/04
Revision Approved by General Manager: July 14, 2005
Revision Approved by General Manager: September 29, 2005