The summer of 2023 I worked as a seasonal technician for Scioto Audubon Metro Park in Columbus, Ohio. Their mission is to “conserve open spaces, while providing places and opportunities that encourage people to discover and experience nature.” They often remind their employees that their goal should always be to make the situation better.

EXPERIENCES

My main job was to attend to regular park maintenance such as:

- mowing
- trash cleanup
- pruning trails

There were many projects outside of this that I was assigned to or assisted with including:

- fixing picnic tables
- invasive removals
- planting trees
- greeting people at the Fourth of July event.

A tree that snapped after a bad storm. I reported and helped clean up damage like this many times.

The boat ramp often had trash and debris wash up. I found a whole shoe!

I found the job through the 2023 Spring Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences Career Fair. I spoke with the park system’s human resources manager, J.J. Domiano, and gave him my resume. The process after that was very smooth. Metro Parks employs many OSU students looking to fulfill their internship requirement and otherwise.

FUTURE GOALS

The experience allowed me to get a better idea of daily park operations. Ultimately, I am looking for a job that is more people oriented and allows me to further utilize my degree. While I would work with Metro Parks or a similar organization again, I am now looking to do environmental interpretation.

ADVICE FOR JOB SEEKING STUDENTS

- Talk to your professors about their experiences, this will give you insight into the professional world, and may make them more likely to want to be a reference for you.
- Take ENR 1500, Career Development & Success to help walk you through how to network.
- Start early! Especially when applying to government agencies, you might not hear back for months.

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