

School of Environment and Natural Resources

Seasonal Ranger in Metro Parks

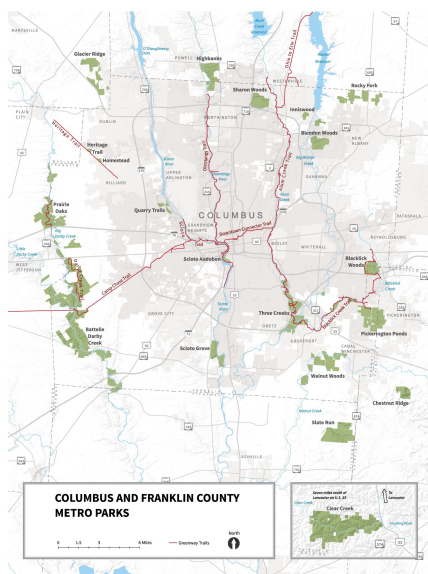
"To conserve open spaces, while providing places and opportunities that encourage people to discover and experience nature"

Liam McGinn Natural Resources Management

Acquiring the Position

There were three major steps I had to take to acquire this position;

- Attend a Career Fair
- Send numerous emails
- Interview for the position



Map of Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks

When applying for a position, there were three different options. Seasonal Ranger, Seasonal Technician and Seasonal Naturalist.

Different parks had different positions open, so the position influenced which park I would be placed at.

Sharon Woods Metro Park



Map of Sharon Woods Metro Park

The park that my internship took place at was Sharon Woods in Westerville. The internship began in May and ended in early September.

An Average Day

While working at Sharon Woods, no two days were the same. From having positive visitor interactions to having to inform visitors of specific rules that they were violating, each day was different.

That being said, a normal day would consist of;

- Show up
- Put on equipment
- Mark dispatch in-service
- Talk with other staff to see if there are any issues/special events for the day
- Check patrol vehicle
- Patrol
 - Interact with visitors
 - Enforce rules
- Secure and close park
- Out-of-service
- Leave

Innis Wood Metro Garden

While working at Sharon Woods, I was also responsible for Innis Wood at times. Located less than 15 minutes away, Innis Wood does not have as many rangers employed due to its smaller size.

Innis Wood also has more rules than other Metro Park properties:

- No pets
- No active sports
- No food
- No exercise
- No bikes



One of the five owls that can be found at Innis Wood

What's Next for Me?

I am currently still employed by Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks as a part-time ranger.

While I enjoyed my time in the parks, I do not see myself working here for an extended period of time. I am considering looking towards either a state or federal park system.

I will be spending the remainder of my time at Metro Parks finishing my degree and looking for more internship opportunities.

Recommendations

This internship requires you to interact with people on a daily basis. If you struggle to engage with people, this is not a position could be a struggle.

Be ready to have to deal with awkward and sometimes stressful situations as you will need to enforce parks rules when visitors violate them.

Having a well written resume will help with the application process, as the positions can be competitive.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to all full time and part time rangers, the park managers, and the members of the HR department.