



MILWAUKEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## Animal Care / Field Attendants

Hawthorn Glen, a twenty-three acre nature center located right in the middle of the city, serves primarily as a field trip setting for Milwaukee area schools. Over 12,000 children visit each year and gain new knowledge of the natural surroundings in which we live. "After the programs are over, there is a lot of 'behind the scenes' work that must occur at a nature center to ensure the continuous operation of the educational programs," says MPS Assistant Recreation Supervisor Kevin Reed. "Due to its unique location (nestled in a primarily residential area), if you weren't looking for Hawthorn Glen, you may not even know that it was there. And that's why we are looking for attendants."

The attendant position provides care for the animals in the Nature Museum, and interacts with visitors in the museum and outside on the trails or in the picnic areas. The animals in the nature center, mostly reptiles and amphibians, are examples of the kinds of wildlife that can be seen in Wisconsin. Several species of frogs, toads, turtles, snakes, fish and birds can be seen by school groups and in the special summer visiting hours for the public. Hawthorn Glen is also the only nature center in Wisconsin that has songbirds on display.

"We don't want to be a zoo, but not all people living in a major metropolitan area, especially children, have these neighbors in their backyard," says Reed. "The outdoor education center does not gather live animals from the wild so that urban dwellers can see them. The animals that live in the Nature Museum come to us from rehab centers, with required paperwork and permits from state or federal entities. These animals would not be able to survive if they were released back into their natural environment. Taken care of properly, considering the special needs that they may have, these animals can be great educational ambassadors."

"The attendant position is a great opportunity for those wanting to get into natural resources management or for those who simply enjoy working with the types of animals present at Hawthorn Glen," says Reed. "Prior experience is not necessary but highly recommended. While this is a part-time position, several of our staff have moved on to full-time positions with state parks and other nature centers across the country." The natural features of Hawthorn Glen include steep bluffs, a hardwood forest, a spring-fed wetland, and a restored prairie, all interconnected by a trail system.

As with all Milwaukee Recreation positions, appointment is subject to residency requirements within the city of Milwaukee and a criminal background check. The positions are Monday through Friday: 3:00 p.m. until dusk; Saturdays and Sundays from 9:00 a.m. till dusk. Starting pay rate is \$7.70/hour.

**To see if this position is open, you may contact Kevin Reed via e-mail at [Kevin@MilwaukeeRecreation.net](mailto:Kevin@MilwaukeeRecreation.net) or by phone at (414) 647-6067.**

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