Jurisdiction: City of Ithaca
Jurisdictional Class: Non-competitive
Title changed from Gorge Ranger to Natural Area Ranger: 04/10/00
Adopted (as Gorge Ranger): 07/10/84
Revised (as Gorge Ranger): 06/13/95, 05/19/97, 02/17/98
Revised (as Natural Area Ranger): 09/15/10

NATURAL AREA RANGER

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: The work in this position involves monitoring activities in the City of Ithaca’s Natural Areas (as determined by the Board of Public Works) for non-compliance with the rules and regulations governing the areas. The Natural Area Ranger will advise users of the areas of the regulations, point out the hazards in the area, and advise users of the penalties for violation of the regulations. The Natural Area Ranger will contact appropriate law enforcement agencies to report acts of continued non-compliance. He or she will also contact appropriate life safety agencies in case of emergency. This is a responsible position in which reasonable and prudent judgment must be exercised in carrying out the duties and responsibilities of the position. The individual must possess strong human relations skills, as well as knowledge of environmental concerns and the history of the Natural Areas. This person reports to the Superintendent of Public Works or his/her designee. This is a seasonal, full time position with a flexible job share option. Weekend and holiday time is required as coordinated with the Superintendent of Public Works or his/her designee. Does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:

Patrols the City of Ithaca’s Natural Areas to monitor usage and to note users who are not in compliance with the regulations of the areas;
Advises users of the area of the regulations, as well as hazards of non-compliance with the regulations;
Provides maps and directions to the public as needed;
Patrols the Natural Areas to assure that only designated public access areas are being used, and that the areas are being accessed only during the designated hours;
Contacts appropriate law enforcement agencies when situations arise that call for the presence of law enforcement officials (in the prudent judgment of the Ranger);
Contacts appropriate life safety agencies when the need arises;
May administer first aid or other emergency assistance when and as appropriate;
Advises the users and visitors to the area of the importance of preserving the natural habitat, and answers specific questions about the environment and natural history of the area;
Monitors the area for proper signage, and reports to the Superintendent of Public Works or his/her designee any area where signs have been removed, destroyed or are necessary to insure compliance with the regulations of the Natural Area;
Communicates regularly with the Superintendent of Public Works or his/her designee on the status of the Natural Area, and on frequent violators of the regulations, vandalism, environmental deterioration and other appropriate situations;
Meets monthly with the Natural Areas Commission to report on observed levels of usage and environmental concerns within the designated natural areas;
Maintains a daily record of Natural Area usage, and the environmental conditions in the Natural Area, and submits these monthly to the Natural Areas Commission;
Organizes and supervises volunteer work projects in the Natural Areas.
FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS, ABILITIES, PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:
Possession of strong human relations skills, including good verbal communication and persuasion abilities; good knowledge about the environment; ability to use standard communication equipment; ability to react calmly and rationally in emergency situations; ability to use reasonable and prudent judgment in performing all aspects of the assigned duties; ability to communicate clearly and responsibly with various age groups in the performance of the assigned duties; ability to successfully work with and serve a diverse local community; physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: None.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:
1. Candidates will be required to obtain a Security Guard license issued by the New York State Department of State. Requirements for obtaining the license include the following:
   a. The candidate must successfully complete an eight (8) hour pre-employment training course; and
   b. The candidate must successfully complete a sixteen (16) hour on-the-job training course within ninety (90) days of employment; and
   c. The candidate must be at least eighteen (18) years of age; and
   d. The candidate must not have been convicted of a serious criminal offense.
2. Candidates will be required to successfully complete pre-employment training in First-Aid and CPR, and obtain a certification in these skills.
3. Possession of a valid New York State Class D driver license or a valid driver license equivalent to a New York State Class D driver license at the time of appointment and maintenance of said license for the duration of employment.