

Who we are:

The Department of Environment and Conservation exists to enhance the quality of life for citizens of Tennessee and to be stewards of our natural environment.

We foster a work environment that's inclusive as well as diverse, where our people can be themselves. Every idea and perspective is valued so that our culture reflects the people we serve.

Our Department is committed to providing a cleaner, safer environment that goes hand-in-hand with economic prosperity and increased quality of life in Tennessee. We deliver on our mission through managing regulatory programs that maintain standards for air, water and soil quality while providing assistance to businesses and communities in areas ranging from recreation to waste management. We manage the state park system and programs to inventory, interpret and protect Tennessee's rich natural, historical, and archaeological heritage.

About the Division of Natural Areas:

Located within TDEC's Bureau of Conservation, the Division of Natural Areas documents and tracks rare species across Tennessee, establishes the state's official rare plant list, provides data to conservation partners, oversees, and implements ecological management of legislatively designated state natural areas, and guides the Bureau on conservation initiatives and land acquisition decisions. Division staff work closely with Tennessee State Parks, Division of Archaeology, and other conservation organizations throughout Tennessee.



TDEC-Environmental Consultant 3 Division of Natural Areas Natural Heritage Program Vegetation Ecologist Annual Salary Range: \$76,596 - \$121,296

The Natural Heritage Program Vegetation Ecologist will use NatureServe methodology, the Biotics database, the National Vegetation Classification, and ecological principles to document, classify, map, and rank rare or high-quality natural communities throughout Tennessee and work towards a state-wide vegetation classification document and keys. The employee will also aid the Division with vegetation mapping, species surveys and inventories, conservation planning, and site assessments, and provide technical expertise related to environmental reviews and conservation land management of Tennessee's natural communities. Depending on the chosen candidate, the position can be based in other regions of Tennessee.

This position is a preferred services position and will require some overnight travel and travel to other regions of Tennessee. Preferred candidates will have experience in ecology, including plant community classification and sampling, field botany including, native species inventories and rare species monitoring, conservation biology, and/or natural resource management, including research on ecological responses to management regimes with a bachelor's degree in Ecology, Botany, Forestry, Natural Resources, Biology, Wildlife Biology, Environmental Science, Zoology, or related field. Candidates must meet the minimum qualifications (MQs) for this position. For MQs and how to apply, please visit: <http://www.tn.gov/careers>.

Highlighted Responsibilities

- Working knowledge of the region's flora, plant communities, soils, geology, and natural processes.
- Conducting data collection and analysis for natural communities using Natural Heritage Methodology and ecological sampling principles.
- Aids the Division with vegetation classification including element occurrence record mapping and data QC.
- Assists in monitoring species listed as threatened or endangered, site assessments, and land acquisition.
- Guide natural area evaluation, selection, and management plans.
- Conducting public outreach and representing the Department.
- Using GIS software for rare species and natural community mapping.
- Physical ability to work in remote, rugged locations for long periods and periodic travel across Tennessee.

Pursuant to the State of Tennessee's Workplace Discrimination and Harassment policy, the State is firmly committed to the principle of fair and equal employment opportunities for its citizens and strives to protect the rights and opportunities of all people to seek, obtain, and hold employment without being subjected to illegal discrimination and harassment in the workplace. It is the State's policy to provide an environment free of discrimination and harassment of an individual because of that person's race, color, national origin, age (40 and over), sex, pregnancy, religion, creed, disability, veteran's status, or any other category protected by state and/or federal civil rights laws.