

Volunteer Position Description

Portland Parks & Recreation – City Nature East strives to preserve, protect and restore Portland's eastside natural resources to provide "nature in the city". Your volunteer efforts are invaluable in helping us to accomplish this goal.

Position Title: Bird Survey Volunteer

Location: Powell Butte Nature Park – SE Portland

Project supervisor(s): Mart Hughes, City Nature East Ecologist

Kevin Duff, Powell Butte Caretaker

Report hours to: Susan Hawes, City Nature East Stewardship Coordinator

Project background:

In 2004 PP&R concluded a system-wide survey of the vegetation in the park system. The vegetation survey provided considerable new detail on the structure of PP&R's system of natural areas. This bird survey will build on the 2004 Vegetation Survey by establishing specific wildlife associations with vegetation communities in the Portland Area. 2013 will be the second year of the bird survey.

Project goals:

- o Update the Powell Butte Nature Park bird list
- Associate fauna with vegetation communities
- Observe the change in avian communities on the Butte before and after reservoir construction and restoration efforts

Purpose: Perform point-count bird surveys at specified points within a variety of habitats at Powell Butte Nature Park.

Results: Volunteer(s) will complete detailed bird survey report forms and this information will be entered into a database for further analysis.

Duties:

1. Familiarize yourself with the terrain, bird list and ecological habitat types of Powell Butte. (You will be provided with our most recent bird list.) Survey points will be located within seven habitat types: Grassland, Broadleaf Deciduous Forest, Broadleaf Deciduous Woodland, Mixed Evergreen – Deciduous Forest, Mixed Evergreen – Deciduous Woodland, Evergreen Forest and Evergreen Woodland.

- 2. Survey 2-3 specified points, following a specified protocol. Volunteer(s) will spend 10 minutes at each point, noting birds seen and heard and/or signs of bird activity (nests, woodpecker holes in snags, etc.).
- 3. Turn in legible, detailed reports of survey information—original copies, please.

Requirements:

Volunteer must be in good physical condition, able to walk 5 miles per day while on the Butte and must be able to tolerate extreme weather conditions of cold, warm, and wind while in the field. Must possess a good work ethic and pay attention to detail. Position requires mature individual who can comfortably interact with PP&R – CNE staff and the public (while on site), and who is able to work independently. Previous field experience on ecological projects is desirable, but not mandatory. Knowledge of bird identification (by sight and sound) necessary; knowledge of local bird species and their habits (primarily those listed on the most current Powell Butte Nature Park list) desirable, but not mandatory. GPS navigation skills and/or the access to a GPS unit desirable, but not mandatory (this includes access to Googlemaps or other smart phone apps for finding GPS points on site). Access to bird identification books or other bird identification tools mandatory. (ID tools available for check-out from the Stewardship Coordinator.) Survey points will be marked on-site and a map with GPS coordinates will be provided.

Length of appointment: Minimum 12 weeks between April 1—June 30, for the breeding bird survey, and/or minimum of 8 weeks between July 1-December 31 (in 2-month increments), as the survey will be continued through the rest of the year to determine seasonality of avians on the Butte.

Time commitment: Visit 2-3 points per week for 12 weeks (approximately 1-2 hours/week, including hiking time), between the hours of sunrise and 10:30 AM. Time commitment for surveys can be increased if additional survey points are requested and assigned.

Support provided: City Nature East Ecologist Mart Hughes will provide research protocol, training and supervisory support. City Nature East Stewardship Coordinator Susan Hawes and Powell Butte Caretaker Kevin Duff will provide materials needed (including vests, survey forms, etc.) and some supervisory support after initial training.

Benefits:

- The chance to work closely with conservation professionals, hone avian identification skills and to learn about the bird species and habitats specific to Powell Butte Nature Park.
- o The opportunity to increase knowledge of ecological studies and field sampling techniques and to spend time in one of Portland's beautiful natural areas.
- The opportunity to add to the general body of knowledge in the field of avian studies, regarding avian species' site preferences and habits in the Portland Metro area and specifically at Powell Butte Nature Park.

Contact:

Susan Hawes, Stewardship Coordinator, Portland Parks & Recreation – City Nature East: 8228 SE 26th Place, Building B, Portland OR 97202. (503) 823.6131 or (503) 823.5937 or susan.hawes@portlandoregon.gov.