

DETROIT PARKS COALITION

COALITION LEADER

POSITION DESCRIPTION

(Fiscal sponsor as of 10/31/2021 is the Chandler Park Conservancy, Inc.)

The Detroit Parks Coalition (DPC) is an alliance of organizations that connect Detroiters to beautiful and healthy natural areas, parks, and public spaces. We support a network of individuals and organizational park stewards through advocacy, learning, services, and partnership. DPC includes representatives from nine major leading parks stewardship organizations, covering 18 Detroit parks. We work collaboratively under a memorandum of understanding, hold regular meetings for all partnership and establish committees as needed or for specific purposes. Members include Belle Isle Conservancy, Chandler Park Conservancy, Clark Park Coalition, Detroit Riverfront Conservancy, Downtown Detroit Partnership with six parks under management, Friends of Patton Park, Friends of Rouge Park, Midtown Detroit, Inc. with five parks under management, People for Palmer Park, Sidewalk Detroit supporting Eliza Howell Park, and three at-large individual members. (Please see attached links to our Fall 2021 Coalition Newsletter and Crains Detroit Business front-page article in the October 18, 2021 edition.)

The Coalition was formed in 2019 to advance parks organizations' desire to share learning and expand limited resources. Since then, it has doubled its membership and developed a strong relationship with the City of Detroit and nascent partnerships with other key municipal entities including the Huron-Clinton Metroparks Authority, Wayne County and the State of Michigan.

DPC has received initial funding for an 18-month pilot with a lean staff to formalize governance, operations, vision, and values and continue developing programming and partnerships. This Coalition Leader position is the first to be hired, and while the initial tenure will be on a contractual basis for the first 18 months, we are confident of, and committed to, using the initial period to secure long-term resources for this key position to continue in a long-term role.

COALITION LEADER'S VITAL ROLE

This individual will facilitate the coalition in all its activities and monitor and measure progress on goals for the 18-month start-up period. The position will report to the Executive Director of DPC's fiscal sponsor. The Coalition Leader will hire and manage DPC staff, secure contractual support in areas such as communications; build the DPC's identity and reputation; advocate for increased resources and expertise throughout the Detroit parks system; and maintain strong relationships with State, regional and City government, other parks organizations nationally, park users, funders and civic leaders. With input from the coalition, they will guide the development of shared programming, communications and learning; aid the system in achieving economies of scale, advocate for stable and sufficient operations and maintenance funding, and when appropriate, provide advice and counsel to the member groups on issues such as fund-raising, training, coordination of services and best practices in parks stewardship.

DEMONSTRATED SKILLS AND ABILITIES FOR THE POSITION

- ***KNOWLEDGE OF THE FUNDING COMMUNITY; GRANT-WRITING SKILLS***

Funding opportunities for the Coalition and member parks come from a variety of sources: foundations, businesses, governments, crowd-funding programs, individuals. The ability to navigate these different sources and processes will be important. The Coalition Leader will develop the Coalition's fundraising strategy, maintain connections to key funders, and be responsible for raising support for its operations as well as collaborative efforts among its members. From time to time the Coalition Leader will advise member groups on their own fundraising efforts. A track record of successful grant writing and grant raising will be a key factor in the selection.

- ***EFFECTIVE SPOKESPERSON FOR EQUITY OF ACCESS TO HIGH-QUALITY PARKS AND PUBLIC SPACES FOR ALL***

The role of spokesperson will be critical as the Coalition works to devise and pursue ways to grow sources of funding available to parks and public spaces for their long-term operating stability.

- ***ORIENTATION TOWARD PARTNERSHIP, CONSENSUS AND CREATIVE PROBLEM-SOLVING***

The Coalition Leader will consistently work to develop and support a system whose whole is greater than the sum of its parts. This will require cooperation among many parties to plan and improve methods to support, maintain and operate parks within the system.

- ***MANAGEMENT OF A LEAN COALITION STAFF AND OPERATIONAL AND PROGRAM BUDGET***

The current plan calls for a second FTE (Parks Support Manager) to be hired as well as potential seasonal employees, giving the Coalition a lean but effective operation and a modest budget to catalyze programming partnerships among the member parks.

- ***UNDERSTANDING OF THE NONPROFIT SECTOR, PARKS AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES***

One of the Coalition Leader's primary tasks during the pilot period will be to evaluate options for the preferred legal form of the Coalition as well as its structure, policies and practices. This expertise will guide that process and be helpful in linking members to technical resources.

- Salary range \$85,000 to \$95,000, with available benefit package

Please email cover letter and resumes to Alex Allen at aallen@chandlerparkconservancy.org by November 14th, 2021