Career Spotlight: Tommy Springer, Deputy Director, Fairfield County Park District



As deputy director, Tommy oversees the daily operations of our county's park district, ensuring that parks, trails, nature preserves, and facilities remain safe, accessible, and welcoming for visitors. In addition to supervising grounds and equipment maintenance, building repairs, and mowing operations, he also leads efforts focused on invasive species management, habitat restoration, trail improvements, and the planning of future park amenities. Tommy also assists with the district's financial, administrative, and public programming efforts that support the many services and experiences the park district provides to the community.

Tommy's career path was shaped by a lifelong appreciation for nature. Growing up, he enjoyed spending time outdoors, learning about plants and wildlife, and exploring the natural world around him. While many young people dream of turning their interests into a career, he was fortunate to do exactly that. His professional journey began with Franklin County Metro Parks before returning home to Fairfield County to work with the Fairfield Soil and Water Conservation District. Those experiences led him to his current leadership role with the Fairfield County Park District.

What makes the work especially meaningful is the opportunity to positively impact the lives of local residents. Whether it's seeing a family enjoy a picnic in one of the district's shelters, watching visitors explore a trail, or witnessing someone's excitement when they spot a bird, fish, or native plant for the first time, those moments serve as reminders of why the work matters. Tommy also enjoys seeing visitors connect with local history, such as experiencing a 200-year-old grist mill in operation. For many residents, public parks provide access to experiences they may not otherwise have, and helping maintain those opportunities is one of the most rewarding parts of his job.

For those interested in pursuing a similar career, Tommy recommends building a strong educational foundation in disciplines such as natural resources, outdoor education, park and recreation management, or related areas. However, classroom learning is only part of the equation. Gaining practical experience through seasonal jobs, internships, or part-time positions can be invaluable. While still a student, he accepted a seasonal position with Franklin County Metro Parks, an opportunity that allowed him to gain experience, build professional relationships, and establish connections that helped open doors later in his career.

To learn more about Fairfield County Parks, visit https://fairfieldcountyparks.org/.