

Gorge Waterway Action Society:

Biologist



Hours: 35–40/week

Wage: \$17.00/hour

Work Term: 8–16 weeks

Start Date: Flexible start time between May 1, 2024, and July 8, 2024

About Us

The Gorge Waterway Action Society (GWAS) is a registered charity dedicated to preserving and enhancing the Gorge Waterway in Victoria, BC. We are a small, passionate team committed to environmental education and ecological health in a place rich with biological and cultural significance. We are honoured to help steward these lands. We humbly acknowledge and respect the ləkʷəŋən-speaking Peoples on whose traditional and unceded territories we work, and the Songhees, Esquimalt, T'Sou-ke, W̱SÁNEĆ and other First Nations peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

At our core is the Gorge Waterway Nature House in Esquimalt Gorge Park: a hub of place-based, hands-on, youth-focused environmental education. We aim to engage with and educate our community on local ecosystems, climate change, and the environmental issues that surround us. We also conduct restoration and biology work in Esquimalt Gorge Park and the surrounding area, taking on a variety of projects that support the ecological health of the Gorge Waterway.

To learn more about us, visit our website at www.gorge.ca or our social media at www.facebook.com/gorgewaterway and [@gorgewaterwaynaturehouse](https://www.instagram.com/gorgewaterwaynaturehouse) on Instagram.

Job Description

GWAS seeks a motivated individual to join our team as a Biologist. Our Biology Team aims to:

- collect, organize, analyze, and summarize data from monitoring and other biology projects under our purview;
- work with our partner organizations to establish and continue environmental monitoring projects in Esquimalt Gorge Park to inform our restoration work and broader environmental goals; and
- collaborate with the Interpreter Programs to use this data to create engaging educational materials that showcase our projects.

Our Biologists are responsible for gathering data on the abundance and richness of local plant, bird, invertebrate, and marine taxa as well as on abiotic factors such as soil and sediment health; maintaining digital inventories, organizing, and analyzing this data and data gathered in past years to develop summary reports; and mentoring the staff in the Indigenous Youth Program regarding scientific monitoring and identification techniques. Additional responsibilities may include consulting with the Charity Administration and Development Team on grant writing for future projects and collaborating with the Nature Interpreter, Indigenous Outreach, and Climate Teams on creating educational materials.

This year, the Biology Team will focus on furthering monitoring efforts in the Pollinator Meadow, salt marsh, and Sherwood Forest, to continue our current monitoring projects and establish baseline data for future restoration areas. This position offers some flexibility in the projects our staff pursue, and we also encourage our staff to propose, design, and implement projects that interest them.

This position is hybrid, with work conducted both in person and from home. In-person fieldwork is conducted in Esquimalt Gorge Park and around the Gorge Waterway. If you have any concerns about working from home or in person, we still encourage you to apply, and we will accommodate your needs as best we can.

About You

You are passionate about biology and the environment and want to make a difference in your community. You may have an educational background in biology, ecological restoration, environmental studies/sciences, conservation, permaculture, or related lived experiences. You are driven, able to work independently, eager to learn, and self-motivated. Your values align with GWAS, and you believe in our mission.

You likely have some experience with:

- fieldwork, sampling, or other types of biological monitoring;
- statistical analysis and data management;
- identification of common plant, bird, marine or invertebrate species; and
- report writing and science communication.

We encourage you to apply if you don't meet these experiences exactly but have aligned or adjacent skills and experiences.

As a Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) position, you must also be between 15 and 30 years of age at the start of employment; a Canadian citizen, permanent resident, or person to whom refugee protection has been conferred under the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* for the duration of the employment; and have a valid Social Insurance Number at the start of employment and be legally entitled to work in Canada per relevant provincial or territorial legislation and regulations.

How to Apply

Please send us your cover letter and resume in one PDF file. You may also send us a brief video introducing yourself instead of a cover letter. Please use the file name format **FirstnameLastname_JobTitle.pdf** and send it via email to gorgewaterway@gmail.com.

GWAS is committed to equity, diversity, and inclusion in its principles and practices, and we strive to cultivate an organization that accommodates all. If you face any barriers to applying or interviewing with us, please contact us at gorgewaterway@gmail.com, and we will happily help you with your application.

Please note that funding for this position is anticipated but not yet confirmed, and the length of our work terms is reliant on the CSJ Program. We have provided our best estimate given past years' experiences, but these things are subject to change.

Please apply by **February 29, 2024**. Applicants selected for interviews will be contacted by March 21, and interviews will be held between March 22 and April 4. Due to the number of applicants, only those to be interviewed will be contacted.

Thank you for your interest!