**Wharton Park Role Description**

All Rangers responsible to Parks & Countryside Senior Ranger and Programmes Officer

**Background**

Wharton Park is a 4.3-hectare 19th century park, located on the edge of Durham City centre and formerly part of the Dryburn Hall Estate laid out by the prominent Victorian figure William Lloyd Wharton. Some remnants of his garden and built features such as the Battery can still be seen.

In 2016, Wharton Park reopened following completion of a £3 million pound Heritage Lottery funded project. This project saw historical features restored and the development of the Heritage Centre containing a small office, education room, café, and toilets. It also created a Community Garden, miniature car track and putting green which are managed as part of the role. You will also work alongside colleagues from Durham County Council’s Clean and Green Team who are responsible for the formal planting areas within the Park.

**Working Pattern**

Two permanent Assistant Rangers are based at Wharton Park and work on a rotational basis with support from a pool of Casual Assistant Rangers when required.

We operate seasonal opening hours which vary and involve evening, weekend, bank holiday and lone working. For an example of a typical working pattern of our full-time staff who work to a two-week rota, see below.

Week 1: 7 days on shift (Monday – Sunday)

Week 2: 3 days on shift (Wednesday – Friday)

Operational hours are: Winter 09:00 – 17:00

 Summer 08:30 – 16:30

N.B: Operational hours are subject to change based on Service needs.

**Duties**

Working at Wharton Park you will never have the same day twice. The role can take you from maintaining all aspects of our green spaces, helping with events and activities such as operating our miniature cars during school holidays, carrying out practical tasks and general maintenance and using your enthusiasm and passion for the natural world to developing ways to actively engage with and provide positive visitor experience.

You will also be able to work with our very dedicated Friends of Wharton Park. The Friends were a big part of the Park’s restoration and have created and developed a much loved and valued community garden. Whilst this is mainly their responsibility, you can link in and support their work to help bring wider benefit to the Park and its visitors. With so much going on in this small City park, you will have the opportunity to shape the role around your own passion and interest for the natural world.

Also, as part of the wider Parks and Countryside team, the role may occasionally take you into the wider estate where we manage a wide range of sites for public access and nature conservation. Due to geographical spread of the sites throughout the County, the Service has Northern and Southern Ranger teams. Working at Wharton Park you will be part of the northern team with the possibility of assisting our site rangers in the management of over thirty site we oversee. Site habitats and designations vary and include – Sites of Special scientific Interest, local nature reserves, Railway Paths and picnic areas.

**Driving**

The role of Casual Assistant Ranger requires you to drive a County Council vehicle. Appointment will be subject to the production of a valid driving licence for the required category of vehicle and the satisfactory completion of an in-house Driver Induction Assessment which will be arranged if you are offered the post.

**Service structure**

Service Grouping: Neighbourhoods and Climate Change

