

**CLASS SPECIFICATION**  
**County of Fairfax, Virginia**

**CLASS CODE:** 5128

**TITLE:** ECOLOGIST IV

**GRADE:** S-29

**DEFINITION:**

Under direction, responsible for the full development and/or management of a major environmental program in the Stormwater or Park Authority business area, governed by Federal, State and local regulations and nationally recognized best practices; and performs related work as required.

**DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CLASS:**

The Ecologist IV has responsibility for managing a major environmental program or permit governed by Federal, State or local environmental regulations and nationally recognized standards and requiring the participation of multiple divisions or county agencies; and/or manages and supervises the work of ecologists or other technical professionals.

**ILLUSTRATIVE DUTIES:**

*(The illustrative duties listed in this specification are representative of the class but are not an all-inclusive list. A complete list of position duties and unique physical requirements can be found in the position description.)*

Develops and manages a major environmental program or permit such as the County's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) or the Park Authority's Natural Resource Management Plan;

Leads and/or conducts research into environmental issues, prepares and presents technical analyses of results to management and elected and appointed officials;

Leads and develops monitoring plans and quality assurance project plans (QAPPs) to comply with Federal, State and County regulations;

Leads, develops and manages data collection and analysis procedures and prepares reports required by Federal, State and County authorities and county developed plans;

Coordinates program requirements with other Divisions and County agencies;

Reviews and provides input on proposed environmental legislation or regulations;

Reviews and prepares updates to County codes, ordinances, and policies related to Federal and State regulations, permit requirements, the protection of streams, watersheds and county waterways, and the protection and management of terrestrial resources;

Serves as subject matter expert and principal contact on the program for elected officials, other government agencies, residents and the business community on the individual program;

Prepares, negotiates, and administers consultant support contracts;

Supervises and trains subordinate staff of Ecologists and/or other technical professionals working on related projects and assignments.

Leads implementation of watershed and stormwater policy recommendations and other county plans for the management of aquatic and terrestrial ecological resources.

Coordinates capital project selection process.

**REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES:**

*(The knowledge, skills and abilities listed in this specification are representative of the class but are not an all-inclusive list. The knowledge, skills and abilities in the lower levels of the Ecologist class series are also required.)*

Expert knowledge and experience in collection and field analysis of water chemistry, stream quality assessment parameters, and/or terrestrial community and species parameters;

Expert knowledge and experience in performing bioassessments in accordance with standard protocols such as the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Rapid Bioassessment Protocol, National Vegetative Mapping Protocol, the Natural Communities of Virginia Classification of Ecological Community Groups;

Knowledge and experience in the development, implementation and analysis of water quality monitoring plans and/or natural resource management plans; and associated quality assurance project plans (QAPPs)

Ability to interpret and advise on proposed changes to County, Federal and State regulations, codes and ordinances related to the Federal Clean Water Act, State stormwater regulations, the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act, the National Environmental Policy Act and other applicable laws and ordinances;

Ability to effectively interface with Federal and State regulators, as well as work collaboratively with other professionals both within County government and outside.

Ability to develop aquatic and/or terrestrial assessment protocols and/or natural resource management plans to prepare and process County codes, ordinances and procedures for BOS approval and implementation;

Ability to effectively communicate and lead the coordination of program goals, objectives and technical issues with elected officials, employees, residents, and other County, State and Federal agencies and related industry professionals.

**EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS:**

Any combination of education, experience, and training equivalent to the following:  
Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's degree in aquatic ecology, ecology, biology, botany, zoology, geography, environmental science, environmental engineering, limnology, natural resource management, or a related field;  
PLUS Six years of experience in the environmental science field, to include two years of experience in field water quality monitoring, terrestrial ecosystem assessment and management, data analysis and reporting and assessments of associated habitat conditions and/or the coordination of tasks to support key components of a comprehensive stormwater or natural resource management program.

**CERTIFICATES AND LICENSES REQUIRED:**

Possession of a valid motor vehicle driver's license.

**NECESSARY SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:**

None.

REVISED: July 26, 2013  
ESTABLISHED: September 4, 2012