

Harvest Garden is Hiring!

The Chicago Park District is hiring multiple positions to support its youth gardening Programs for the 2024 season. Harvest Garden is a Chicago Park District offering that currently includes two programs: the 3-season youth gardening class program that runs in 21 parks throughout the city and the summer field trip program at our demonstration garden in Skinner Park. We are hiring three staff for the summer field trip program and five staff for the youth gardening class program.



Youth Gardening Class Program (hiring 1 Coordinator/Grower and 4 Counselors)

Coordinator/Grower

New this year is the Coordinator/Grower position (posted as [Harvest Garden Camp Coordinator](#)). The Grower will report to the Program and Event Facilitator for our 3-season youth gardening program. Beginning in March, our Coordinator will be responsible for growing plants from seed to supply each of our 21 Harvest Garden parks throughout the growing season, assuring that each garden has plants and seeds according to the planting plan, educating Harvest Garden counselors on plant varieties and their care, and prepping and maintaining gardens as needed.

An ideal candidate must be experienced with indoor growing under lights and in a greenhouse, understand seasonality and how to prep garden beds for planting and transplanting starts to an outdoor garden space, and be able to effectively communicate knowledge to teammates. This position requires both attention to detail and the ability to keep accurate records, as well as the resourcefulness and communication skills to work with a variety of people and departments within the park district.

This is a part-time, 6-month position from March to September with 15-20 hours per week at \$26.01/hour.

Class Counselors

In our 3-season youth gardening program, our counselors (posted as [Harvest Garden Camp Counselor](#)) work under the direction of the Program and Event Facilitator. Each counselor teaches 1 ½ hour gardening classes to small groups of youth at five Chicago parks each week. Groups plant, maintain, harvest and prepare food from the garden while considering their role in the garden ecosystem and their relationship to land and community. While classes are taught independently, counselors meet together each week for training on lessons, and also work as a team to maintain gardens between sessions.

Ideal candidates have an interest in gardening, food prep, and environmental health, along with a desire to connect with kids while gardening and cooking together. Experience in all areas is ideal, though training will be provided as needed.

This is a part-time, 6-month position that runs from mid-April to mid-October. The hours range from 15-25 per week and pay is \$20.80 an hour. During the spring and fall, classes take place after school. During the summer, classes take place during the day within the summer day camp program hours.

Candidates must be willing to work outside in varying weather conditions, travel to all areas of the city, work independently, and have some college education.

Summer Field Trip Program (hiring 2 Counselors and 1 Camp Coordinator)

Field Trip Coordinator

The coordinator (posted as [Harvest Garden Camp Coordinator](#)). will work under the direction of the Senior Program Specialist and will lead a team of two counselors during Summer Day Camp. The coordinator will plan for and oversee the everyday operations of the field trip program including proactive communication with park staff and transportation services, provision of daily supplies, and maintenance of the garden site at Skinner Park. Additional support may be needed on-site for lesson prep, supporting staff during field trips, and supervising campers. Professional communication, attention to detail, and knowledge of gardening and cooking are required. This is a 12-16-week, 30 hour/week position beginning as soon as mid-late April, but no later than mid-May. Pay is \$26.01 per hour.

Field Trip Counselors

The counselors (posted as [Harvest Garden Camp Counselor](#)) will teach field trip sessions 4 days each week at our demonstration garden in Skinner Park during Summer Day Camp. Lessons will include planting, tending, harvesting, and preparing food along with composting lunch waste and playing games. Duties will also include garden maintenance and positive communication with park staff and park visitors. This is an 8-week, 30 hour/week position with a start date in mid-June. Pay is \$20.80/hour.

Candidates must be willing to work outside in varying weather conditions, work independently, work with campers of varying ages, backgrounds, and abilities, and have some college education.

How to Apply

The deadline to apply is February 9th. For counselor positions in the Harvest Garden class program and the Harvest Garden field trip program, apply for the Camp Counselor – Gardening position. This job description is written to cover the most general activities for a number of positions in nature education including camping, nature camps, and field trips to natural areas. When applying, refer to this job description and mention your gardening experience and interest.

For the field trip coordinator position, apply to the Camp Coordinator – Gardening position. This job description is also written to cover the most general activities for a variety of positions within the Outdoor and Environmental Education team including camping, nature camps and Nature Oasis. When applying, refer to this job description and mention your gardening experience and interest.

Reach out to Julie Hunefeld, julie.hunefeld@chicagoparkdistrict.com or Breanne Heath, breanne.heath@chicagoparkdistrict.com with any questions.

