Design Associate, Park Design Studio

Job Description

Park Pride is seeking a motivated, creative designer to join our Park Design Studio, where we bring community voices to the table for the planning and design of neighborhood parks. This role reports to the Park Design Studio Director, a licensed landscape architect, and offers the opportunity to build relationships with community groups, government agencies, and nonprofit partners. The role calls for excellent communication skills—from the creation of informative, compelling graphics to clear written and verbal interaction with a wide range of audiences. Primary responsibilities include:

- Supporting the Park Visioning Program in co-creating comprehensive vision plans for two of Atlanta's neighborhood parks each year
- Coordinating a design assistance program that partners with the local design practitioners
- Conducting design consultations with Friends of Park groups throughout the year

The salary range for this position is $60,000–$70,000 commensurate with experience. Park Pride offers a competitive benefits package including paid leave, medical, dental, and retirement. This position operates in a hybrid work environment that balances remote work with in-person meetings and events. Candidates must be based in Metro Atlanta and be able to attend community events in our service area.

Responsibilities

This is a full-time position with occasional weekend and evening hours as required. Fieldwork will be required for site visits, project prep and execution, events, and meetings. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

Park Visioning Program

- Collaborate with community members to develop long-term vision plans based on community input, site conditions, best practices, and applicable regulations
- Analyze and document existing site conditions including the park's historical context
- Use public data/GIS to develop base maps and analyze spatial relationships and connectivity
- Design and produce digital and printed materials that encourage participation in the park visioning process, including branding, flyers, yard signs, direct mail postcards (coordinating mailing lists and printing), digital media posts, and website content
- Collect community input through online and paper surveys, interviews, focus groups, charrettes, and public meetings
- Interpret community feedback, develop data-informed design directions, and create graphics that clearly communicate that community input has been heard
- Collaboratively develop conceptual park designs and supporting graphics, from hand-drawn sketches and diagrams to data visualizations and polished comprehensive documents
- Prepare materials for public/stakeholder meetings including maps, historical timelines, interactive engagement activities, and digital presentations

Design Assistance Program

- Coordinate a design assistance program, which pairs Friends of Park groups with leading design practitioners in Atlanta to prepare community ideas for Parks Department approval.

Other Essential Duties

- Maintain organized, accurate project records and hold all work to a high standard through careful review and quality control
- Track program impact through evaluations that measure progress toward goals
- Support other Park Pride teams as assigned, including the annual Parks & Greenspace Conference and other organization events
- Contribute to team discussions, take part in gatherings that build relationships with our board and partners, and take initiative to learn about the urban park landscape in which we work

Preferred Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in landscape architecture, urban design, urban planning, or an allied profession, or equivalent experience. A master's degree is a plus; licensure is not required.
- One or more years of professional experience at a mission-focused nonprofit organization, including building relationships and trust with community members and partners

Core Skills:

- Humility, respect, diplomacy, and an earnest desire to understand and genuinely represent the communities we serve
- Passion for landscape design, public access to nature, and environmental and social resilience
- Demonstrated eye for good design and the enthusiasm to produce designs that inspire and engage, and the self-awareness to recognize when a design or process isn't working
- Initiative to learn about a project's context, bring questions forward about gaps in our understanding or authority, and follow through as directed to make informed recommendations
- Strong written, verbal, and interpersonal communication skills; experience working on a team to create and evaluate landscape designs that balance community priorities with site limitations
- Familiarity with health, safety, and welfare standards, ADA accessibility, stream buffer regulations, and local watersheds
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite (Excel, Word, PowerPoint, SharePoint); Adobe Creative Cloud (InDesign, Photoshop, Illustrator); basic website layout skills (template-based, no coding); familiarity with or willingness to learn ArcGIS Pro/ArcGIS StoryMaps is a plus
- Knowledge of current issues in Atlanta, such as parks, trail planning, housing, and equity, is a plus

Organizational Background

Park Pride is an Atlanta-based nonprofit founded in 1989 with a mission to engage communities to activate the power of parks. Park Pride is working in Atlanta's parks ecosystem at every level—by improving neighborhood parks, creating community park advocates, and connecting grassroots leaders, funders, and government partners—so that all Atlantans can have access to a great park. Whether through our Friends of Park Program, Volunteer Program, Park Design Studio, or Grantmaking & Implementation, our services work in concert to catalyze engagement, education, and empowerment that leads to more local park advocacy, community stewardship, and, ultimately, quality, active park spaces that meet the community's needs.

Application Process

If you're excited to help neighbors shape the parks they love, we'd love to hear from you. Please submit a résumé, cover letter, and link to an online portfolio to **hr@parkpride.org** with "Design Associate" in the subject line. No phone calls or in-person visits please. Applicants will be notified of next steps upon selection.

Position is open until filled. Application review will begin on December 2, 2026.

Park Pride is an equal opportunity employer dedicated to fostering a diverse and inclusive workplace. We warmly welcome and strongly encourage diverse individuals of all backgrounds to apply.