

CITY AND ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE (CED)

POSITION DESCRIPTION

POSITION DETAILS

Position title: Senior Director – Parks and Partnerships

Classification: Senior Professional Officer A (SPOA)

Position number: P38057

Division: Environment

Business unit: ACT Parks and Conservation Service / Parks and Partnerships

Location: Various

Reports to: Executive Branch Manager (EBM)

Date last reviewed: August 2026

Position requirements: See compliance requirements / qualifications

DIRECTORATE OVERVIEW

The City and Environment Directorate (CED) brings together the people, services and systems that shape Canberra's future. We are a new directorate with a bold purpose: to deliver smarter, more connected services that respond to the needs of our Territory and community.

CED was established to align planning and transport, improve efficiency of development decisions, support environmental management, consolidate city services operations, and strengthen how government connects with the community. Our work spans the natural and built environments, city and transport services, and regulatory and customer service functions.

We are here to:

- Deliver streamlined, customer-focused services.
- Align planning, transport and environmental stewardship.
- Consolidate operations for greater efficiency and impact.
- Make government services more accessible, transparent and trusted.

At CED, we put people and place at the centre of everything we do. Whether shaping policy, maintaining public spaces, designing transport networks or supporting regulatory access, our people contribute to a connected, inclusive and resilient Canberra.

DIVISION OVERVIEW

The Environment, Heritage and Parks Division delivers the following services and functions for the ACT government and community:

- Nature conservation policy, planning and delivery.
- Heritage conservation policy and regulation.
- Environment protection policy.
- Catchment management, water policy delivery and water regulation.
- Conservation research and evaluation.
- Management of Parks and Reserves.
- Fire and Forest Management.
- Biosecurity and agriculture policy and delivery; and
- Traditional Custodian Engagement.

The Environment Portfolio also supports ACT Natural Resources Management and ACT Heritage. ACT's natural and cultural environment provides ecosystem services clean air, water and important from an ecological and landscape perspective. It is important we continue to manage and protect our environment both from the nature conservation perspective and through the environment protection activities.

BUSINESS UNIT OVERVIEW

The Parks and Conservation Service (PCS) is responsible for the management of the ACT's protected area network including National Parks, Nature Reserves, water catchments, commercial softwood forests and rural lands. The Parks and Conservation Service implements a broad range of management programs both on and off reserve that support sustainable environmental, wildlife and heritage outcomes. It protects and conserves the natural resources of the ACT and promotes appropriate recreational, educational and scientific uses of our parks and reserves.

The Parks and Partnerships section provides management responsibilities for Canberra Nature Park, Namadgi National Park, Murrumbidgee River Corridor, Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve, Molonglo River Park, Googong Foreshores and the Lower Cotter Catchment. The day-to-day management of the forestry and rural areas within the eastern part of ACT is also a responsibility of the section.

POSITION PURPOSE

Lead and manage the Parks and Partnerships section within the ACT Parks and Conservation Service, providing strategic and operational oversight of conservation land management, environmental offsets, visitor services, volunteer programs, and partnerships across ACT reserves and national parks.

The role is responsible for delivering high-quality environmental, asset and community outcomes through effective leadership, stakeholder engagement, program management, and the development of collaborative partnerships that support the protection and sustainable management of the ACT's natural and cultural heritage.

DUTIES / RESPONSIBILITIES

- Lead and manage the operations of the Parks and Partnerships section delivering programs and projects to time and budget;
- Lead and motivate staff through promoting a Values-based approach to a positive workplace culture, staff health, safety and well-being, workplace diversity, Industrial democracy, and personal development and training;
- Oversee improved operational planning and coordination across operational teams within the Section;
- Lead the planning, monitoring, reporting and evaluation of conservation areas and the protection of matters of National Environmental Significance created through environmental offsets
- Develop and implement natural resource management, conservation land management programs, and asset maintenance, and coordinate the delivery of best practice on ground services for Canberra's reserve areas;
- Facilitate visitor and community engagement programs that foster appropriate visitation within our parks and reserves;
- Lead and promote effective partnerships with external stakeholders including the Ngunnawal community, conservation Trust partners and ParkCare volunteers;
- Contribute to the strategic management of the branch as a member of the Senior Management Team;
- Represent the Directorate and Branch and establish, develop and maintain positive partnerships and relationships with key external bodies, including other ACT Government agencies, stakeholders, community organisations, commercial enterprises and interstate counterparts;
- Undertake incident management duties, including participation in fire standby, fire suppression and fire training;
- Work within an Activity Based Working Environment; and
- Understand and work within the ACTPS Code of Conduct and ACTPS values of respect, integrity, collaboration and innovation, and model behaviour consistent with the ACTPS Respect Equity and Diversity framework.
- This position does involve direct supervision of staff.

SELECTION CRITERIA (CAPABILITIES)

Provide concise evidence of your **skills, knowledge and behaviours** against the duties above and the ACTPS Shared Capability Framework.

1. Extensive experience and highly developed skills in managing complex environmental land management programs and service delivery across a range of conservation categories;
2. Proven ability to resolve conflict, lead harmonious and productive teams, manage and foster change and to contribute strongly to the efficient functioning of the senior management team;
3. Demonstrated ability to provide strategic, technical, planning and/or policy advice relevant to PCS as the Land Custodian
4. Highly developed communication skills and a demonstrated ability to establish and maintain partnerships within and external to Government;
5. Commitment to ACTPS values, Respect, Integrity, Collaboration, Innovation, and to workplace health, safety and wellbeing.

COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS / QUALIFICATIONS

Mandatory:

- Tertiary qualifications in natural resource management or environmental management or other relevant field is essential.
- This position may require a pre-employment medical
- This position does require a Working with Vulnerable People Check.

WORK ENVIRONMENT DESCRIPTION

The following work environment description outlines the inherent requirements of the role of Senior Director – Parks and Partnerships (position number P38057) and indicates how frequently each of these requirements would be performed. Please note that CED is committed to providing reasonable adjustment and ensuring all individuals have equal opportunities in the workplace.

ADMINISTRATIVE	FREQUENCY
Telephone use	Frequently
General computer use	Frequently

Extensive keying/data entry	Occasionally
Graphical/analytical based	Occasionally
Sitting at a desk	Frequently
Standing for long periods	Occasionally
Designated workstation	Occasionally
<i>The position in an activity based work environment</i>	

STANDARD HOURS	FREQUENCY
Flexible working hours (access to flex time)	Frequently
Fixed or specified start/finish times	Occasionally
Expected to work extensive hours over a significant period due to the nature of the duties	Occasionally
Access to Accrued Days Off (ADO's)	Never
Peaks and troughs	Frequently
Frequent paid overtime	Occasionally
Rostered shift work	Occasionally

SOCIAL DEMANDS	FREQUENCY
Work with others towards shared goals in a team environment	Frequently
Work in isolation from other staff (remote supervision)	Frequently
Working in a call centre environment	Never
Working directly with the public	Frequently

PHYSICAL DEMANDS	FREQUENCY
Distance walking (large buildings or inter-building transit)	Occasionally
Working outdoors	Occasionally

MANUAL HANDLING	FREQUENCY
Lifting 0 – 5kg	Occasionally
Lifting 5 – 10kg	Occasionally
Lifting 10kg+	Occasionally
Climbing	Never
Reaching	Occasionally
Bending/squatting	Occasionally
Push/pull	Occasionally
Sequential repetitive movements in a short amount of time	Occasionally

TRAVEL	FREQUENCY
Frequent travel – multiple work sites	Frequently
Frequent travel – driving	Frequently
Frequent travel – interstate	Occasionally

SPECIFIC HAZARDS	FREQUENCY
Working at heights	Never
Exposure to extreme temperatures	Never
Operation of heavy machinery e.g. forklift	Never
Confined spaces	Never
Excessive noise	Never
Low lighting	Occasionally
Handling of dangerous goods/equipment	Never
Working with asbestos	Never
Potential to encounter agitated customers	Occasionally
Exposure to potentially distressing case material	Never

OTHER	FREQUENCY
Uniform required	Occasionally
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) required	Occasionally