

Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy

Ecological Restoration Internship

For the summer Ecological Restoration Internship Program, the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy is looking for 3-6 highly motivated students to assist with ecological restoration efforts in the city park system.

Interns are expected to average 10 hours of work per week over 16 weeks generally consisting of 7 hours of field work, and 3 hours of independent study each week. This program will be offered twice per year, in the summer (Tuesdays, April-Aug) and fall (Fridays, Sept-Dec). This is an un-paid internship, however university credit may be awarded for successful completion of this program.

Work will consist of:

- On-the ground maintenance of existing restoration sites
- Invasive species identification and management
- Deer fence construction or maintenance
- Data collection for monitoring of restoration outcomes
- Interpreting scientific literature and field conditions to inform adaptive management
- Employment of active regeneration techniques (planting, seeding, etc)
- Working with and instructing volunteer groups
- Independent project due at end of internship

Requirements for Eligibility:

- Ability and eagerness to perform outdoor field work, often off-trail, in all weather conditions
- Completion of a Foundations of Ecology course, or demonstration of equivalent knowledge/coursework
- Species identification skills or an eagerness to learn
- Willingness to travel to and work in park locations throughout the city
- Attention to detail and ability to follow protocols
- Interns must be able available for a full day of field work from 8am-3pm

Critical thinkers and those motivated to apply known concepts and posit new ideas are particularly encouraged to apply.

To apply:

Please contact Robin (reng@pittsburghparks.org) with a resume, a most recent transcript (unofficial is fine), two references (one must be professional/academic), and a cover letter including your responses to the following application questions:

- Why do you want to participate in this internship?
- What is your favorite environmental/ecological subject and why?
- What do you consider a major threat to the ecology of Pittsburgh's forest ecosystems?
- What do you most appreciate about the Pittsburgh Parks?
- Is there anything else you would like us to know?