



Yale University President's Public Service Fellowship

Proposal for Fellowship Placement • Summer 2017

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- Organization: Urban Resources Initiative – Community Greenspace
 - Full street address of organization: **mailing: 195 Prospect Street, New Haven CT 06511; office location: 301 Prospect Street**
 - Website: www.yale.edu/uri
 - Name and title of the Direct Supervisor: Chris Ozyck, Associate Director
 - Phone number and e-mail address of Direct Supervisor: 203-432-6189; christopher.ozyck@yale.edu
 - Placement dates: 13 weeks, Tuesday, May 9 to Saturday, Aug 12, with a week of break July 2-9, plus optional paid spring training after spring break (Fridays at 1:30pm)
 - Are placement dates flexible? Placement dates are not flexible.
 - Hours of the program: Tuesday - Saturday, flexible hours 40/week

Placement Description

Organization description:

URI is a not-for-profit university partnership that ***transforms people and places through greening***. URI hires seven community foresters for its Greenspace program each summer. Through its Community Greenspace program, URI works with 50 New Haven community groups to replant, restore, and reclaim the urban environment each summer.

URI community foresters work in middle and low-income neighborhoods throughout the city in partnership with neighborhood residents, city officials, and non-profit agencies to revitalize New Haven communities by restoring neighborhood open spaces and streetscapes.

URI foresters receive training in urban forestry, project planning, site assessment, social forestry, and research techniques.

Summary of work that the Fellow would conduct:

URI community foresters:

- support 6 community groups to achieve their respective goals in environmental rehabilitation, (e.g. tree planting, vacant lot restoration, and leaded soil remediation);
- provide technical and material support to communities (including transporting tools, mulch, plants, etc. via URI's trucks);
- monitor improvements;
- work with city partners to carry out community goals.

The program's goals are to conduct environmental restoration, build community, and foster stewardship and civic empowerment.

Please write a complete description of the specific project you propose and list the duties/outcomes expected of the Fellow.

Community Greenspace is a city-wide environmental restoration program. The Greenspace program enables neighborhood organizations to undertake community-based, as well as private, tree planting, care and maintenance. Depending on community interests and applications to the program, projects include planting street trees, maintaining public parks, converting abandoned lots to "pocket" parks, as well as tree, bush and flower planting and soil lead abatement activities on private property.



Figure 1: 2016 PPSF forester working with Newhall and Division group

New Haven, like most urban areas, has many assets. In every neighborhood there are residents who are committed to improving the quality of city life. URI community foresters, through the Community Greenspace Program, work with local residents with the goals of conducting environmental restoration, building community, and fostering stewardship and civic empowerment.



Figure 2: 2016 PPSF forester with Friends of Edgewood Park



Figure 3: URI urban forester crew 2016

URI foresters receive training in urban forestry, project planning, site assessment, social forestry, and research techniques. In turn, URI community foresters provide both technical and material support to communities. Each forester works with up to seven community groups. Each community group sets environmental restoration goals at the beginning of the summer and works regularly (weekly, more or less) to reach the goals. The exact nature of the work will depend on the individual needs and opportunities of each neighborhood site. In general, community forestry interns will train community members in tree inventory, species choices, planting site selection, site preparation (including soil testing, erosion control measures, and enrichment through addition of compost), tree maintenance (watering, mulching, pruning, etc.), and planting methods. Training sessions will be conducted in small community workshops, as well as in individual or small group training activities.

URI foresters are responsible for maintaining and reporting data on community participation, plant materials used, survival statistics of trees planted the previous year, and lead abatement activities. Foresters work as a team (of approximately seven foresters) sharing tools, trucks, and other resources.

Specific skills/experience required for the project:

The community forestry interns must have one or more of the following: education, experience, passion, and/or commitment to environmental management and commitment to bringing these skills to urban areas. Because community forestry requires input from representatives of many different organizations, an ability to work with varied organizations and individuals is essential. As documentation is an integral component of this project, excellent communication and writing skills are required.

Additional requirements:

A valid driver's license is required. Weekends for this internship are Sundays and Mondays. Interns must work Saturdays.

Briefly describe the work that Yale PPSF Fellows have done with your agency in the past and present.

URI has been hiring Community Greenspace foresters in New Haven since the summer of 1995. These 150+ foresters have helped to plant more than 2,600 trees and revitalize and strengthen 297 communities in New Haven.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

We have many articles and reports in our office and on our website, which give more in-depth descriptions of our work. To learn more about the program, please visit our website's Greenspace page and call Chris at 203-432-6189 or e-mail him: christopher.ozyck@yale.edu.

