



Natural Areas Conservancy **CUNY Field Research Intern**

Organization Overview

Created in 2012, the Natural Areas Conservancy (NAC) is a non-profit organization devoted to restoring and conserving forests and wetlands in New York City (NYC). We preserve and promote ecological diversity and resilience across NYC's 20,000 acres of woodlands and coastal areas, in partnership with the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation (NYC Parks), representing an area 25 times the size of Central Park. NYC's natural areas offer immense environmental benefits, including improvements to air and water quality, providing New Yorkers access to nature, and strengthening communities. Our long-term goal for NYC is to bring our natural assets on par in quality and investment with the city's great cultural amenities and to ensure that residents and visitors enjoy world-class recreational opportunities, while simultaneously enjoying the environmental benefits that natural parkland provides.

More information can be found on our website: naturalareasnyc.org.

Internship description:

A joint project of the NAC and NYC Parks, the Forest Management Framework for New York City is a strategic and comprehensive plan to bolster and protect New York City's vital urban forests. Conducting rapid urban forest assessments is integral to achieving the plan's goal to actively manage all 7,300 acres of forest on New York City parkland. In 2018 and 2019, CUNY students assessed 475 acres of urban forests across the five boroughs, contributing to one of the country's largest existing datasets on urban ecological conditions. Variables included in these urban forest assessments are directly linked to forest restoration and management actions and ultimately direct NYC Parks' forest and wetland management.

The **Field Research Intern** position, available only to enrolled or recently graduated students in any CUNY college, is approximately 90% field work (navigating to sites and collecting data outdoors, in natural areas) and 10% office or lab work. Under the supervision of NAC ecologists, students will receive training on plant identification, field ecology, and surveying methods, and subsequently collect data in NYC parkland to support NYC Parks projects related to ecological conditions, wildlife, and vegetation. Main tasks include:

- Under the supervision of a Field Crew Leader, accurately collecting ecological data according to assessment protocols
- Working outdoors for long hours in NYC natural areas (forests, wetlands, and grasslands) in various weather conditions and carrying up to 30 lbs.
- Identifying flora present in NYC natural areas
- Entering and editing field data daily or as needed on web-based forms or paper datasheets
- Accurately navigating to study areas using a GPS
- Assisting in data entry and analysis as needed
- Interacting with staff and the public in a courteous and professional manner

Job Location: Field Research Intern positions are available with reporting locations in all five boroughs of New York City (Manhattan, Queens, the Bronx, Brooklyn, and Staten Island).



Duration: June-August 2020, 35 hours/week, with an opportunity to continue as a Natural Areas Management intern in Fall and Spring for 10-15 hours/week

Salary: \$17/hour

To apply, send your:

- A. Cover letter (C)
- B. Resume (R)
- C. Copy of unofficial transcripts (UOT) from any of the CUNY schools
- D. Three names that could be contacted for references (Ref), including phone number and email

To: jessica.hoch@naturalareasnyc.org by **Friday, March 20th**

Please send all materials electronically as PDF files with each labeled follows:

- A. 2020_last name_first init._CL (i.e. '2020_Jones_J_CL.pdf');
- B. 2020_last name_first init_R (i.e. '2020_Jones_J_R.pdf');
- C. 2020_last name_first init_UOT (i.e. '2020_Jones_J_UOT.pdf')
- D. 2020_last name, first init_Ref (i.e. '2020_Jones_J_Ref.pdf')

