



**NATURAL AREAS CONSERVANCY**  
**High School Program Intern - Forest Park**  
**Job Announcement**

**ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW**

Through its visionary leadership and high impact staff, the Natural Areas Conservancy (NAC) champions urban natural areas in New York City and across the nation through innovative research, partnerships, and advocacy. We increase the health and resilience of urban forests and wetlands, catalyze connections between people and nature, and strengthen the environmental workforce.

Started in 2012, the Natural Areas Conservancy is the first park conservancy dedicated exclusively to New York City's natural areas—20,000 acres across all five boroughs. Since 2019, we have also worked on a national scale, leading a network of representatives from cities across the U.S. to strengthen research, information sharing, and communication efforts to enhance the field of urban forest management.

We want all people to feel welcomed, inspired by, and connected to the natural world.

**PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

Since 2022, the NAC has run a paid urban ecology internship program for local high school students to use the framework of science identity to promote environmental stewardship among NYC youth. Over the course of 6 weeks, high school interns become familiar with flora and fauna identification, field ecology, natural areas management and stewardship, and the scientific method through several mentored monitoring and restoration projects. Interns also have the opportunity to participate in professional development training in public speaking, networking, and resume building. Finally, interns design and carry out their own ecological research project focused long-term forest health monitoring in Forest Park. Interns can look forward to collaborative stewardship and field trip days. This program will work out of Forest Park, Queens, and has a sister program at the Greenbelt Nature Center in Staten Island. Our program partners include: [Forest Park Trust](#) and [NYC Parks Department](#).

**POSITION OVERVIEW**

Starting in early 2025 (February - May) High School interns can look forward to virtual professional development sessions once a week that will focus on college & career readiness. The High School Program Intern will work under supervision of NAC and Forest Park Trust staff. During this six week internship, the intern will meet four days a week to gain skills such as navigating natural areas, native and non-native flora and fauna identification, field ecological data collection and analysis, natural areas stewardship, and professional development skills (science communication, networking, college readiness). Over the summer, interns will use these skills to collect data in Forest Park, pursue a research question of interest and create a scientific poster that will be presented at an end of summer symposium as a part of the [New York City Science Research Mentorship Consortium](#). This position will be 90% in person, field based and 10% remote based. The ideal candidate will have an interest in nature, working outdoors through hands-on field work, and learning introductory environmental science and ecology.

**MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Participate in [City Parks Foundation](#) professional development training in public speaking, networking,



resume building, and college & career readiness starting in February 2025 through May 2025

- Participate in [Irondale's](#) public speaking and science communication workshops in Summer 2025
- Learn about how the NAC and NYC Parks collect data to understand the health of forests and wetlands, the importance of stewardship and local environmental organization doing this work
- Become familiar with flora and fauna identification, introductory forest and wetland ecology
- Engage with ecosystems in Forest Park through scientific inquiry, ecological monitoring, and restoration projects
- Design and conduct their own research project from ecological data collected over the course of the program
- Connect with NAC and NYC Parks Staff, as well as college students participating in the NAC's City University of New York (CUNY) Internship Program
- Present your research project to members of the public during the NYC Science Research Mentorship Consortium's end of summer Symposium, August 14th, 2025

#### **REQUIRED SKILLS/QUALIFICATIONS**

- Will be enrolled in a Queens public high school within commuting distance (1 hour max) of Forest Park in Fall 2025, and will be rising juniors and seniors in the Summer 2025
- Ability to maintain a positive, collaborative attitude during hot (and probably buggy) days in natural areas and in variable weather conditions
- Strong interest in science research and nature, caring for NYC's natural areas and working outdoors
- Ability and motivation to work independently
- Computer access with reliable network connection and camera for occasional remote meetings
- Ability to arrive in a timely manner to multiple work-sites (in Queens and Manhattan) and to communicate with program lead on attendance and progress
- Commit to participating in the program from July 7th - August 15th, 2025
- Attending New York City Science Research Consortium Workshops (June 6th), Colloquium (July 11th) and Consortium poster presentation on August 14th, 2025

#### **JOB LOCATION:**

The High School Intern will report to Forest Park, Queens ([corner of Myrtle Ave and Park Ln S](#)) and occasionally at [Oak Ridge](#) on in-person days, weather permitting. Intern will report virtually in case of inclement weather.

#### **COMPENSATION/BENEFITS**

The Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) will be providing payment for this position at 24 hours per week for 6 weeks, 4 days a week, from July 7, 2025 through August 15, 2025.

If you are interested in being a part of this program, consider joining our in-person recruitment event on January 11th, 2025. The event will be held from 10AM to 1PM at Forest Park ([corner of Myrtle Ave and Park Ln S](#)), [RSVP here](#). If you have any questions about this position, please reach out to Naiyiri Blu Brooker at [naiyiri.brooker@naturalareasnyc.org](mailto:naiyiri.brooker@naturalareasnyc.org)