



**NATURAL AREAS CONSERVANCY (NAC)  
URBAN NATURE, ECOLOGY, STEWARDSHIP TRAINING (NEST)  
PAID YEAR-LONG FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM**

In 2024, we launched a program for CUNY students eager to gain more hands-on experience in natural resource management and to kick start their careers. This year-long paid program allows students to specialize in research or field work and to pursue additional training and certifications that will make them more competitive to employers in the green sector. What makes this program unique is its long term cohort model, which trains passionate students for local jobs after they graduate from their CUNY school. Gain foundational knowledge with the NAC crucial for career growth!



***Over the course of our program, fellows will:***

- Complete 800 hours of technical training and project work experience in natural resources management including data collection, urban ecology surveying, plant identification, trail navigation, and community engagement
- Participate in lectures facilitated by practitioners in the environmental field focused on introduction to urban ecology, environmental justice, environmental policy and regulation and Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
- Engage in professional development sessions focused on program success, career discernment and job search skills
- Take ownership of a and further develop a long term project they will be matched with based on career interests
- Attend group stewardship events citywide that serve as professional networking and volunteering opportunities
- Receive mentorship from professionals from organizations like the NAC, NYC Parks, local park conservancies, city environmental organizations and the NAC Alumni Network of past program participants
- Earn valuable certifications to add to resumes such as First Aid/CPR, GIS courses, and becoming Super Stewards

**Duration and Delivery**

Starts in September; ends in August the following year. Fall (Sept. - Dec.), winter (Jan.) and spring (Feb. - May) are part-time (14 hours/week to accommodate class schedule); summer (June - Aug.) is full-time 35 hours/week. Students must be available for entire program which is in-person with select remote days depending on the project.

**Eligibility**

- Current CUNY students (undergraduates, graduate and students pursuing certifications) who are upperclassmen (juniors and seniors and established graduates) - open to any major or degree program within the CUNY system
- Passion for studying and interest in improving local ecosystems as demonstrated through coursework, volunteering, and past experiences with a goal of seeking employment post program

**Ideal Intern Characteristics**

- Commitment to working collaboratively, sharing knowledge and actively participating in the program
- Can maintain a positive, collaborative attitude during hot (and probably buggy) days in forests, wetlands and on trails in variable weather conditions

**Program Locations**

Program locations can vary across the city depending on the assigned project and position focus, therefore the ability to independently travel to sites across all five boroughs is imperative.

Do you have questions or want to learn more about our internship program like past intern projects?  
Check out our website: [naturalareasnyc.org](https://naturalareasnyc.org) OR email [info@naturalareasnyc.org](mailto:info@naturalareasnyc.org).