Post-fire Plant and Pollinator Recovery Internship
The U. S. National Park Service, National Capital Region

The U. S. National Park Service (NPS) National Capital Region (NCR), Office of Natural Resources and Science (NRS) is seeking an upper level student with a background in Ecology, Habitat/Community Structure, Plant Identification, Insect Identification, or related fields. The intern will continue an existing project in the native plant areas of Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts during the 2018 growing season. On April 6, 2018 there was a controlled fire in the native meadow. Post-fire the intern will conduct a recovery investigation, documenting the return of species. Lastly, a site review of the native woodland garden will be conducted to provide a baseline of pollinators for park reference. The highly urbanized and rapidly growing region around NCR parks makes them increasingly important as a critical refugia for biodiversity as species expand their ranges from the south in response to climate change. The internship will begin in August of 2018 and could continue through December of 2018.

The intern will work closely with the NPS Urban Ecology Research Learning Alliance’s Science Education Coordinator. The intern will have the opportunity to present findings to NPS staff in the National Capital Region and at Wolf Trap. This position will begin in August 2018 and continue until December 2018 depending on the student’s interest and funding. Hours are anticipated to be part-time, not to exceed 20 hours/week, during the semester. Duty station is flexible but visits to the Natural Resources and Science Office in Washington, DC and to Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts in Vienna, VA will be necessary. Interns will work with resource staff and partners at Wolf Trap. NPS mentors will include staff in the UERLA and the Office of Natural Resources and Sciences. Additionally, the intern should have access to a computer and experience in plant and/or pollinator identification.

UERLA is a National Park Service Research Learning Center that serves 16 parks in National Capital Region. We translate complex research results into readily understandable information, providing research, education, and technical assistance for parks. UERLA also provides science communication outreach to park managers and external audiences via websites, workshops, and publications. UERLA maintains research and education partnerships with universities, not-for-profit, education, and other federal agencies. The education activities of UERLA include providing training opportunities for NPS staff and partners, participating in science education programs, and building external partnerships that support science education in parks. Within the Natural Resources and Science Office, other science programs, such as botany, wildlife, geology, air resources, and inventory and monitoring, aquatic ecology work with the Urban Ecology Research Learning Alliance on interdisciplinary projects.

Students must be enrolled in fall semester of 2018 in a degree program. The position will be a University of Maryland paid internship.

If interested, provide a current resume, transcripts, and letter of interest electronically to Ann_Gallagher@nps.gov, Science Education Coordinator, Urban Ecology Research Learning Alliance, National Capital Region, National Park Service, 4598 MacArthur Blvd., NW, Washington, DC 20007, Cell: (240) 461-6171. Use ‘Post-fire Plant and Pollinator Recovery Internship’ in the subject line.

The deadline for applying is 6-29-2018 at 5 pm ET. We expect to interview candidates beginning the week of 7-2-2018.