Quantifying Ecological Benefits of Trees in a National Park Internship
The U. S. National Park Service, National Capital Region

Description: The position will be a University of Maryland-based, flexible, full-time, paid internship. The U.S. National Park Service (NPS) National Capital Region (NCR), Office of Natural Resources and Science (NRS) Urban Ecology Research Learning Alliance (UERLA) and Rock Creek Park are seeking an upper level undergraduate student with interest in Urban Forestry, Environmental Effects of Vegetation, Computer Modeling for Natural Resources, Public Land Management, and/or related fields. Additionally, the intern should have access to a computer. The Ecological Benefits intern will use USDA and Davey Institutes’ suite of iTrees modeling tools to quantify changes in ecological services for pre-selected sections of Rock Creek Park. The intern will be mentored by UERLA and park staff. The final professional development activity will be a presentation to Natural Resources and Science staff in the park and regional offices. The highly urbanized and rapidly growing region around NCR parks makes them increasingly important as a critical refugia for urban visitors and other species in a changing climate. Students must be enrolled in a degree program for the duration of the internship.

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. We anticipate that the internship will begin in May of 2020 and continue through August of 2020 start and end dates are negotiable. Hours are full-time for 10 weeks. The bulk of work is by telework with occasional site visits to area National Parks and UERLA. Project mentors will include NPS staff in the UERLA and the Office of Natural Resources and Sciences.

About UERLA: 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.

How to Apply: If interested, provide a current resume with references, 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: (202) 322-9888. Please use the subject line ‘Quantifying Benefits’.

The deadline for applying is April 30, 2020 at 5 pm ET. We expect to begin to interview candidates the following week.