



Mystic Greenways Fellow

June 3-August 9, 2024

Organization Mission & Values

The Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection and restoration of the Mystic River, its tributaries and watershed lands. MyRWA works to improve public access to water bodies and shorelines, and especially for environmental justice populations whose recreational opportunities have been limited by the concentration of industrial and commercial development along the edges of the river.

Fellowship Overview

We are seeking a talented, passionate summer fellow for the Mystic Greenways program – this is an exciting opportunity to have an impact on a regional planning initiative with tremendous momentum! The vision of the Mystic Greenways program is for the completion of 25 miles of connected paths and open spaces from the Mystic Lakes to Boston Harbor. MyRWA's work on the Mystic Greenways program is conducted in partnership with community members in communities historically excluded from decision-making processes, particularly with regards to the development of mobility infrastructure and open spaces.

The fellow's primary responsibility will be to lead on and complete a project that will identify and catalog the existing conditions of vital physical assets throughout the Mystic Greenways, such as educational and interpretive signage, wayfinding signage, arts and cultural features (e.g. murals), cooling features (e.g. water fountains, shade structures), and recreational features (e.g. playgrounds). The resulting deliverables from the project will provide invaluable insight on the collective need for improvement of Mystic Greenways assets across municipal and jurisdictional boundaries.

The fellow's secondary responsibility will be to support the coordination and facilitation of community engagement opportunities for Mystic Greenways projects and programs. Examples of these opportunities include community meetings, steering committee meetings, stakeholder meetings, outdoor events (e.g. walking tours, bike rides), and educational programs (e.g. youth nature tours). As these opportunities may relate to a particular project or the Mystic Greenways as a whole, We encourage you to learn more about both in advance of applying at mysticriver.org/greenways.

Tertiary opportunities will revolve around the fellow's enrichment and development of professional skills and relationships. While the goal will be to cater these opportunities around the fellow's interests, they will include opportunities to conduct site visits, and also join meetings with local and



state government officials (both elected and administrative), design/engineering consultants, community advocates, and non-profit partners specializing in greenways, conservation, and environmental justice.

The intern will report to the Greenways Program Manager. Please note that the fellowship involves extensive field work outdoors along the Mystic Greenways. It also will require the fellow to work both independently and as a member of a diverse team of staff and colleagues. This is a 35 hour per week position for 10 weeks. Fellows will be compensated \$5,250.

Learning outcomes include:

- Analysis, inventory and reporting on the existing conditions of path and open space assets. Includes geospatial, spreadsheet and in-the-field data management.
- Equitable community engagement strategies designed to decentralize decision-making and foster participatory action in path and open space projects.
- Skills in the successful management of regional planning visions, stakeholder relationships and design processes for path and open space projects across jurisdictional boundaries.

Qualifications:

- Strong understanding of urban planning, urban design, landscape architecture and/or related field(s)
- Strong passion for the value of paths and open spaces in the achievement of urban planning goals for mobility, wellness, environment and resilience
- Experience using geospatial database software (e.g. ArcGIS or QGIS)
- Experience using Microsoft and Google Software Suites
- Ability to conduct extensive field work outdoors on ADA-accessible facilities
- Ability to occasionally attend evening meetings and events (no more than one per week)
- Ability to travel throughout the watershed, preferably with the use of public transportation, walking and/or bicycling.
- Additional desired skills include interpersonal communication, self-motivation/organization, and attention to detail

The Mystic River Watershed Association is an equal opportunity employer. This is a great opportunity to be involved with a small non-profit doing work on behalf of the community and environment.



How to Apply

To apply send your cover letter and resume to Karl.Alexander@mysticriver.org with "Mystic Greenways Fellow Application" in the subject line. No calls, please. The position will be open until filled, preference will be given to candidates who apply before March 20th, 2024. For more information about the Mystic River Watershed Association see www.MysticRiver.org.