

Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources

University of Vermont

Perennial Summer Internship Program - 2022

Internship Title: VT Community Forest Demonstration Project Intern

Internship Site: The intern will spend about 1/3 of their time conducting stewardship activities in the field and 2/3 of their time conducting computer research, phone interviews, and writing. There will be some travel to visit community lands in different parts of the state to interview county foresters, local forest stewardship/conservation committee members, and other community advocates or to conduct monitoring and stewardship activities on Vermont Land Trust (VLT) conserved properties. If COVID restrictions continue into the summer the intern will need to do office work remotely.

Name and description of organization: Vermont Land Trust (VLT) is a statewide conservation organization with 50 staff who work to conserve productive farmland, forestland, and community lands, such as town forests. We are governed by a Board of Directors and have offices around the state.

Description (duties and responsibilities): Community forests are uniquely valuable for what they provide to their surrounding communities in the form of recreational opportunities, connection to the land, environmental services, biodiversity, and more. In Vermont, town forests are the most common examples of community forests, but community forests can also include accessible conserved land owned by non-profits that engage the local communities in aspects of stewardship.

Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, VLT, and University of Vermont Extension are collaborating to highlight community forests as models of stewardship and increase the number of demonstration sites accessible to forest landowners, forest managers and surrounding communities. The intern will assist with the documentation of existing demonstration projects on community lands across the state and in creating a Community Forest Stewardship Toolkit. The projects to be documented range from silvicultural treatments to wildlife habitat creation to invasive plant control. The intern will also assist with the stewardship of community lands owned by VLT and local communities by assisting with activities such as EAB monitoring and research, deer browse monitoring, and non-native invasive plant control.

Training will be provided on non-native invasive plant ID and control techniques and deer browse monitoring protocols. There will also be opportunities to get involved in other stewardship and restoration projects, including VLT's riparian and wetland restoration work.

Desired qualifications/skills/coursework:

- Working towards a Bachelor's degree.
- Course work and strong skills in communication (writing and interviewing), developing outreach and education tools and tree and plant ID.
- Ability to work independently
- Ability to walk for an 8-hour day over steep and rough ground in all conditions, including extreme heat, rain, and bugs.
- Good time and project management skills.
- Enthusiasm for conservation and forest resource management.
- Access to a car, phone, internet and computer.

***Rubenstein students currently in their sophomore and junior years are eligible to apply. Seniors graduating in May 2022 are not eligible to apply. Earning Independent Study or Internship credit through the Rubenstein Internship Program is required. Due to possible restrictions related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Perennial Internships may happen as described or be modified. ***

Supervision: Caitlin Cusack, Forester, Vermont Land Trust; manages VLT properties, stewards conservation easements, and supports conserved landowners and staff with forest management.

Start and End Dates: Mid-May – mid-August 2022 (exact start/end dates are negotiable).

Total Hours: 280 (28 hours/week for 10 weeks). Weekday work schedule is negotiable.

Compensation: \$13.55/hour with up to \$500 for mileage reimbursement. This compensation includes use of the intern's personal vehicle, computer, and cell phone.

For more information contact: Caitlin Cusack, caitlin@vlt.org, 802-989-9616.

How to apply:

1. Click the following link to view the Rubenstein Perennial Internship Descriptions in Handshake: <https://uvm.joinhandshake.com/employers/226837>
 - a. If asked to log in: click "UVM Net ID Login" & login.
 - b. Click the Favorite button to enable easier searches in the future.
2. Click "View All Jobs" in Jobs at Rubenstein Perennial Internship Program box on right side of page.
3. You should now see the great Perennial internship opportunities! Click "View Details" to learn more about each position.

- a. Please do take the time to carefully read each individual description so that you don't miss a great opportunity by judging an internship solely on its title.
 - b. You may apply for up to **three** Perennial Internships.
 - c. All applications are due by 11:59pm, on Monday, February 21st, 2022.
4. You'll need to upload both required documents in Handshake before you can apply for any Perennial Internship:
 - a. Click on your name at top right of screen in Handshake
 - b. Select Documents.
5. Please upload all documents as pdfs. The following are the required documents:
 - a. Resume
 - b. Cover Letter
 - i. You should write and upload a unique cover letter for each position to which you are applying.
 - ii. In your cover letter, provide the name & contact information for at least one professional reference. This could be someone who supervised you in a past work/internship/volunteer position, or a professor or teacher, etc. The person listed should **not** be the person who completes your recommendation form.
6. In addition to the documents listed above, a recommendation form will need to be completed by a Rubenstein faculty, graduate student, or staff member of your choosing.

When you ask your recommender if they are willing to complete the form to support your application, please provide your recommender

 - a. This link: [recommendation form link](#)
 - b. Only one recommendation form needs to be completed regardless of how many Perennial Internships you are applying for.
 - c. Your recommender will complete & submit this form online and then your recommendation will be confidentially added to your application(s). This recommendation form needs to be submitted by the February 21st, deadline.
7. Make sure that your resume and cover letter(s) are as strong as they can be! Utilize the resources around you:

- a. The Rubenstein Stewards are great at reviewing resumes/cover letters and providing helpful feedback. Email the Stewards to schedule an appointment after the start of the semester: RSENRStewards@uvm.edu
 - b. Get your resume and cover letter reviewed by a Career Counselor at the Career Center. [You can check the Career Center's drop-in hours here.](#) The Career Center also offers [a guide on building your resume available here.](#)
8. If you are selected to interview for a Perennial Internship, you will be contacted by the site to set up an interview during early-mid March.