

Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources

University of Vermont

Perennial Summer Internship Program - 2021

Internship Title: VT Community Forest Demonstration Project Intern

Internship Site: The duties will involve about two-thirds of the intern's time in the field conducting stewardship activities on community lands in different parts of the state and about one-third of their time doing computer research, writing, mapping and phone interviews. Given the fact that COVID restrictions will likely continue into the summer the intern will need to do office work remotely.

Name and description of organization: Vermont Land Trust 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, Vermont Land Trust (VLT), and University of Vermont Extension are collaborating to highlight community forests as models of stewardship, reduce barriers to implementation of sound stewardship practices on community forests, and increase the number of demonstration sites accessible to forest landowners, forest managers and surrounding communities.

The intern will assist with the stewardship of community lands owned by VLT and local communities that serve as demonstration sites by conducting bird habitat assessments, assisting with the setup of deer exclosures, conducting deer browse monitoring, and assisting with non-native invasive plant control. The intern will also assist with the documentation of existing demonstration projects on community lands across the state. The internship is mostly field-based but there will be some office work to develop ArcGIS story maps and other documentation and outreach materials for some of these demonstration projects.

Training will be provided on Audubon's Bird Habitat Assessment Method, 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, learn about VLT's ecological assessment method, and conduct ash monitoring.

Desired qualifications/skills/coursework:

- Working towards a Bachelor's degree.
- Course work and strong skills in tree and plant ID, forest measurements and mapping, GIS, and developing outreach and education tools.
- Ability to work independently, and be comfortable alone in the woods for a day.
- 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 2021 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, be modified or canceled.

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 2020 (exact start/end dates are negotiable).

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

Compensation: \$13/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: Step-by-step instructions. Please follow them closely.

- 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, Wednesday, February 17th, 2021.

- 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 documents as pdfs. The following are required documents:
 - a) Resume
 - b) Cover Letter
 - i) You should write and upload unique cover letters for each position to which you are applying.
 - ii) In your cover letter, provide name & contact information for at least one professional reference. This could be someone who supervised you in a past work/internship/volunteer position, a professor or teacher, etc. The person listed should **not** be the person also completing 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.
 - a) When you ask your recommender if they are willing to complete the form to support your application, please provide your recommender this [link to the recommendation form](#)
 - 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 17th 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 learn more here about how to schedule an appointment.](#)
 - c) Sign up for a resume/cover letter review appointment with Anna Smiles-Becker (Rubenstein Career Counselor & Internship Coordinator) using [Navigate](#).

- 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.