



POSITION DESCRIPTION

JOB TITLE: Urban Forest Assessment Intern

DEPARTMENT: Urban Ecology

REPORTS TO: Project Manager

TIME FRAME: Full time from June 24th to August 2nd 2019

POSITION SUMMARY: The Urban Forest Assessment Intern completes the day-to-day tasks of the Urban Forest Assessment Project. The majority of tasks will be completed in the field as a team of Assessment Interns undertakes a survey of 300 research plots located throughout the greater Sacramento region. This entails locating pre-determined plots, measuring and recording landscape elements, determining tree canopy size, identifying tree species, and determining the type of land use at each plot. Data collected each day will be entered into the USDA Forest Service i-Tree Eco software.

Project Summary: i-Tree Eco is a software application designed to use field data from complete inventories or randomly located plots throughout a community along with local hourly air pollution and meteorological data to quantify urban forest structure, environmental effects, and value to communities. Baseline data can be used for making effective resource management decisions, developing policies and setting priorities.

This will be the fourth iteration of the assessment conducted over the past twelve years in the Sacramento Region by the Sacramento Tree Foundation. Following data processing, the results will include information such as a ranked list of tree species that make up our urban forest, how much carbon is stored in our urban forest, and how much pollution our urban forest removes from the atmosphere annually. The purpose of the assessment is to evaluate the status of the Sacramento region's urban forest, gain information regarding benefits provided by our urban forest, and track substantive changes over time.

DUTIES:

Preparation

1. Become familiar with the Tree Foundations mission, projects, and programs
2. Read the Collecting Data section of the i-Tree ECO manual prior to the first day of training
3. Participate in five days of training; learning data collection techniques, basic tree identification techniques, and how to input data
4. Ensure all necessary files, supplies, and tools are taken out in the field each day

Data Collection and Input

1. Work in cooperation with team members to locate plots, collect and input data in compliance with specific assessment protocol, and identify trees
2. Use physical tools such as DBH tapes, tape measures, and Biltmore sticks to collect data
3. Use programs and applications such as Microsoft Excel and Google sheets
4. Consistently and carefully input data into i-Tree software, follow all data input protocol
5. Maintain files, ensuring all data sheets are scanned and filed correctly
6. Ensure all tools are cared for and returned in good working condition

Communications

1. Professionally communicate the purpose of the survey and how data will be used to community members and other individuals encountered during field assessment activities
2. Complete daily work log, vehicle mileage forms, and other pertinent paperwork

JOB REQUIREMENTS:

***Must be 18 years of age or older to apply**

EDUCATION: Completed or ongoing education towards a certificate or degree in urban forestry, biology, ecology, environmental science, natural resource management or related field is helpful, but not required.

EXPERIENCE: Data collection and tree identification skills helpful. Field work experience highly desired.

SKILLS and REQUIRMENTS: Excellent communication skills, must have basic computer skills, and map reading skills. Individuals driving for the project must have a valid driver's license, clean record, and automobile insurance. Individuals may be asked to use their own vehicle with mileage reimbursement given.

TEMPERAMENT/SOFT SKILLS: Must work well on a team and have the ability to get along with others. Must be comfortable taking initiative, making decisions quickly using sound judgment, but also acting in a supporting role. Must be able to walk, bend, twist, and work safely on uneven terrain including steep slopes, woodlands with thick vegetation, urban and industrial landscapes. Applicants must be able and willing to work outside in all weather conditions, including hot summer conditions, for extended periods of time. Must be comfortable working in an organization dedicated to protecting our urban forest through community education and engagement.

BENEFITS:

Stipend of \$500

Personal vehicle travel reimbursement when used for the project (\$0.58/mile driven to and from plots)

Internship credit and letter of recommendation (if desired)

Participants will gain:

- Forestry based data collection skills utilizing DBH tapes, tape measures, and Biltmore sticks
- Tree species identification skill
- Experience with the i-Tree Eco software suite
- Connections with professionals working in the fields of Urban Forestry and Ecology

SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES:

No formal supervisory role.

WORKING CONDITIONS:

This is a temporary, volunteer position housed at the Sacramento Tree Foundation office in Sacramento CA, the majority of the work performed will be out in the field.

Sacramento Tree Foundation Mission Statement:

The Sacramento Tree Foundation is a community benefit organization working to build healthy, livable communities in the Sacramento region by growing the best urban forest in the nation.

THIS JOB DESCRIPTION DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN OFFER OF EMPLOYMENT

Interested applicants should submit a Cover Letter and Resume to Zarah@sactree.com with the Subject heading "Urban Forest Assessment Internship Application."

DEADLINE is Friday May 31, 2019