**Urban Resources Initiative Internships for Summer 2013**

***URI is a partnership of the Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks, the Parks & People Foundation, and area universities and institutions*.**

URI internship expectations:

 Summer term: 180 hours; 10-12 weeks, 15-18 hours/week

 Most internships are unpaid; paid internships contingent upon funding

 Academic credit may be applicable; see your academic advisor or internship office.

For priority consideration, apply before April 1.

For information, contact Dr. Edward Orser, URI Program Manager (orser@umbc.edu)

Please submit the following:

 --a cover letter of interest, addressing your skills and experience relevant to the internship;

 --your resume;

 --the name and e-mail contact information for the faculty academic advisor from whom we will request a reference

Send your application either electronically to jobs@parksandpeople.org;

Or by mail to URI Internships, Parks & People Foundation, 800 Wyman Park Drive, Suite 010, Baltimore, Md. 21211

**Summer Semester 2013 URI Internship Project Opportunities**

Urban Tree Planting Soil Analysis

Evaluation and recommendations regarding Baltimore’s sidewalk “tree pits.” The intern will investigate current research on best management practices for pit construction and backfill composition – including the use of stratified soil layers, drainage material, and fabrics—and make recommendations on soil structure and pit construction options for future planting by Urban Forestry, TreeBaltimore, and their partners. Skill and study in plant or soil science is preferred, especially relating to the establishment of woody ornamentals in an urban soil environment. Work involves both office and field sites.

Erosion Control Studies

The project targets critical areas within the Baltimore park system—secondary growth wooded slopes along trails, streams, and developed parkland-- to provide analysis and recommendations for erosion mitigation. The intern is expected to produce an outline of technical specifications that can be used for Request for Proposals for erosion mitigation and/or future studies. Skill or study in soil science or woodland restoration is preferable, especially as they relate to erosion and sediment control. Work involves both office and field sites.

Identifying Notable and Champion Trees

The project involves updating the city’s Notable Tree Register on behalf of the TreeBaltimore program. Working with current TreeBaltimore partners and collecting additional data, the intern will develop narratives for each tree, with specific supplements for the trees found within Baltimore’s parks. Skill or study in plant or environmental sciences as they relate to trees or urban forests is desirable, and proficiency in woody plant identification is important. Work involves both office and field sites.

Green Special Events at Cylburn

The project involves developing “green” standards for events at the Vollmer Center at Cylburn Arboretum. The project involves adaptation of the park system’s existing ‘Green Events’ protocols to create Cylburn’s Green Event Certification for weddings and other activities: establishing protocols for recycling food waste and other material, catering practices, number and type of receptacles, removal schedule, outsourcing options, on-site recycling and cost of implementation.  Work may include field interviews with catering companies, event planners, and building and grounds staff.

Park Land Soil Analysis

The project involves the evaluation of soil conditions in a variety of park settings, including ball fields, lawn, and food production sites. The project will include both field studies and chemical soil analysis. The intern will make recommendations for improvements to the soil through cultivation or nutrition relative to the usage of the area. Skills in Soil Science and ability to analyze soil samples preferred, especially in relationship to horticultural applications. Supervision will be the Horticultural Division staff.

Park User Survey: Developing a Park Report Card

The intern will develop a standardized park “report card” for use in the system’s major parks and facilities, incorporating observational evidence and surveys of user and non-user opinion, as well as other appropriate methods, such as GIS mapping or census data review. The internship includes research and compilation of existing methods of analysis, including ways in which similar research has been used in comparable urban park systems to inform policy and funding decisions. Evidence of experience in qualitative and quantitative research, data collection and analysis or survey development required.

Marketing/Promotions for Aquatic Programs

The intern will promote and participate in special programs at the large park pools as part of a planning process to develop a 5-10 year plan for park system aquatic facilities: assist with promotion, outreach and preparation for six citywide public meetings (June/July) to discuss initial recommendations; update aquatic events listings on social media sites, web site, and calendars of events; develop flyers and promotional materials; research new avenues for promotion of department aquatic/recreational events, programs, and initiatives. Desired skills include ability to write and design promotional materials, comfort with community outreach, familiarity with social media sites, and knowledge of marketing strategies.

Supervisor for Park Cistern Installation

The intern will supervise the installation of two cisterns for the Baltimore park system to provide water for irrigation and hand washing in remote sites. The project involves learning the technical specifications and procedures for installing the cisterns, as well as the supervision of Civic Conservation Job Corps young people in the actual work of installation. Civil engineering training and/or mechanical skills are required, as well as experience in working with young people.

Team Leader for Youth Works Program

The Team Leader will supervise a Youth Works crew of 10 Baltimore high school students (ages 14-18) in work on projects in Baltimore City parks. Team Leaders are responsible for modeling proper work behaviors and directing youth on various group work tasks, such as cutting and removing invasive plants, mulching trees and playgrounds, pruning overhanging branches and removing suckers from trees, painting fences and benches. Experience working effectively with young people is essential. Team Leaders must undergo a background check and a drug test prior to appointment.

Marketing/Promotions for Park Activities

The intern will assist with the promotion of Department of Recreation and Parks programs, including updating park events listings, social media sites, web site, and calendar of events; develop flyers and promotional materials; research new avenues for promotion of department events, programs, and initiatives. Skill and experience in writing and communications technology required.

Program Assistant for Outdoor Recreation Activities/Healthy Baltimore Initiative

**Continuation of an ongoing project to assist in the development and implementation of outdoor activity programs in Baltimore parks, with a special emphasis upon assessment of their health benefits as part of the Mayor’s Healthy Baltimore 2015 initiative. Organize and provide leadership for outdoor activities; conduct surveys and disseminate information to participants on the health benefits of outdoor activity.**

Administrative Intern

The intern will have the opportunity to learn about the administration of the department and undertake special projects, as assigned. Opportunities may include shadowing managers to their meetings to observe and learn how administrative decisions are determined and how they are transmitted to staff in the development of new programs and work procedures; assisting with and learning about payroll, ordering, or budget processes; receiving special assignments related to the administration of the park system.

Urban Garden Site Selection and Installation

The intern will assist in steps toward installation of new urban gardens on vacant properties in Baltimore City, following the existing City Farm model used in Baltimore parks. The project involves site surveys and interaction with community members and associations, development of specific garden design and implementation plans, recruiting of volunteers for site preparation, and assistance in initial steps in garden installation.

Deer Management Policy for the Baltimore Park System

The intern will formulate recommendations for a Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks policy on deer management. The project will involve research on policies and programs in comparable urban park systems, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and other City agencies, including the Department of Public Works (for its policies or procedures regarding deer management in watershed properties). The project also will require research on current city laws, rules and regulations that would impact possible deer management strategies in the city and a survey of Parks Friends groups for feedback on deer population issues at the community level.

Program Assistant for Volunteer Park Groups

The intern will assist the Volunteer Coordinator in developing ways to work more effectively with Friends of the Parks groups, which constitute an increasingly important resource in support of Baltimore’s overall park program. The project will involve outreach to citizens involved in these volunteer support groups to conduct a needs assessment, development of guidelines and recommendations for effective organizations, assistance with selected volunteer events, and evaluation of the impact of the Partnership for Parks program grants received by many of these groups.