

Mercer County Park Commission

Ecological Stewardship Intern Description

**Location:**

Naturalist Division
Hunt Barn
197 Blackwell Road
Pennington, NJ 08534

Stewardship Overview:

The stewardship efforts of the Naturalist Division of the Mercer County Park Commission aim to restore ecological integrity, protect natural resources, and develop environmental values within communities of Mercer County. We are looking for interns to assist in accomplishing these missions, primarily with the response to nonnative invasive species that threaten the valuable native habitat within our parks. This position will be largely field-based.

Job Description:

The primary project these interns will be responsible for is our ash tree inventory within parkland. However, additional activities include but aren't limited to:

- Ash tree inventory using GPS unit along trails and high use areas in our parks, in response to Emerald Ash Borer damage and subsequent ash tree removal.
- Invasive plant species control by manual removal and application of herbicides (training will be provided).
- Installation of native plants and deer fence/protection.
- Native garden/restoration planting maintenance.
- Ecological monitoring including forest health study and surveying for plant species.
- Parkland and Open Space property boundary posting.
- Trail maintenance.
- Data entry.

Requirements:

- New Jersey native and nonnative invasive plant ID, or ability and willingness to learn species identification.
- Willingness to attend NJDEP's basic pesticide training course and obtain Pesticide Operator's License to use herbicides in a safe and selective manner.
- Ability to work outdoors in variable weather conditions, carry equipment and to hike through the forest with uneven terrain.
- Prior experience navigating using maps and/or GPS units is preferred, but not required.
- Willingness to interact positively with the public and represent the missions of the Naturalist Division.
- Valid New Jersey Driver's License.

Apply:

<http://www.mercercounty.org/departments/personnel/job-opportunities/mercercounty-internship-program>

Reference: Ecological Stewardship Intern/Naturalist Division

Deadline: April 1, 2021.

Mercer County is an EOE/AA/ADA Employer



The Mercer County Park Commission

Brian M. Hughes, County Executive

Aaron T. Watson, Executive Director