



### Friends of Princeton Open Space

57 Mountain Avenue  
Princeton, NJ 08540

### Land Steward Internship

Friends of Princeton Open Space (FOPOS) seeks three Land Steward Interns for the 2023 season. The interns will work under the direction of the FOPOS Director of Natural Resources and Stewardship, assisting in the day-to-day activities of managing an open space preserve. Most of the interns' time will be spent outdoors working within riparian and forest restoration project sites located at the Billy Johnson Mountain Lakes Nature Preserve in Princeton. Interns will also get the opportunity to assist in the beginning stages of a new reforestation project supported by New Jersey's Natural Climate Solutions Grant program, in partnership with the Municipality of Princeton. The project aims to reset carbon trajectories within a degraded 40-acre site by planting native trees and shrubs, while mitigating deer and invasive species. As a small non-profit organization, FOPOS relies on volunteers to meet its stewardship goals and hosts frequent volunteer sessions at the Preserve. Stewardship interns will play a critical role in organizing and leading these events, typically held on weekends.

#### Job Description

- **Invasive species management:** identify, monitor, and remove invasive plant species using loppers, pruners, hand saws, electric weedwhackers, hedge trimmers, etc. Target invasive species for removal include Japanese honeysuckle vine and shrub, stilt grass, wineberry, burning bush, multi-flora rose, and Japanese barberry, among others.
- **Native tree and shrub plantings:** learn proper planting techniques and perform tasks including mulching, watering, planting, weeding, deer-cage installation, monitoring and plant care.
- **Organize and lead volunteer stewardship sessions** with the public, school, community, and corporate groups. Must be available to work some weekends.
- **Contribute to environmental education and outreach** activities targeted at the greater Princeton community, including programming for the local YMCA's summer outdoor living skills program. Past interns have led bird walks and plant ID hikes, surveyed for 'water bugs,' and played nature bingo.
- **Conduct ecological and field monitoring projects** at the Preserve: botanical surveys, beaver chew monitoring and mitigation, native forest bees, tree inventories, efficacy of stilt grass management, EAB parasitoid wasp recovery, aquatic plant surveys.
- **Assist with a seed collection and plant propagation workshop series.**
- Support administrative and field needs such as organizing tools, file management, shed clean-up, etc.
- Contribute **photos and written content** that help to highlight and promote FOPOS events and mission.
- **Opportunity to create a conservation-based independent project** that supports FOPOS's needs.
- Engage in additional outside educational opportunities as relevant, such as lectures, exhibits, and nature walks.



**Duration:**

Two Full Season Interns (400 hours): Early April 2023 - Dec 1, 2023 (Start and end dates are flexible);  
One Summer Season Intern (200 hours): May 15, 2023- August 15, 2023 (Start and end dates are flexible)

**Hours:** A commitment of 400 hours is required for the Full Season Intern, and a commitment of 200 hours is required for the Summer Season Intern. The intern is expected to work an average of 2 days a week (~16 hours/week) and must be available to work some weekend dates for volunteer events. As with all field jobs, our schedule may need to flex to accommodate weather, agency needs, and scheduled events.

**Compensation:** \$16/hour

**Location:** Billy Johnson Mountain Lakes Nature Preserve, located at 57 Mountain Ave. in Princeton, NJ 08540

**Application deadline:** Rolling admission, due by March 31, 2023.

*We are accepting applications on a rolling basis and encourage interested applicants to apply ASAP.*



**Requirements:** Ideal candidates will be actively pursuing a degree or career in ecology, natural resource management, environmental education, or related fields; must possess a strong interest in conservation, a desire to work outdoors and the ability to tolerate various field and weather conditions as well as conduct physically strenuous field work. Applicants must be able to work both independently and as a member of a team, engage with the public, be accountable, punctual, organized, and maintain a positive attitude. Applicants must have their own transportation and live within commuting distance of Princeton, NJ. We do not provide field housing.

Interns will become familiar with the local flora and fauna of the NJ Piedmont and learn how to mitigate some of the pressures that our forests face, from invasive species infestations to the overabundance of white-tailed deer. Interns will also gain leadership skills in environmental education and public outreach as they engage with volunteers, school, and community groups during stewardship sessions at the Preserve.

**To apply:** Please send a resume, cover letter, and contact information for three references *in one document* to Anna Corichi at [info@fopos.org](mailto:info@fopos.org). Your cover letter should describe why you are interested in this internship, how your skillset specifically suits the position, and why you feel it would advance your career objectives. Please include your general weekly availability as well. **We are currently accepting applications on a rolling basis and will fill the position as qualified candidates are selected. The application deadline is March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023.**

For more information about the Friends of Princeton Open Space (FOPOS), please visit our website at [www.FOPOS.org](http://www.FOPOS.org).

