

**Yale University President's Public Service Fellowship**  
**Summer 2021**

**Proposal for Fellow working remotely for organization**

- Organization: New Haven Urban Resources Initiative
- Full street address of organization: 301 Prospect Street, New Haven, CT 06511
- Website: uri.yale.edu

- Name and title of person who will be the Fellow's direct supervisor:

Name: Chris Ozyck

Title: Associate Director

- Phone number and e-mail address of proposed direct supervisor:

Phone: (203)-627-0178

Email Address: Christopher.Ozyck@yale.edu

- Placement dates:

May 18 – Aug 14, 2021

- Are placement dates flexible? Are you able to accommodate a Fellow working in a different time zone?

Due to the pandemic, we will be flexible with the timing. Although we usually start as early as possible to get the students trained in time to coincide with the community's need to start their summer plantings.

- Proposed 37.5 hour per week work schedule:

Tuesday – Saturday, flexible hours, 37.5 hours/week

- Organization description:

URI is a nonprofit Yale University partnership that transforms people and places through urban greening. Our mission is to foster community-based land stewardship, promote environmental education, advance the practice of urban forestry, and provide Yale students with clinical learning opportunities. We are dedicated to community participation in urban ecosystem management. URI works with local New Haven community groups and residents to replant, restore, and reclaim the urban environment. We seek out environmental problems and turn their rehabilitation into opportunities for the social and physical renewal of our community and environment.

---

URI summer community foresters, two positions of which are reserved for PPSF fellows, work in middle and low-income neighborhoods throughout the city in partnership with neighborhood residents, city officials, and non-profit agencies to revitalize New Haven communities by restoring neighborhood open spaces and streetscapes. URI foresters receive training in urban forestry, project planning, site assessment, social forestry, and research techniques.

- Write a 1-2 sentence summary of the work that the Fellow would be conducting:

The program's goals are conducting resident-led environmental restoration, building community, and fostering stewardship and civic empowerment. URI fellows provide technical and skills training support to 6 community groups doing environmental rehabilitation (tree planting, vacant lot restoration, and leaded soil remediation). If in person, the URI fellows will also assist materially support community groups at each site.

- Write a more complete description of the specific project you propose and list the duties/outcomes expected of the Fellow.

Community Greenspace is a city-wide environmental restoration program. The Greenspace program enables neighborhood organizations to undertake community-based, as well as private, tree planting, care and maintenance. Depending on community interests and applications to the program, projects include planting street trees, maintaining public parks, converting abandoned lots to "pocket" parks, as well as tree, bush and flower planting and soil lead abatement activities on private property.



New Haven, like most urban areas, has many assets. In every neighborhood there are residents who are committed to improving the quality of city life. URI community foresters, through the Community Greenspace Program, work with local residents with the goals of conducting environmental restoration, building community, and fostering stewardship and civic empowerment.

---



URI foresters receive extensive training in urban forestry, project planning, site assessment, social forestry, and research techniques. In turn, URI community foresters provide both technical and material support to communities. Each forester works with up to seven community groups. Each community group sets environmental restoration goals at the beginning of the summer and works regularly (weekly, more or less) to reach the goals. A typical day begins with meetings with other interns and URI leadership to prepare for Greenspace group workdays.

Interns facilitate community visioning with volunteers to develop and implement neighborhood envisioned plans, all of which can be completed remotely. If approved for in-person work, the interns can deliver trees, plants, and materials to their groups and work alongside community members to accomplish their goals following strict covid safety protocols. The exact nature of the work will depend on the individual needs and opportunities of each neighborhood site. In general, community forestry interns will train community members in tree inventory, species choices, planting site selection, site preparation (including soil testing, erosion control measures, and enrichment through addition of compost), tree maintenance (watering, mulching, pruning, etc.), and planting methods. Training sessions will be conducted in virtual community workshops, as well as in individual or small group training activities. These trainings will be conducted remotely between the community forestry intern and the community members.



URI foresters are responsible for maintaining and reporting data on community participation, plant materials used, survival statistics of trees planted the previous year, and lead abatement activities.

---

- List specific skills/experience required for this work:

The community forestry interns must have:

- One or more of the following: education, experience, passion, and/or commitment to environmental management and commitment to bringing these skills to urban areas;
- An ability to work with varied organizations and individuals; and
- Excellent communication and writing skills, as documentation is an integral component of this project.
- A valid driver's license is required in case students are approved to work in-person. Weekends for this internship are Sundays and Mondays. Interns must work Tuesday-Saturday.

- Equipment/resources you will provide to help Fellow conduct work:

We will provide access to a business e-mail address and a designated phone number for our PPSF interns. If in person, we will provide access to all the resources needed to conduct the community forestry work described above.

- Briefly describe the work that Yale PPSF Fellows have done with your organization in the past and present. If you have not worked with Yale Fellows, describe any work that Yale students have done with your organization.

URI has been hiring Yale students in partnership with PPSF as Community Greenspace foresters in New Haven since the summer of 1995. In total 160+ foresters (approximately 50 PPSF) have helped to plant 2,805 trees and revitalize and strengthen 306 communities in New Haven.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: We have many articles and reports on our website, which give more in-depth descriptions of our work. To learn more about the program, please visit our website's Greenspace page: [uri.yale.edu/programs/greenspace](http://uri.yale.edu/programs/greenspace) and call Chris at 203-432-6189 or e-mail him: [christopher.ozyck@yale.edu](mailto:christopher.ozyck@yale.edu).

---