College Internship/Seasonal Opportunities

Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy

The nation’s first park system, listed on the local, state and national Registers of Historic Sites, is a masterpiece of 19th century landscape design. This city-wide 1200 acre park and parkway system is managed through a uniquely successful public/private partnership with the City of Buffalo. The only legacy park system managed by a nonprofit organization, the Buffalo Olmsted Parks System is noted as the best maintained park system in the nation. The historic landscapes are carefully managed through a Zone Management system devised by the Central Park Conservancy and adapted for Buffalo.

Located in the city of Buffalo in Western New York State, and only 20 minute drive from Niagara Falls, NY; Buffalo is noted for its busy summer season of events with everything from Shakespeare in Delaware Park to headline bands playing on the waterfront. The 6 week-long National Garden Festival in Buffalo features over 1000 private gardens available for visits free of charge and many other garden related activities from June through August. The Olmsted Park system is host to many festivals including the Friendship Festival in Riverside Park, Music is Art in Delaware Park, Jazz in MLK Park and the Irish Festival in Cazenovia Park. For more information visit: www.bfloparks.org or www.visitbuffaloniagara.com

Interns will work alongside experienced Conservancy staff. Specific learning goals will be identified in advance of commencing the internship. A post internship evaluation and exit interview will be conducted for each intern. Interns will be considered for regular employment when appropriate. Some of the many opportunities to work at the Conservancy include the list below. Other areas of interest may also be considered.

Paid and unpaid internships are available at the Conservancy:

- Public Horticulture-horticulturists to work in a wide range of locations and garden types.
  - Annual/Perennial plant displays-system wide-plans are underway to transition away from exclusive seasonal displays of annuals toward more showy native perennials.
  - Peace Garden at Front Park—a new planting that celebrates 200 years of peace with Canada. Located at the foot of the Peace Bridge, the second busiest border crossing between Canada and the US.
  - RiverRock Gardens at Riverside Park—$1 million restoration and care of an authentic Olmsted planting design.
  - Japanese Garden in Delaware Park—care of a recently restored Japan inspired garden
  - Rose Garden in Delaware Park—thousands of roses are grown in symmetrical plantings, enhanced by a columned pergola currently under restoration.
  - Cottage Garden in Martin Luther King Jr. Park—a charming walled garden located on the East Side of Buffalo
  - Bog Garden in South Park—Restored a decade ago, this garden requires significant research, maintenance and restoration work to sustain the original Olmsted design
  - Sustainable Public Landscape Management
    - Compost Tea—the Conservancy recently acquired a 200 gallon compost tea brewer and is looking to expand applications throughout the system.
    - Managed Meadow Areas—invade species management and planning/installation of expanded MMA’s
• Woodland Regeneration Areas- invasive species removal and installation of new beneficial native species.
  o Plant propagation –MLK Park Greenhouses- assist with the care and propagation of 18000 annuals and perennials
  o Turf management-organic turf management, mowing, seeding, top dressing and aeration after major public events, athletic field management

• Forestry- Led by two certified arborists the Forestry Team at the Conservancy is tasked with the maintenance of 15000 trees, mapped and inventoried in a state-of-the-art GIS system.
  o Arboretum Management Planning at South Park
  o Arboretum Collection care at South Park
  o System-wide arborist work
    ▪ Removals
    ▪ Tree planting
    ▪ Structural pruning of young trees (4500 trees planted since 2007)

• Landscape Architecture-the Conservancy’s CEO is a registered and highly experienced Landscape Architect with a masters degree in Landscape Architecture and Urban Design from the University of Michigan. The Capital Projects Manager is a registered landscape architect. The Planning Design and Advocacy team is comprised of two landscape architects, an archivist, and a registered preservation architect.
  o Research
  o Archives Management
  o Planting Design and layout with an emphasis on sustainable/ecological design
  o Construction Documentation (CAD)
  o Urban Design and Advocacy
    ▪ Highway downgrade to Parkway through historic park
    ▪ Plan to cover suppressed highway and restore historic parkway
    ▪ International Bridge Crossing impacts on historic parklands
    ▪ Community outreach
  o Historic Preservation
    ▪ Research
    ▪ Historic Structures Report
    ▪ Conditions assessments
    ▪ Construction Documentation (CAD)

• Golf Course Management and Maintenance
  o Delaware Park Golf Course (18 Holes)
  o Cazenovia and South Park Golf Courses (9 Holes each)

• Nonprofit Management
  o Development/fund raising
  o Special events coordination
  o Media relations
  o Social Media
  o Volunteer coordination
  o Graphic Design
  o Writing

• Archives- the Conservancy’s Olmsted Archive in Buffalo features over 200,000 items spanning the entire history of the parks including original Olmsted plans and correspondence, photos and books.
Interpretation
  - Research
  - Writing content for brochures, website and Facebook posts and tweets related to the interpretation of the parks history, ecology and horticulture
  - Docent Program – help launch a tour program for the historic parks and parkways-planning, training and evaluation

Interns will have the opportunity to visit local area institutions such as the Albright Knox Art Gallery, the Buffalo History Museum and Garden Walk Buffalo as well as the Olmsted-designed Niagara Falls State Park.

To apply for an internship contact Joanne Marzullo at Joanne@bfloparks.org with a letter of interest and resume, indicating your field of interest.