

# Yale University

## President's Public Service Fellowship

### Proposal for Fellowship Placement Summer 2024

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#### Organization information

<i>Name of organization</i>	New Haven Urban Resources Initiative
<i>Full street address</i>	301 Prospect St. New Haven, CT 06511
<i>Website or link to social media page</i>	<a href="http://www.uri.yale.edu">www.uri.yale.edu</a>

#### PPSF Fellow's direct supervisor

<i>Name</i>	Chris Ozyck
<i>Title</i>	Associate Director
<i>Cell phone number</i>	203-627-0178
<i>E-mail address</i>	<a href="mailto:christopher.ozyck@yale.edu">christopher.ozyck@yale.edu</a>

**What is the best way for prospective student applicants to contact you with questions about your proposal?**

- Send an e-mail with questions

or

- Send an e-mail to set up a 15-meeting phone call to discuss

**Placement dates (8-11 weeks between Tuesday, May 28, 2024 through Friday, August 9, 2024)**

May 14, 2022–August 10, 2022, with an unpaid week off around July 4

**Are placement dates flexible? Are there any dates on which your Fellow must work?**

The placement dates are not flexible. Fellows must work on Saturdays, as the program runs Tuesdays through Saturdays. We need to begin training as soon as possible to coincide with the community's need to start their summer plantings.

**Proposed work schedule (*work week should equal (and not exceed) 37.5 hours per week*)**

Tuesday–Saturday; hours are somewhat flexible based on the community's needs, 37.5 hours/week

**If a hybrid schedule is offered at your site, please describe:**

n/a

**Organization description**

URI is a nonprofit Yale School of the Environment partnership that empowers and supports communities in the restoration, stewardship and enjoyment of the urban forest and nature in New Haven. URI hires six or seven community forestry interns for its Community Greenspace program each summer; two positions are reserved for PPSF fellows. Through this program, URI community foresters work with about forty community groups in middle- and low-income neighborhoods to reclaim, restore, and replant parks, vacant lots, and streetscapes while revitalizing New Haven communities. URI community foresters receive training in urban forestry, project planning, site assessment, social forestry, and research techniques, and gain experience working with community groups, city officials, and non-profit agencies.

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

The Community Greenspace program's goals are to conduct resident-led environmental restoration, to build community, and to foster stewardship and civic empowerment. Each community forestry intern provides technical and material support to six or seven community groups engaged in environmental rehabilitation projects, such as tree planting, vacant lot restoration, or invasive species removal.

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

New Haven, like all urban areas, has many assets. In each neighborhood there are residents committed to improving the quality of city life. Through the Community Greenspace program, URI's community foresters work with local residents to conduct environmental restoration, build community, and foster stewardship and civic empowerment. Depending on community needs and interests, specific projects might include planting street trees, maintaining public parks, turning a vacant lot into a "pocket park," or simply tending to completed projects.

Community foresters receive extensive training in urban forestry, project planning, site assessment, social forestry, and research techniques. In turn, community foresters provide technical and material support to six or seven community groups each. Each of these community groups sets project goals at the beginning of the summer and works together regularly (typically weekly) to reach those goals.

The day-to-day of the program for the intern is centered around these workdays with community groups. In addition to workdays and other meetings with community groups and leaders, a typical day might include meetings with other interns and/or URI staff for training, logistics, and to discuss past and upcoming workdays, visits to vendors or URI's yard to procure tools, plants, mulch, or other materials for groups, or even designing posters or flyers for groups to post and distribute—the exact nature of the work depends on the individual needs, desires, and opportunities of each group.

URI community foresters are responsible for maintaining and reporting data on community participation, plant materials used, purchases of plants, tools, and other supplies, and survival statistics for trees planted in previous years. Although the interns work individually with different groups, they also work together as a team sharing tools, trucks, knowledge, and other resources.

**List any specific skills/experience required for the project**

Community forestry interns must have a passion for (and ideally, but not necessarily, education and experience in) environmental management and community-building, as well as a commitment to bringing these skills to urban areas. Interns must also have an ability to work with varied organizations and individuals, as well as excellent communication and writing skills, as documentation is an integral component of this project.

**Additional requirements**

A valid driver's license is required (though typically we can accommodate up to one intern without one). Weekends for this internship are Sundays and Mondays; interns must work Tuesday through Saturday. Weekday evening hours are required as well, though interns must take care to stay at or below forty hours each week (i.e., by taking mornings or afternoons off to compensate for evening hours).

**Briefly describe any work that Yale PPSF Fellows and/or Yale students have done with your organization.**

URI has been hiring Yale students as Community Greenspace foresters in New Haven, including in partnership with PPSF, since the summer of 1995. Over 176 foresters, approximately 52 of whom were PPSF fellows, have helped to plant thousands of trees and tens of thousands of perennials and shrubs while working with over 300 different community groups in New Haven.

For more information, we have many articles and reports in our office and on our website which give more in-depth descriptions of our work. To learn more about our program, please visit our website at [uri.yale.edu/programs/greenspace](http://uri.yale.edu/programs/greenspace), call our office at (203) 432-6189, or email Chris Ozyck, our associate director, at [christopher.ozyck@yale.edu](mailto:christopher.ozyck@yale.edu).