

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Forest Park Conservancy Green Jobs Program

Learn more about models for supporting workforce development and advancing equitable access to the clean jobs' sector



Green Jobs Program Interns 2020

LOCATION

Portland, OR

ENTITY

Nonprofit organization

CLEAN JOB SECTOR

Green infrastructure

The Forest Park Conservancy (FPC) is a community supported non-profit in Portland, OR that protects and restores Forest Park, one of the largest urban forests in the United States, with more than 100 species of native trees, 112 species of birds, and more than 60 species of mammals beneath its 5,200-acre canopy. FPC is focused on protecting Forest Park's ecological health while encouraging responsible recreation and access. Along with other partner organizations, FPC saw a need to provide alternative access points for young people to careers in the environmental field.

FPC's [Green Jobs Training and Internship program](#) provides BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) young adults aged 18-26 years old with relevant hands-on professional experience and support to pursue a career in the conservation and natural resources field.

FPC has partnered with [The Blueprint Foundation](#), [Wisdom of the Elders](#), [Ecotrust](#), [Columbia Land Trust](#), and [West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District](#) in hosting interns for a 12-month period, providing continuous support and mentorship. The internship helps participants to gain hands-on experience in fieldwork and shadow experienced professionals while earning a living wage and developing a professional network. Participants also receive

multiple training opportunities to obtain technical and project-based skills in topics applicable for a successful career in the environmental sector and personal and professional development. FPC and their partners are committed to supporting the interns during the program and after its completion, including flexibility in work schedule, transportation assistance, and connection to destination employers.

TESTIMONY

“My goal for my time as an intern is to gain knowledge on any and everything that we have on our agenda for the year. I have very little exposure to the vast field of environmental work so everything will be a learning experience for me. My hope is that what I learn here can help the start of my career and assist me in finding a good job when this internship ends. I love learning about water, and what jobs are out there involving water.”

- Selena Gutierrez, Green Jobs Intern 2020

“My personal mission is to be able to give other people the same opportunity I had that sparked my interest in the natural world. Throughout my life, I have done work on soft-surface trails, camps, construction, and a logging company. Although my professional goal might change it will remain in the environmental field. While I work with Forest Park Conservancy, I will do my best to become adept at the stewardship aspect as well as broadening my understanding of the different jobs that make this and other nonprofit organizations keep going.”

- Jonathan Albarran, GreenJobs Intern 2020

Website: <https://forestparkconservancy.org/conservancy/greenjobs/>