



Conservation Land Stewardship Intern

Seasonal in-person internship located within the Kansas City Metropolitan Area

Heartland Conservation Alliance (HCA) works with partners to protect, connect, and restore the Blue River watershed and its urban greenspaces for the benefit and enjoyment of all. We envision a sustainable environment that supports the health of all human and natural communities in the Kansas City region.

Internship Overview

HCA is seeking seasonal Conservation Land Stewardship Interns (full-time or part-time) to steward and restore HCA owned, managed, and monitored lands. Interns report to the Conservation Land Steward but may collaborate with other staff and partners to advance our conservation goals.

Responsibilities

- **Invasive Species Management**
Assist with identification, mapping, and removal of non-native and invasive plant species using mechanical and chemical control methods.
- **Bulk Historic Waste and Debris Removal**
Support large-scale removal of legacy dumping materials and site debris to improve ecological health and site safety.
- **Trail Construction and Maintenance**
Perform routine trail upkeep, including clearing, erosion control, tread repair, and installation of trail features to ensure safe public access.
- **Timber Stand Improvement (TSI)**
Assist with selective thinning, crop tree release, and woodland restoration efforts to improve forest structure and health.
- **Ecological Data Collection and Monitoring**
Collect and record field data related to vegetation surveys, restoration progress, photo monitoring, and site assessments.
- **Volunteer Coordination and Support**
Help lead volunteer workdays by providing instruction, demonstrating techniques, and ensuring safe and productive project execution.
- **Workforce Development Training**
Participate in and assist with hands-on training in conservation practices, tool use, safety procedures, and land stewardship skills.

- **Environmental Education and Public Engagement**
Support educational programming for diverse age groups through guided walks, workshops, and community events.

Qualifications & Skills

- **Physical Stamina and Outdoor Work Capacity**
Ability to work full days in physically demanding outdoor conditions, including extreme weather, steep terrain, dense vegetation, and manual labor. Applicants should be physically fit and capable of safely performing sustained fieldwork.
- **Willingness to Learn and Grow**
Strong desire to develop new skills in land stewardship, conservation practices, and ecological restoration.
- **Ability to Work Independently**
Comfortable working alone in field settings when needed, demonstrating initiative, sound judgment, and responsibility.
- **Power Tool Operation and Maintenance (Preferred)**
Experience with the safe use and basic maintenance of equipment such as brush cutters, reciprocating saws, and chainsaws is preferred but not required.
- **Plant Identification Skills (Preferred)**
Familiarity with native and invasive plant species identification is preferred.
- **Herbicide Mixing and Application (Preferred)**
Experience with proper herbicide mixing and application techniques, including cut-stump treatment and foliar spray methods, is preferred.

Requirements

Interns are expected to work a minimum of 12 hours and a maximum of 40 hours per week. The internship requires the successful completion of at least 200 total hours over the course of the appointment. The internship, including minimum required hours, must be completed within six (6) months of the start date.

Compensation

This is a seasonal, internship position. A small stipend may be available to help offset basic expenses, subject to funding availability. While this position is primarily educational in nature, it offers meaningful hands-on experience, mentorship, and professional development in conservation and community-based environmental work.

How to Apply

Interested applicants should complete and submit this [Internship Interest and Screening Form](#). Applications will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis until all seasonal intern positions have been filled.

Questions? Contact Chrisitan Holderby, Conservation Land Steward, at christian@heartlandconservationalliance.org

Heartland Conservation Alliance (HCA) is an equal opportunity employer dedicated to fostering a diverse and inclusive workplace. We actively encourage applicants from all backgrounds, including people of color and individuals from underrepresented communities, to apply. HCA is committed to creating a welcoming environment that values diverse perspectives and promotes an inclusive culture where everyone feels supported and empowered.