PROJECT DESCRIPTION
2020 FALL/WINTER

NPS UNIT: CUYAHOGA VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

 Position Title: Natural Resource Management Assistant (1)
 Position Type: Guest Scientist
 Primary natural resource discipline: Multidisciplinary
 Project keywords: GIS, Communication, River, Monitoring
 Location: Brecksville, Ohio

 COVID-19 NOTICE

This project description was developed prior to the onset of the COVID-19 outbreak. Therefore, project timelines and structure remain flexible and it may be necessary to postpone start dates, begin work remotely, or reformulate the project’s description. Should any development in the COVID-19 outbreak impair a project’s timeline or results, the GIP Team will work with the park and project mentors to assess the situation and determine the best course of action at that time.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND WORK PRODUCTS

Position Description: This GIP Resource Management Assistant will assist park staff in a variety of natural resource-based projects associated with internal scoping and collection and management of data for a Comprehensive River Management Plan (CRMP) and the parks Visitor Use Management Plan. The GIP will work across divisions using geospatial data to organize and communicate information related to the planning needs for a CRMP. They will also help park staff prioritize data collection needs, identify opportunities for citizen science, develop protocols and plans for collection, and assist with the management of volunteers to collect data. This position will use new and existing data to work collaboratively with other interns and park staff to develop science communication tools related to the Cuyahoga River and impacts to natural resources.

The park is currently engaged in two large scale planning efforts, a comprehensive river management plan and a visitor use management plan. These plans have a significant amount of overlap and impact on one another. Both plans are being completed in support of the park’s five year strategic action plan, which began in 2016 to focus work around improving the health of the Cuyahoga River and its tributaries. In 2019, Cuyahoga Valley National Park, along with partners and communities from all over Northeast Ohio celebrated the 50th anniversary of the final time the Cuyahoga River burned. The recovery of the Cuyahoga River is a significant part of the story of the National Park and the region and was marked in 2019 with the state designation of the Cuyahoga River Water Trail. As the park looks to the next 50 years for the river and its riparian corridor and visitor use impacts and opportunities, assessing current conditions and identifying desired conditions for the future has become a high priority. The park is faced with challenges such as increased visitation, population growth and development along its boundaries, and increased frequency and intensity of storm events. Managing the Cuyahoga River and visitor use in a way that promotes ecosystem processes (free-flowing, flood plain connection, etc.) while protecting infrastructure and providing for an improved visitor experience is an ever growing challenge. This GIP position will assist the park with projects directly related to data collection, analysis and communication to inform future management decisions that will come from the comprehensive river planning and visitor use management planning processes.
This position is offered through the National Park Service’s Geoscientists-in-the-Parks (GIP) Internship Program in partnership with Stewards Individual Placement Program (Stewards) and The Geological Society of America (GSA).

**Work Products:** Develop protocols for data collection and monitoring for 3-5 projects tied to the comprehensive river management plan and visitor use management plan. Actual needs will be identified through planning process, samples may include:
- Monitoring the effects of large woody debris placement on riparian condition and habitat.
- Monitoring the impacts of visitor use in sensitive riparian corridors (vegetation sampling)
- Refining or modifying rapid stream bank assessment protocols for use by citizen scientists.

Utilize GIS analysis and products to support the parks planning efforts. Examples include:
- Use geospatial data to create internal and external communication tools tied to both planning processes.
- Develop materials for and participate in public scoping workshops.

**QUALIFICATIONS**
- GIS (familiarity with ArcGIS)
- Working with scientific protocols
- Data collection and analysis
- Critical thinking
- Creativity and problem solving
- Strong written and verbal communication
- Broad natural resource management interests (geology, ecology, botany, etc.)
- Working with Volunteers

The applicant must be a U.S. citizen or U.S. permanent legal resident (“green-card-holder”) between the ages of 18 and 30 years old, inclusive, or veteran up to age 35. Prior to starting this position, a government security background clearance will be required.

**VEHICLE AND DRIVER LICENSE REQUIREMENTS**

*Applicant must have a valid driver license and a good driving record.* Required to Drive a government vehicle as part of the internship.

*A personal vehicle is REQUIRED for this position.* Primary duty station, groceries, and other amenities are not within safe walking/biking distance.

If the GIP is required to drive a park vehicle for their position, Stewards will perform a driving records search, and the GIP’s ability to drive a park vehicle during work hours will be contingent upon the results. GIPs will have to have had their license for 3 years or be over the age of 21 to be insured as drivers under Stewards insurance policy. Examples of things that will preclude a GIP from driving a park vehicle include: GIP under the age of 21 years old that has been licensed less than three years, DUIs, multiple moving vehicle violations, suspended or revoked license, or three or more accidents (regardless of fault) in the last 3 years. If the driver’s search is favorable, Stewards will provide driver’s liability insurance while the intern is driving a NPS vehicle for their GIP position. If the GIP is denied coverage by Stewards, they will not be permitted to drive during work hours.

**HOUSING**

*Park housing is available and will be provided at no cost to the participant.* Park housing is available and is shared. Interns have their own bedroom equipped with a twin bed and basic furniture. Bedding is not provided. The shared living spaces and kitchen area are fully furnished including plates, pots, pans, and silverware. GIP intern will just be responsible for personal items, clothing, and bedding.
**INTERNSHIP DATES**

**Start Date:** 10/5/2020  
**Number of weeks:** 52 weeks  
**Flexibility of dates:** Yes

**LIVING ALLOWANCE**

52 weeks ($400/week = $20,800)

**RELOCATION ALLOWANCE**

$250

**AMERICORPS PROGRAM**

AmeriCorps is a program that engages individuals in intensive community service work with the goal of “helping others and meeting critical needs in the community”. The GIP Program is supported through AmeriCorps by providing a Segal Education Award in addition to the GIP’s living stipend and relocation allowance.

Upon successful completion of the GIP position, the GIPs (AmeriCorps members) are eligible for a $1,612 - $6,095 pre-tax education award that can be used for paying back student loans or for continuing their education. The amount of the education award is based on the length of the position.

AmeriCorps limits the number of terms an individual can serve to 4 terms. If an applicant has previously completed 4 GIP or other AmeriCorps positions, they will not be eligible to apply for an additional GIP position.

**NATURAL AND PHYSICAL WORK ENVIRONMENT**

**Natural Environment:** Located in Northeastern Ohio, Cuyahoga Valley National Park is situated along 22 miles of the Cuyahoga River Valley in a suburban setting between the cities of Akron and Cleveland. The park is predominately natural forest and meadow with some areas of agriculture and excellent outdoor recreation opportunities. Winters are moderately cold with average temperatures in the 20 to 30 degree ranges. Heavy snowfall is not unusual. Summers are moderately warm, average temperatures in the high 70’s and 80’s with occasional warm spells in the 90’s. Rural, suburban, and urban communities are all within a reasonable commuting distance. Excellent K-12 schools, numerous colleges, universities, hospitals, and cultural attractions are available in the area. Cuyahoga Valley National Park’s Web Site: http://www.nps.gov/cuva

**Physical Work Environment:** Work will be performed both indoors and out. Terrain is hilly and some assignments may require candidates to hike off trail in cold, snowy, muddy, hot, humid or buggy conditions. Job hazards include exposure to cold, snow, heat and humidity, ticks, insects and occasional incidental exposure to poison ivy.
MENTORING AND LEARNING GOALS

**Mentoring:** This position will be truly interdisciplinary in nature and will be working with professionals from science and resource management as well as interpretation, maintenance, and law enforcement. They will be working with a strategic planning team assigned to the comprehensive river management plan process as well as with other interns that will also be supporting this project, providing a team off of which the GIP can bounce ideas and with whom they can collaborate. The GIP will be assigned a supervisor and a mentor that will provide daily guidance and check-in opportunities for the GIP intern. They will attend orientation training for the entire park and will receive position specific training with their mentor and supervisor.

**Learning Goals:** The intern will learn how to work as part of an interdisciplinary team working towards accomplishing strategic goals. They will engage with leaders from every division of the park throughout the course of their work. They will learn about strategic planning in large organizations. They will improve their GIS skills and help develop ways to use geospatial data to develop communication tools. They will also gain experience in working with and managing volunteers as well as protocol research, development, and application.

| SUPERVISORS/MENTORS |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| **Primary:**         | **Secondary:**       |
| Ryan Trimbath        | Lisa Petit           |
| Biologist            | Chief of Resource Management |
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