



SCIENTISTS IN PARKS

PROJECT DESCRIPTION WINTER 2021

NPS UNIT: CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER NATIONAL RECREATION AREA	PD #: 2021028
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Project Title: Natural Resources GIS Assistant: Modernize and Communicate Geospatial Data for Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area (1)

Number of positions available: 1

Primary natural resource discipline: Physical Sciences

Project keywords: GIS, maps, geodatabase, cartography, wildlife, water quality

Location: Sandy Springs, Georgia

Can this position be fully remote: No

COVID-19 NOTICE

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to change and evolve, 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 SIP 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: The participant will be responsible for providing geospatial data management support for GIS activities supporting land, water, and ecosystem management functions at the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area. The individual selected will use GIS equipment and software to compile, capture, and update resource databases from various source maps according to the guidelines of specific data sets. They will ensure accuracy and appropriateness of data and correct any errors. They will also use basic operations and scripted processes to manipulate and analyze geospatial data to support multi-resource analysis in planning and monitoring activities, and resource management decision making. The individual will create simple thematic map products and presentation materials. This project will provide the participant with the opportunity to use geospatial software, skills, and knowledge in park management applications. The participant will have the opportunity to sharpen their GIS skills. The participant will perform spatial analyses, develop other geospatial products, and provide customer service support to internal customers. The participant will provide geospatial information to resource managers to fill-in important data gaps. This information will assist managers in making informed management decisions which will ensure the protection of park resources.

The participant will also assist in the collection of data to support the park such as water quality sampling for a collaborative project between the CRNRA and U.S. Geologic Survey (USGS) to monitor bacteria (E. coli) levels in the mainstem of the Chattahoochee River; assist with other divisions and other projects as needed such as vegetation surveys, wildlife observations, surveying, visitor use patterns, etc.

The National Park Service (NPS) preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. Many recent advances in technology, including enhance mapping and data collection, web-based tools, and services which allow for the sharing of knowledge with our NPS partners and the public, are making it easier and more efficient to meet our NPS mission. While the park collects and retains extensive GIS and spatial data, the organization, management, and modernization of these data are lacking due to shortages in staffing. The GIS Assistant intern’s management and creation of data will help the park to learn more about its resources and how to better manage

and preserve them in an increasingly modernized digital era. Data and maps created will also be used to create additional educational materials for the public to further explore and understand the park.

This position is offered through the National Park Service's Scientists in Parks (SIP) Program in partnership with Stewards Individual Placement Program (Stewards) and The Geological Society of America (GSA).

Work Products: At the completion of this internship, the intern will have organized and created an abundant amount of park data. The intern will also have created new data layers and maps. The intern will also complete surveys and process water quality samples.

QUALIFICATIONS

Applicants should have an extensive knowledge of Geographical Information System, specifically ArcMAP 10.6, ArcGIS Online, ArcGIS Pro, and other ESRI Projects such as Survey123 and Esri Story Maps. Applicants should be skilled in working with geodatabases, and ideally have knowledge of/skills in Python scripting for GIS. A highly qualified candidate has a background in water resources and river systems. A successful applicant must be self-motivated and able to work with limited supervision after the initial training period.

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 veterans 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 drivers license and a good driving record.

A personal vehicle is RECOMMENDED but not required for this position.

If the SIP is required to drive a park vehicle for their position, Stewards will perform a driving records search, and the SIP’s ability to drive a park vehicle during work hours will be contingent upon the results. SIPs 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 SIP from driving a park vehicle include: SIP 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 SIP position. If the SIP 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. The individual will have a private bedroom with shared restroom, kitchen, and living area. The kitchen is fully furnished with dishes, pots, and pans. The interns will be responsible for their own bedding, towels, and toiletries.

NATURAL AND PHYSICAL WORK ENVIRONMENT


A majority of the work is performed indoors; however, some outdoor work is expected. Outdoors assignments may be performed in potentially hazardous areas including steep slopes, rocky terrain, wetlands, and forests. The position may require strenuous physical activity including periods of standing, walking, climbing, and lifting and carrying heavy objects. Database development, data entry, map production and report writing work is sedentary, which entails the ability to concentrate and write for long periods of time. The participant will be expected to work 40 hours/week. Workspace, computer, and necessary software and other equipment will be provided.

INTERNSHIP DATES

Start Date: ASAP; no later than October 31, 2021

Number of Weeks: 52 Weeks

Flexible Start Date: Yes (within the parameters described above)

LIVING ALLOWANCE	
52 Weeks (\$400/week = \$20,800)	
RELOCATION ALLOWANCE	
\$350	
AMERICORPS PROGRAM	
 <p>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 SIP Program is supported through AmeriCorps by providing a Segal Education Award in addition to the SIP’s living stipend and relocation allowance.</p> <p>Upon successful completion of the SIP position, the SIPs (AmeriCorps members) are eligible for a \$1,638 - \$6,195 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.</p> <p>AmeriCorps limits the number of terms an individual can serve to 4 terms. If an applicant has previously completed 4 SIP or other AmeriCorps positions, they will not be eligible to apply for an additional SIP position.</p>	
SUPERVISORS/MENTORS	
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