



POSITION DESCRIPTION

Summer 2022

NPS UNIT: Indiana Dunes National Park, Midwest Region Office **Position #:** 156

Position Title: Natural Resource Management Assistant

Primary natural resource discipline: Biological Sciences

Position Keywords: Pollinators, stewardship, strategic plan, regional conservation planning, education and outreach

Location: Chesterton, Indiana

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.

POSITION DESCRIPTION AND WORK PRODUCTS

Project Description: The intern will develop a blueprint for parks to implement pollinator stewardship within the Interior Regions of the Great Lakes, Mississippi River Basin and Missouri River Basin (IR 3, 4 and 5). The implementation blueprint will be based off the Strategic Framework for Pollinator Stewardship, developed by a previous SIP intern. The strategic framework identifies objectives and approaches to address the following four priorities: 1) Stewardship - Habitat Conservation, Maintenance and Enhancement; 2) Science - Research and Monitoring to Inform Conservation Efforts; 3) Education and Outreach - Enhance Awareness of Conservation Issues and Opportunities; and 4) Community Stewardship - Partnerships and Collaboration to Advance Pollinator Conservation.

The intern will work with the assistance of mentors and key park and regional staff, towards the development of an implementation blueprint for the pollinator stewardship strategy. The blueprint will be tailored to address the needs of parks and for the ecosystems, pollinators and stressors specific to the Midwestern U.S. Through compilation and synthesis of past and ongoing pollinator stewardship efforts, the intern will highlight projects and programs that align with each of the four priorities of the stewardship framework. The intern will document these projects and programs as a series of case studies to demonstrate actions that parks can take to meet the objectives of the pollinator stewardship framework. Based on their interest and expertise, the intern will select one of the four strategic priorities to develop a pilot project. The intern could also potentially work with several parks across habitat types in IR 3, 4 and 5 to develop best management practices for pollinators for those parks (to be determined with mentor). In addition to development of the blueprint, the intern will participate in pollinator research fieldwork and outreach activities during the summer field season. Participation in these activities will be critical for the intern to gain on-the-ground experience and familiarity of pollinator conservation, resource management issues, park operations, and NPS culture.

The specific duties of the intern include: 1) Engage in regular communication with project mentor; 2) Develop a collaborative working relationship with the project mentor and key NPS staff that will be integral to this effort; 3) Complete all required paperwork and training on time.

In consultation with the mentors, options for other specific work tasks by the intern that would assist in the development of providing information for inclusion in the implementation blueprint include: 1) Compile a list of all past and ongoing projects and programs for each of the four stewardship priorities in IR 3, 4 and 5; 2) Interviewing key park staff to understand the challenges, feasibility, and success of existing pollinator projects 3) Interviewing key regional staff and partners to identify potential opportunities to fund or otherwise support new pollinator projects. The intern will be responsible for synthesizing the information obtained and completing a case study for existing projects under each of the four strategic priorities as well as developing a new pilot project with the assistance of a mentor and key park and regional staff. This position is ideal for a motivated student interested in pollinator stewardship, natural resource management, conservation planning, and outreach.



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Work Products: The primary deliverable of the internship is a series of four cases studies, demonstrating each of the four priorities of the pollinator stewardship strategy in action. Additionally, the intern will develop a pilot project under one of the four priorities (to be determined with mentor). The intern will also present their project to park staff and other conservation professionals during a recorded webinar, based on a Powerpoint presentation that will be shared with park staff.

The specific work products that will be created during the process of developing the plan will include Teams folders/Sharepoint sites for: 1) Lists of current and on-going pollinator projects for each of the four pillars; 2) List of parks with park contacts seeking to implement pollinator projects; 3) Summary report discussing opportunities, potential challenges facing parks in implementing the pollinator strategy, and potential solutions to overcoming those challenges. In addition, a contact list of educators, managers, researchers, and communication personnel involved in pollinator stewardship will be updated.

The draft case studies will be submitted as a technical report, in the format of a NPS Report. The pilot project will be presented as a report outlining the steps involved in developing the project, discussing the challenges encountered, and the eventual outcome of the pilot project. The final blueprint, or a subset of this effort, resulting from the intern's work, may culminate in publication in a peer reviewed journal.

NATURAL & PHYSICAL WORK ENVIRONMENT

The GLREC has office space at INDU headquarters. The intern will be expected to work independently with basic supervision by the mentor. Work will be performed both indoors and outdoors. When outdoors, all types of weather and conditions might be encountered (including steep slopes, rocky terrain, swamps, forests and prairie fields). Field work includes potential exposure to poisonous plants, biting insects, ticks, and wild animals. The park will provide safety training in use of facilities and equipment. The intern will be provided with tick prevention guidelines and equipment.

A personal vehicle is **STRONGLY** recommended for this position. Local public transportation is very limited (although there is a commuter train service to Chicago).

QUALIFICATIONS

Critical skills for developing an implementation blueprint for the stewardship of pollinators include at least a basic understanding of pollinator and/or plant biology, ecology and management strategies. A minimum academic requirement of a BS in environmental policy, ecology, conservation planning or science, or natural resources (or related fields) is a requirement. Experience in using effective networking techniques for working with a diverse group of managers, scientists, educators and communication professionals would be desirable. The intern should demonstrate the ability to work well in a team as well as independently. Excellent communication and writing skills are required.

The applicant must be a U.S. citizen or U.S. permanent legal resident ("green-card-holder"). Prior to starting this position, a government security background clearance will be required. The applicant must be between 18 - 30, inclusive, or a veteran up to 35.

VEHICLE AND DRIVER LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

Applicant must have a valid driver's license to drive a government vehicle.

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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 NOT available. The intern will be responsible for finding housing in the nearby area. There is offsite rental housing in the nearby communities of Porter and Chesterton, IN. Housing may also be available in shared Indiana Dunes National Park (INDU) lodging. INDU houses are furnished and include single or shared bedrooms, kitchen facilities, and bathrooms. Appropriate measures will be ensured for protections from COVID-19.

INTERNSHIP DATES

Start Date: 06/12/2022

Number of Weeks: 52

Flexible Start Date: Yes

LIVING ALLOWANCE

52 Weeks (\$525.00/week = \$27300.00)

RELOCATION ALLOWANCE

350.00

AMERICORPS PROGRAM



AmeriCorps

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.

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.

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.

Partners

This position is offered through the National Park Service's Scientists in Parks (SIP) Program in partnership with various organizations.

