Urban Resources Initiative
New Haven, Connecticut

Community Forestry Internship
Summer 2026

New Haven, like any urban area, has liabilities and assets. In every neighborhood there are people committed to improving the quality of our city. Through the Urban Resources Initiative's Community Greenspace Program, staff and interns bring training and technical assistance in environmental restoration and urban forestry to New Haven communities. Every summer, URI offers Community Forester internships through the Greenspace program to all Yale students (incoming, continuing, and graduating), with a preference for current YSE students. Interns take practical experience and apply it in a hands-on manner, working side-by-side with volunteers to coordinate, design, and implement locally-driven restoration projects. This summer consider the opportunity and challenge of building and expanding your urban forestry, public outreach, and project management skills, all while making a difference in the community in which you live!

The goals of the Community Greenspace program are environmental restoration, community building and stewardship. Depending upon community priorities, Greenspace projects most often include planting street trees, converting abandoned lots to "pocket" parks, improving city parks, and expanding public access. Over the past three decades, 40-50 community groups have undertaken planting projects each summer.

URI Community Forester interns work with these citizen groups, as well as city officials and non-profit agencies, to restore neighborhood open spaces and streetscapes. Working with up to seven community groups, interns provide both technical and material support to implement projects. URI Foresters receive training in urban forestry, project planning, site assessment, outreach strategies, and monitoring techniques. The exact nature of community projects depends on the needs and opportunities of each neighborhood site. Generally, Community Foresters train and guide local volunteers in tree inventory, species selection, site preparation, tree maintenance (watering, mulching, pruning, etc), and planting methods.

Prior experience/education in environmental science is preferred but not required. Community Forester interns must have a passion for environmental protection, a commitment to empowering and educating urban communities, an ability to work with a broad range of organizations and individuals, and excellent communication and writing skills.

Community Forestry interns should have either experience or education in an environmental-related field, as well as:

- Commitment to bringing these skills to urban areas;
- Ability to work with varied organizations and individuals;
- A valid U.S. driver's license; and
- Excellent communication and writing skills.

Field work experience is a plus but not necessary as we will train all community foresters in all skills necessary to complete the work.

Hours of the program: Tuesday – Saturday, flexible hours, 40 hours per week. Weekends are Sundays and Mondays. Interns must work Saturdays.

Summer 2026 schedule: May 12 – August 8 with one-week unpaid break June 28 – July 6. Summer dates are <u>not</u> flexible. 12 paid weeks. 40 hours per week. **Interns must be in New Haven for the duration of the program**.

Wages: $800/week

To apply: email your resume to christopher.ozyck@yale.edu (Chris Ozyck, URI Associate Director), and do not hesitate to email or call Chris with any questions (203-432-6189). *applications are due by* ***February 20, 2026,*** *or until all positions are filled.*

<u>Additional Contact Information:</u>
New Haven Urban Resources Initiative
301 Prospect Street, New Haven, CT 06511
Phone: 203-432-6189
Website: uri.yale.edu
Executive Director: Colleen Murphy-Dunning
Associate Director/Greenspace Manager: Chris Ozyck