

New Haven Urban Resources Initiative ParkScore Internship Summer 2021



This paid summer internship is open to Yale students with the ability to be on campus and work in-person ~37 hours/week, 9-10 weeks, May - August 2021.

The Urban Resources Initiative (URI) is hiring one Yale student intern to lead an analysis of New Haven's Park system this summer. We are partnering with the Trust for Public Land, the U.S. Forest Service and local community Greenspace groups to conduct a customized ParkScore analysis for New Haven, CT.

This data-driven analysis will provide a basis for URI and City leaders to prioritize equitable investment in parks on the neighborhood-level based on the benefits that matter to New Haven residents.

The ParkScore Index is an evaluation tool developed by TPL to compare urban park systems. New Haven will be analyzed based on four characteristics of an effective park system: acreage, investment, amenities, and access. The analysis includes monitoring acreage, entryways, investment (including volunteer time), and amenities like basketball hoops, dog parks, playgrounds, bathrooms, recreation centers, and splashpads. The New Haven ParkScore will be customized so that in addition to being compared at the city level, we will be able to look at the neighborhood level.

Furthermore, we will engage community members in the development of additional survey questions to tailor the survey toward community priorities and expand the definition of a quality park. Our volunteers and local stakeholders will guide the selection of the additional amenities to track, e.g. benches, well-maintained vegetation, forested areas, trash cans, and access to water. We will incorporate census data to create an environmental justice lens to identify any potential patterns of systemic racism. Anecdotally, we perceive disparities among our neighborhoods' access to and condition of park resources. However, in order to better understand disparities a comprehensive analysis documenting access, amenities and conditions is needed to provide a basis for fairly investing resources toward where they are needed most.

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) estimates 96% of New Haven residents live within a 10-minute walk of a park. While that demonstrates positive access to parks, we do not have clear data on the variable condition of park resources across the city. This ParkScore project will help us to pinpoint the neighborhoods where park investments are needed most.

ParkScore Intern (\$18/hour)

This position is ideal for a student interested in community forestry, urban natural areas management and environmental justice. We seek a candidate with strong communication skills and data organizational skills. Candidacy is strengthened further by experience in community-based organizing, GIS, as well as in survey development, implementation, and evaluation. Job duties for this position include:

1. Learning the workings of TPL's ParkScore Index and how it evaluates park access and quality across the US.
2. Working with URI's Greenspace team and volunteers and local stakeholders to develop enhanced, customized ParkScore survey questions.
3. Supporting Greenspace volunteers to conduct the survey.
4. Conducting the survey in parks and greenspaces without volunteer leadership.
5. Gathering budget data of park investment from the City of New Haven.
6. Analyzing the survey data at the city-level and neighborhood-level.
7. Working with the U.S. Forest Service and TPL to create maps that would display the results (using GIS).

Initial success will empower our community to have data and analysis of their park system, whereas long-term impact will be to address any disparities found among neighborhood greenspaces in New Haven.

This internship is a great opportunity to explore New Haven's park system, work with New Haven residents, and impact the city in a positive way. A summer-long full-time commitment is required, with the opportunity to expand into the fall semester possible. To learn more about URI, visit uri.yale.edu.

*To apply, please send your resume and cover letter to Anna Pickett by April 20 at anna.pickett@yale.edu.
Questions? Call 203-432-6189.*