



PRAIRIE PARTNERS SUMMER INTERNSHIP

OFFERING PAID INTERNSHIPS PROVIDING AN ORIENTATION TO RESTORATION ECOLOGY
IN SOUTHCENTRAL WISCONSIN

Looking to gain field experience in habitat restoration and land management? The Prairie Partners Summer Internship Program will provide an outstanding opportunity to learn tools and techniques of native habitat management, plant identification, and principles of restoration ecology while helping restore beautiful and productive habitats in southcentral Wisconsin. Through this internship you will work with, learn from, and build professional networks with four organizations: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Ice Age Trail Alliance, Groundswell Conservancy, and Riverland Conservancy. The internship includes on-the-job training and occasional educational days and field trips. The internship will run for 12 weeks beginning on Tuesday, May 27 and ending on Thursday, August 14.

PRAIRIE PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS:



Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Natural Heritage

Conservation (NHC) is responsible for conserving Wisconsin's non-game animals, rare plants and their habitats including state and federally protected species. The program also manages the country's oldest and largest system of State Natural Areas which protects outstanding examples of Wisconsin's natural communities and biodiversity.



The Ice Age Trail Alliance was founded in 1958 with the mission of caring for the Ice Age National Scenic Trail, one of only 11 such trails in the country. As part of its mission, the Alliance protects and manages land for the Trail. At the Alliance there is a culture that supports and inspires conservation achievements and personal development.



Groundswell Conservancy is a non-profit, community-based land trust. We believe everyone should live in a world filled with green places where communities thrive. Groundswell has permanently protected hundreds of special places in southcentral Wisconsin (~14,000 acres) where people can enjoy and explore the outdoors. Groundswell also manages natural areas like Westport Prairie and Patrick Marsh to care for wildlife and connect communities to the land.



Riverland Conservancy is a non-profit organization. Our mission is to protect, conserve, and restore the lands, waters, and natural communities of our preserves. Riverland Conservancy owns and manages two nature preserves including the 1,600-acre Merrimac Preserve in Sauk County.

JOB DUTIES:

Five interns will work as a crew alongside a Partner's supervisor each day. The crew will work with one Partner organization each day of the work week. Interns will complete high priority land management projects with an emphasis on habitat restoration and invasive species control. Invasive species control methods will include hand

pulling plants, cutting plants with hand tools, mowers, or brush cutters, and applying herbicide to plants with handheld or backpack sprayers. Other work will include trail/boardwalk maintenance, native seed collection, and biological monitoring. The vast majority of work will be outside in the field in all types of weather conditions. We hope to provide a fun and collaborative work environment where you gain field experience while challenging yourself mentally and physically!

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Education, experience in, or working towards a career in natural resources.
- 18 years or older by date of application.
- Valid driver's license and/or ability to get to worksites (carpooling encouraged). Worksites are located in Madison, Fitchburg, Cross Plains, and Merrimac, WI.
- Willingness to apply herbicide to invasive species with handheld and backpack sprayers.
- Ability to work in extreme outdoor conditions including heat, biting/stinging insects, and steep terrain.
- Ability to lift and haul up to 50 pounds.
- Self-directed and able to work alone safely and in accordance with all company policies.
- Solid interpersonal skills including the ability to resolve and mediate conflict and maintain good working relationships with coworkers, volunteers, and members of the community.
- Ability to effectively relate to a diverse range of people.

COMPENSATION:

This is a paid internship at a rate of \$17/hour and a full-time commitment (36 hours per week x 12 weeks). Work weeks will consist of four 9-hour days, Monday – Thursday. A \$200 stipend will be provided to acquire appropriate work attire. Academic credit may be available through your institution.

OTHER:

Interns are responsible for travel, housing, and other living expenses. Sturdy work boots and field clothing, plus sun, rain and insect protection are required (\$200 stipend provided upon hiring).

HOW TO APPLY:

Applicants should email their resume and cover letter stating relative experience, work ethic, and career goals to Nate Fayram at Nathan.Fayram@wisconsin.gov by the application deadline of **January 26th**. Use the subject line: Prairie Partners Internship Application.

