



McKinney Climate Fellows and Resilience Cohort Programs 2022 Urban Green Infrastructure Climate Fellow – Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation

Who We Are

Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation is committed to enhancing the quality of life in Fort Wayne by providing positive opportunities for leisure time and by being stewards of our park lands, facilities, public trees and other resources entrusted into our care. In 1914 Fort Wayne hired their first City Forester, marking the beginning of an ongoing commitment to the stewardship of their urban forest. With the help of an Urban Green Infrastructure Climate Fellow, Fort Wayne hopes to gain a better understanding of their current urban canopy distribution and develop a plan for reaching canopy cover goals. In addition, Fort Wayne Parks will use this partnership to develop impact statements and presentations to be used for educating residents and local decision makers on the value of maintaining a robust and healthy urban tree canopy.

Position Summary

Fort Wayne Parks seeks a highly motivated student to assist with the development of urban green infrastructure policies in the summer of 2022, including an equity-focused tree planting plan. Completing a tree planting plan will prepare Fort Wayne with an equitable strategy for sequestering carbon and reducing pollution, mitigating urban heat island, and reducing stormwater impacts.

The Fellow will work with the Superintendent of Forestry Operations, which is a participant in the Indiana University Environmental Resilience Institute's [Resilience Cohort](#). The successful candidate will receive on-the-job training from tree canopy consultants on how to analyze and map social vulnerabilities onto the results of a tree canopy assessment, informing the development of an equity-focused tree planting plan. The Fellow will also develop technical and project management skills beneficial to a career in local government, climate science, policy, environmental management, urban forest management, and related fields.

About Fort Wayne: Fort Wayne is located in Allen County and is the second-largest city in the state with a population of 270,402 residents. The St. Marys, the St. Joseph, and the Maumee rivers converge in Fort Wayne and are a great source of entertainment, exploration, and fun downtown. From adventuring the trails along the river to getting out onto the blueways, there are plenty of opportunities for you to experience along Fort Wayne's riverfront. Northeast Indiana is blessed with several first-rate college and trade school educational opportunities, and over 400 natural lakes.

Allen County Council is the fiscal body of County government. County Council's duties include adopting the county budget, appropriating funds, and setting the County's annual property tax levy. The Allen County Council is made up of seven members. There are four district seats and three at-large seats.



Mayor Tom Henry is the Chief Administrative Officer of the City. The duties of the office include executing and supervising the enforcement of city and state ordinances, appointing city department heads, and approving or vetoing ordinances passed by City Council.

City Council is the legislative body for the city. The duties of the city council include passing ordinances, appropriating funds, and entering into contracts. There are six districts to which one council member is elected from. In addition, there are three at-large seats.

Duties will include:

- Develop equity, stormwater, and/or heat management map layers and corresponding analyses to prioritize areas for tree planting
- Input local tree data into the Indiana Green City Mapper
- Promote and coordinate public and other stakeholder engagement in developing tree planting plan
- Draft a tree planting plan that prioritizes equity and helps manage climate change impacts related to extreme heat and precipitation events
- Draft a Community and Urban Forestry grant to apply for competitive funding to conduct a street tree inventory or a complete a tree-planting project
- Draft a tree protection ordinance
- Develop other policy and program recommendations based on inventory analysis
- Assist with related sustainability projects such as planning for the 2022 fall street tree planting, vacant planting site identification, and tree planting prioritization depending on time and interest
- Participate in regular Resilience Cohort webinars and conference calls
- Attend the Climate Fellows virtual bootcamp training, hosted by the Environmental Resilience Institute, May 16-20, 2022
- Attend weekly (virtual) “Lunch and Learn” sessions
- Submit weekly reports on Canvas over the course of the fellowship

Qualifications

- Prior quantitative coursework or research experience, preferably in a discipline applied to sustainability such as environmental science, environmental management, engineering, chemistry, environmental economics, or a related field
- Experience with GIS and mapping programs
- Previous coursework in natural resource management, community forestry, and/or silviculture
- Experience summarizing research in reports and presentations
- Ability to follow detailed and technical instructions



- Effective written communication, especially for a public audience
- Exemplary verbal communication, including speaking publicly
- Self-motivated, proactive, and flexible with careful attention to detail
- Ability to prioritize and manage multiple ongoing tasks
- Experience coordinating events
- Equity mindset and an understanding of diversity, equity, and inclusion in climate work
- Enthusiastic about urban green infrastructure

Preferred Skills

- Experience in evaluating the environmental impact of products, activities, and systems
- Experience creating professional reports

Compensation

Compensation will be in the form of a scholarship through the Environmental Resilience Institute. The Fellow will work full time for 10 weeks, beginning June 6th, 2022 and ending August 12th, 2022.

Feedback and evaluation

The Fellow will be given regular feedback from staff on progress and performance. Success in the fellowship will be determined by the completion of specified projects in a professional and timely manner. The Fellow should learn how this organization identifies its sustainability priorities, effective principles of communication, and how to develop and maintain professional relationships.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The McKinney Climate Fellows and Resilience Cohort Programs support the continual advancement and development of diverse, inclusive, and equitable spaces. Indiana climate change solutions should be equitable in implementation, and projects with equity considerations are encouraged to reduce climate change impacts on marginalized communities in the state.

Application Process

To apply for this position, complete an application on the Environmental Resilience Institute's website. If you have questions about the program or any of the positions available, email Matt Flaherty at flahertm@iu.edu. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis (first come, first serve) until Monday, February 14, 2022.