



TOWN OF ZIONSVILLE | OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

## Summer 2022 McKinney Climate Fellow

The Town of Zionsville seeks a highly motivated student to implement the Resilience Cohort's Stage 3 Module: Urban Green Infrastructure in the summer of 2022. The successful applicant will be hired as McKinney Climate Fellow through Sustain IU, Indiana University's sustainability office. The McKinney Climate Fellow will participate in the IU Environmental Resilience Institute 2022 Resilience Cohort. The fellow will work closely with the mayor's office, the Parks Department, and the Department of Public Work (DPW). Direct supervision will come from a certified arborist, Greg Dickenson, the Director of Maintenance Service for the Parks Department.

The fellow will learn replicable skills and gain valuable experiences in developing a comprehensive, equity-driven tree management plan for Zionsville's 500+ acres of green space. With over 65 square miles, and four distinct townships, Zionsville has a diverse mix of land uses (downtown, business, single-family residential, multi-family housing, green space, industrial, equestrian, agriculture, airport, etc.). A thorough tree canopy inventory is instrumental to developing an equitable tree management plan that will be resilient to climate change. A tree canopy assessment would inform current initiatives like DPW's right-of-way plantings, the Parks Department's memorial tree site selection, and active restoration projects. Furthermore, a tree canopy assessment will advance the efforts of our tree board, People of Zionsville for the Aesthetics of Zionsville (PZAZ), which has been active for more than two decades.

The McKinney Climate Fellow will gain experience working in local government and develop technical skills, project management proficiency, and grant writing experience beneficial to a career in climate science, policy, environmental management, and related fields.

### Responsibilities

- Develop an equitable, resilient tree management plan based on the canopy cover assessment.
- Promote and participate in public engagement with community members and stakeholders to develop a comprehensive tree management plan.
- Prepare materials for a Community Urban Forestry grant application.
- Participate in regular Resilience Cohort webinars and conference calls.
- Time and interest permitting, assist with other sustainability projects such as:
  - benchmarking progress on green sustainability strategies,
  - conducting research on a variety of educational topics,
  - engaging and educating public through programming.
- Attend a 4-day bootcamp training May 16 to 20, 2022.
- Attend weekly (virtual) "Lunch and Learns," Wednesdays from noon to 1:30 p.m.

### Qualifications and Skills

- Prior coursework or research experience, preferably in a sustainability discipline such as environmental science, environmental management, urban forestry management, or environmental economics.
- Understanding of impacts of climate change on long-term resilience of trees, green space, and urban green infrastructure.
- Experience with Geographic Information Systems (GIS).



- Enthusiastic about green space, tree canopies, and sustainability.
- Experience summarizing research in professional reports and presentations.
- Experience in evaluating the environmental impact of products, activities, plans, and systems.
- Ability to follow detailed and technical instructions.
- Effective written and verbal communication, especially for a public audience.
- Self-motivated, proactive, and flexible with careful attention to detail.
- Ability to prioritize and manage multiple ongoing tasks.

#### Compensation

Compensation will be in the form of a scholarship through the Environmental Resilience Institute. The Fellow will work full time for 10 weeks. Work will take place during a 12-week window, beginning no sooner than May 23 and ending no later than August 12. The Town of Zionsville and the Fellow will determine which 10 weeks will be work weeks during this time period.

#### 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 the Town of Zionsville identifies its sustainability priorities, effective principles of communication, and how to develop and maintain professional relationships.

#### Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

The McKinney Climate Fellows Program supports 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 instructions

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 Danni Schaust, MCF Program Manager, at danmcphe@iu.edu, or Sarah Miller, MCF Project and Outreach Coordinator at sjm8@iu.edu. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis (first come, first serve) until Monday, February 14, 2022.