McKinney Climate Fellows and Resilience Cohort Programs
MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER UTILITY

2022 Urban Green Infrastructure Intern – Job Description

Who We Are

The Merrillville Stormwater Utility is responsible for the town's stormwater infrastructure system and all environmental compliance associated with non-point source pollution. These efforts include the implementation of green BMPs including but not limited to low impact development, urban forestry, opens space conservation and extensive plan review for new and re-development projects.

Position Summary

The **Town of Merrillville's Stormwater Utility** 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 Merrillville Indiana with an equitable strategy for sequestering carbon and reducing pollution, mitigating urban heat island, and reducing stormwater impacts.

The intern will work with Stormwater Executive Director, Matt Lake 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 intern will also develop technical and project management skills beneficial to a career in local government, climate science, policy, environmental management, and related fields.

The Town of Merrillville (Town) has become a leader among Northwest Indiana communities for managing stormwater quality and quantity and recognizes that Low Impact Development (LID) is an innovative stormwater management approach with a basic principle that is modeled after nature: manage rainfall at the source using site design techniques that store, infiltrate, filter, evaporate and detain runoff. LID's goal is to mimic a site's predevelopment hydrology by using design techniques that infiltrate, filter, store, evaporate and detain runoff close to its source. The Town of Merrillville has implemented Low Impact Development (LID) requirements as part of their stormwater management ordinance. These regulations have resulted in the implementation of BMPs above those that are designed to reduce 80% TSS levels. In addition to the 80% Total Suspended Solids removal rate requirements at the 50–125-micron range, all development shall have additional BMPs to pre-treat storm water runoff prior to releasing off-site. Merrillville's approach to LID has been successful through new development/redevelopment projects that had to comply with this standard. Key elements of LID including urban forest management, roadway engineering standards and open space conservation strategies.

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 or iTree Streets software
- 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 or USFS grant to apply for competitive funding to update a street tree inventory or a complete a tree-planting project
- Update a tree protection ordinance
- Develop other policy and program recommendations based on inventory analysis
- Assist with related sustainability projects such as Street Tree Inventory and Low Impact Development BMP Inventory 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, an 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 in May and ending in July.

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, Implementation Manager, at *flahertm@iu.edu*. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis (first come, first serve) until Monday, February 14, 2022.