



# Westchester Land Trust

<b>Job Title:</b>	Summer Intern	<b>Position Type:</b>	Part-time, Temporary, Non-Exempt
<b>Location:</b>	Bedford Hills NY	<b>Reporting To:</b>	WLT Preserve Manager

## Background & Overview

The non-profit Westchester Land Trust (WLT), founded in 1988, is the leading land conservation organization prioritizing the entirety of Westchester County and eastern Putnam County and was one of the first land trusts in the nation to be accredited through the independent Land Trust Accreditation Commission. WLT has protected 9,000 acres across conservation easements, nature preserves, and other lands. We have a professional staff of 9, and all work together as a team to achieve WLT's mission to protect and to steward our region's priority conservation lands.

**WLT is seeking two passionate high school or college students with conservation field experience for our paid summer 2021 internships. Students with experience working in crews to accomplish stewardship projects, such as the Groundwork Hudson Valley's Green Team, or other similar field- and stewardship-centric experiences, are especially encouraged to apply. The goals of the internships are to develop new skills, learn about the different roles within a regional land trust, and gain field experience in nature preserve management. Work will primarily focus on land stewardship (preserve management and restoration) under the mentorship of the WLT Preserve Manager. Interns will also work with WLT staff responsible for other aspects of the land trust's work, such as land acquisition, communications and fundraising, and our on-site farm. Interns will work together as a team for most field work and will have the opportunity to develop an independent project that matches their interests.**

**Work Locations:** Field/Outdoors: Most of the work is outdoors at WLT nature preserves throughout Westchester and eastern Putnam Counties (such as Otter Creek Preserve in Mamaroneck, and Hunter Brook Preserve in Yorktown) and well as WLT headquarters in Bedford Hills, NY. Indoors: There will naturally be some indoor work such as report writing, trainings or meetings, or when inclement weather prevents safe field work. Indoor work can either be at the WLT office or a WLT-approved remote location.

**Tasks:** 25% trail maintenance; 25% invasive plant removal and restoration; 25% education, leadership and shadowing opportunities; 25% independent project. Most of the work is field based.

**Transportation:** Lack of access to a personal vehicle should not be a barrier to applying, as WLT is committed to work with qualified candidates to find low or no cost transportation options such as carpooling with WLT staff or public transportation with stipend.

## Duties and Responsibilities

- Learn about the different roles and responsibilities of land trust staff;
- Develop a professional understanding of land management goals and objectives;



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- Assist in trail mowing and maintenance;
- Efficiently identify and remove invasive plants;
- Maintain and develop ecological restoration projects;
- Engage with preserve hikers and neighbors;
- Create a thoughtful independent project with guidance of the WLT Preserve Manager;
- Present project results to WLT Board and staff;
- Help lead volunteer or educational programs and events;
- Produce photos and written content to support WLT communications including social media, newsletters, and other outreach material;
- Assist WLT staff with projects as needed.

### Requirements

- High School or college student with strong interest in land management, ecology, botany, recreation management, horticulture or related field;
- Experience with land stewardship or closely related activities;
- Interest in learning and quickly becoming proficient in relevant skills;
- Enthusiasm and dedication to the conservation field;
- Comfort working independently and in teams;
- Proven ability to successfully complete projects in field conditions;
- Willingness to prioritize safety and situational awareness in the field;
- Facility in communicating with people of all ages and backgrounds.

### Other Requirements

- Ability to walk several miles per day over rough terrain in all weather conditions;
- Willingness to learn to safely use power equipment like weed whackers and hand drills.

**Compensation:** \$15/hour, 10 weeks, 30 hours/week.

**Job Term:** June 2021 through August 2021.

**To apply:** Please send cover letter and resume to [info@westchesterlandtrust.org](mailto:info@westchesterlandtrust.org). No phone calls please. Applications without a cover letter will not be reviewed. Application review process begins 3/29/2021, and applications will be accepted until position is filled.

Westchester Land Trust is an equal opportunity employer and acts in accordance with applicable law in all of our hiring and employment practices. All mandated COVID-19 safety guidelines will be followed.

Date: 2/22/2021