Connecting people to the land since 1895

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GIS Intern – Conservation & Trails Mapping

Connecticut Forest & Park Association (CFPA)
Start Date: Spring 2027 Semester
Hours: Approximately 5–8 hours per week
Work Arrangement: Primarily remote, with monthly check-ins with CFPA staff

About CFPA

Founded in 1895, the Connecticut Forest & Park Association (CFPA) is Connecticut's first nonprofit conservation organization. CFPA works to connect people to the land in order to protect forests, parks, and the Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails for future generations. Our work includes land conservation, trail stewardship, environmental education, and advocacy.

Position Overview

CFPA is seeking a motivated GIS Intern to support our land conservation and trail protection efforts through mapping, spatial data analysis, and StoryMap development. Working with CFPA staff, the intern will help improve and expand our geographic information resources related to CFPA-owned properties, conservation easements, and the statewide Blue-Blazed Hiking Trail system.

This internship offers an opportunity to apply GIS skills to real-world conservation projects and contribute to efforts to protect Connecticut's forests, open spaces, and hiking trails.

Key Responsibilities

- **Property Mapping:** Update and improve GIS maps of CFPA-owned properties and conservation easements.
- **Trail Property Mapping:** Develop maps showing land ownership and conservation status along the entire Blue-Blazed Hiking Trail system to establish a baseline of trail continuity.
- **Trail System Analysis:** Create trail system maps identifying individual property ownership types and conservation status along each trail.
- **Protection Priorities:** Develop GIS maps illustrating land protection status, conservation priorities, and potential vulnerabilities along CFPA properties and trails.
- **StoryMap Development:** Assist with creating interactive ESRI StoryMaps highlighting CFPA's property conservation work, trail protection efforts, and the importance of protecting connected landscapes.
- **Data Organization:** Help review, organize, and improve existing GIS data and mapping resources.

Qualifications

- Currently enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program in GIS, geography, environmental science, natural resources, planning, or a related field.
- Experience with ArcGIS Pro, ArcGIS Online, or other GIS mapping platforms.
- Interest in land conservation, environmental protection, trails, and natural resource management.
- Strong organizational skills and attention to detail.
- Ability to work independently and manage projects with periodic staff guidance.

Internship Structure

- Approximately 5–8 hours per week during the Spring 2027 semester.
- Primarily remote work, with monthly check-ins and project coordination with CFPA staff.
- Flexible scheduling around academic commitments.
- Opportunity to develop tangible GIS products that will support CFPA's ongoing conservation and trail protection work.

Learning Opportunities

The GIS Intern will gain practical experience applying GIS technology to land conservation and trail management, working with real-world spatial datasets, and developing public-facing mapping products. Completed projects may be incorporated into CFPA's website, conservation planning, and outreach materials.

To Apply

Please email resume and short cover letter to Kate Baron by January 8, 2027 at kpreston@ctwoodlands.org. Materials will be reviewed on a rolling basis as they are received. No phonecalls please.

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CFPA is committed to a policy of equal opportunity/affirmative action for all qualified persons. CFPA does not discriminate in any employment practice, education program, or educational activity on the basis of race, color, religious creed, sex, age, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability (including, but not limited to, intellectual disability, past or present history of mental disorder, physical disability or learning disability), genetic information, or any other basis prohibited by Connecticut state and/or federal nondiscrimination laws.