

## **2024 Merrit College Intern Position Information**

**Organization Name:** East Bay Regional Park District, Stewardship Department, Wildlife Program; one position available.

**Organization Description:** The East Bay Regional Park District ("Park District") comprises nearly 125,000 acres in 74 parks in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. The Park District's mission is to acquire, preserve, protect, and operate regional parklands in perpetuity for public use, while conserving these lands for natural resources. As such the Park District performs routine park maintenance to maintain existing facilities and structures, improve watersheds and coastal shoreline conditions. The effects of these activities on wildlife are constantly monitored. Over 90 percent of Park District lands are protected and operated as natural parklands.

**Relevant Links for More Information:**

[Healthy Parks Healthy People | East Bay Parks \(ebparks.org\)](https://www.ebparks.org/natural-resources)  
<https://www.ebparks.org/natural-resources>

**Scope of Work/Deliverables:** The Park District manages over 500 ponds that supply water to cattle and provide essential habitat for amphibians and other wildlife. The Stewardship Department is working with researchers to monitor how to manage land use and amphibian populations in a changing climate characterized by extreme weather events. The intern would work with an interdisciplinary group of professors, graduate students, field technicians and land managers, to perform 1) macro and micro identification of amphibians, fish, invertebrates, and parasites (2) performing field sampling techniques such as but not limited to: dipnet, seine, visual survey, pathogen swabbing, and transects, (3) necropsy of freshwater aquatic snails for parasite isolation, and (4) data entry. In addition, individual(s) will aid in the collection of SD camera cards, processing of images from these cameras and assist in the offloading of previously deployed Hobo Loggers.

**Internship location/How much of the work is remote versus in-person?** This position is mostly lab- or office-based (70%) with some field-based work (30%) but may be flexible depending on the intern's interests. The office-based work has the option to be performed remotely.

**What environmental issues/problems will the work address?** The intern's effort will contribute to a grant-funded research project which seeks to quantitatively identify wetland characteristics that promote resilience in aquatic communities and combine this information with climate forecasting to enhance habitat suitability in an uncertain future. We focus on native communities of amphibians, which are now the most imperiled group of vertebrates globally, and in particular on species of greatest conservation need such as the California red-legged frog and the California tiger salamander.

**Pay:** \$19.87 per hour.

**Desired Qualifications:** Strong interest in land management, ecology, and wildlife identification; good technical and computer skills, ability to learn how to use GPS/GIS mapping software to collect quality data in the field; excellent work ethic and attention to detail; and strong interpersonal and communication skills.

**Special Requirements:** Tasks include some field work requiring bending, stooping, kneeling, and hiking on uneven terrain and surfaces; work may occur in adverse weather conditions and in noxious vegetation including poison oak; around stinging insects and other wildlife. Intern should be able and willing to spend many of the internship hours doing data entry or reviewing and cataloguing photos and videos. Lab work may be done at Blue Oak Ranch, in Santa Clara County. Valid Driver's License and clean driving record required for travel to different parks or lab. All East Bay Regional Park District employees are required to be fully

vaccinated against COVID-19 as a condition of employment. Note: The position may be available for early start (before August 19) and for more than the 162 hours required for the internship course.