

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's many parks, picnic areas, and corporation yards provide recreational and operational purposes. But within these areas, garbage cans and dumpsters also allow wildlife an opportunity to forage on abundant sources of anthropogenic food. This intern will work with staff in the Park District's Stewardship Department and researchers at UC Berkeley. The intern will install and monitor trail cameras at a minimum of three park locations. The data collected will help us better understand which wildlife species are using garbage cans and dumpsters and investigate potential interactions between animals at these sites. Duties will include coordination with Park staff, installation and maintenance of trail cameras, upload of images and/or videos, cataloguing of images, behavioral scoring of videos, data analysis, and management recommendations.

Internship location/How much of the work is remote versus in-person? This position is mostly office-based (80-90%) with some field-based work (10-20%). The office-based work has the option to be performed remotely.

What environmental issues/problems will the work address? The intern's effort will generate information on wildlife activity at dumpsters. The work the student performs will support the development of management recommendations and also may yield interesting information on how wildlife interact and behave at an artificial food source. Our eventual goal is to wildlife-proof problem dumpsters as these food sources may result in wildlife that are habituated to human presence and pose a public safety issue; may be a source of disease transmission between animals; and support non-native animals that can adversely impact ecosystems (e.g. free-roaming domestic cats, brown rats, and house mice). This resource management work will benefit the ecological health and biodiversity of parklands.

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 reviewing and cataloguing photos and videos. Valid Driver's License and clean driving record

required for travel to different parks. All East Bay Regional Park Regional 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.