

Regional Environmental Council

Spring Gardens Intern

Dates: February through May

Who We Are:

The Regional Environmental Council (REC) is a food justice organization that has been working in Worcester for fifty years. Our mission is to bring people together to create a just food system and to build healthy, sustainable, and equitable communities in Worcester, MA and beyond. Our programs include Community and Mobile Farmers Markets, our youth employment urban agriculture program (YouthGROW), and our Community and School Gardens Network (UGROW).

The focus of this internship is the REC Community and School Gardens Network (UGROW). UGROW supports 80+ member gardens in the city of Worcester, including neighborhood gardens, school/learning gardens, organizational/institutional gardens, and urban farms. We provide direct resources for gardeners, technical assistance, and educational and community-building programming.

We are seeking a Spring Gardens Intern to help support the UGROW Network's school and community gardens during one of our busiest seasons. Interns will:

- Support our annual Earth Day and Plant Sale events
- Support garden clean ups and deliveries of tools and other materials to various garden sites
- Help distribute seedlings to our 60+ school and community gardens
- Assist School Gardens Coordinator in planting seedlings at school sites with students
- Coordinate and attend a school garden build at a new site (site TBD)
- Help with REC Events such as seed saving, community dinners etc.

Compensation:

All internships are unpaid but provide invaluable insight into: urban agriculture, food justice, environmental justice, non-profit management, and customer service. Interns will learn what it is like working in a hugely diverse city like Worcester and the importance of honoring food justice by working in low-income, food-insecure neighborhoods. Interns are an integral part to the success of the REC's programs and are part of what makes our programs sustainable. If available through your educational institution, the REC is willing to help interns obtain credit for their work with us.

Schedule:

- February through May or June
- Minimum 5 Hours/week
- Hours are flexible, but some weekends are required
- Must be available on some Saturdays in April and May

Responsibilities:

- Work a minimum of 5 in-person hours per week
- Assist with garden cleanups and maintenance
- Support delivery of tools and seedlings to garden sites
- Provide direct support to a new school or community garden site to help them build new garden infrastructure
- Work with UGROW Team to lead planting workshops at schools
- Support after-school programming at schools and support setup and delivery of gardening workshops for the community (TBD)
- Support community events like educational workshops, community gatherings, etc.
- Create digital and print educational gardening materials

Internship Environment:

This internship is very hands-on and site-oriented meaning, you'll be working directly with REC staff and sometimes independently at garden sites to complete building and gardening projects. Much of the work will take place outdoors.

Skills Required:

- Must have access to car and be willing to drive to garden sites in Worcester
- Ability to work both independently and collaboratively with program staff
- Strong written and verbal communication skills, with demonstrated ability to communicate effectively with people of diverse backgrounds
- Commitment to the mission, vision, and values of the REC

Additional Preferred Skills:

- Bi/multilingual (Spanish, Nepali, etc.)
- Experience/knowledge of gardening

How To Apply:

To be considered for this position, please send a resume and cover letter to Noel Allen at noel@recworchester.org by **January 30th**. Candidates will be considered on a rolling basis, with decisions made by early February. If you need to confirm an internship prior to that date, please indicate in your cover letter. Please use Spring Gardens Intern as the email subject.

The REC is an equal opportunity employer committed to an inclusive workplace. People of color are strongly encouraged to apply. The REC does not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment based on race, color, religion, national origin, age, gender, sex, ancestry, citizenship status, mental or physical disability, genetic information, sexual orientation, veteran or military status.