

Trail Maintenance Internship

Part-Time



Apply now!

The Elizabeth River Trail Foundation seeks an enthusiastic intern to assist with trail operations, maintenance, environmental stewardship, and beautification efforts on the trail. Interns are needed to help with litter clean up, graffiti removal, and trail safety alerts, help with ongoing maintenance of the managed meadow, Plum Point Park, watering trees at the fitness course, future planting projects, and more.

This internship is ideal for college students majoring in Parks, Recreation and Tourism, environmental studies, conservation, landscape design, urban planning, or related fields. Access to reliable transportation is required. Some heavy lifting is required. Most weeks will be 10-15 hours.

The Trail Maintenance Intern will work alongside ERT staff and community volunteers to help maintain, improve, and activate one of Norfolk's most unique and beloved public spaces. This role offers hands-on experience supporting urban trail systems, beautification projects, environmental initiatives, and public space stewardship.

Responsibilities may include:

- Assisting with trail maintenance and beautification efforts
- Supporting litter cleanup, graffiti, removal, and trail safety reporting
- Assisting with landscaping, planting, watering, and seasonal projects
- Assisting with volunteer work days and community stewardship projects
- Helping evaluate trail conditions and identify improvement opportunities
- Supporting special projects and partnerships with community organizations
- Assisting staff with day-to-day operational needs as necessary


Preferred Skills and Interests:

- Interest in environmental stewardship, public spaces, or community development
- Willingness to work outdoors in varying weather conditions
- Ability lift, move, or carry supplies and equipment as needed
- Strong teamwork and communication skills

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PO Box 3042, Norfolk, Virginia 23514-3042

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- Construction, landscaping, maintenance, or gardening experience is a plus, but not required

What You'll Gain:

- Hands-on experience in trail operations and public space management
- Experience working with community volunteers and nonprofit partners
- Exposure to environmental and urban beautification initiatives
- Opportunities to contribute to visible, lasting community improvements
- Mentorship from nonprofit and community leaders

Most internships range from 10-15 hours per week with flexible scheduling based on academic commitments and project needs. Some weekend availability may be requested for volunteer projects and events.

The Elizabeth River Trail Foundation is a small, but highly collaborative team, and interns will have opportunities to contribute ideas, explore interests, and gain experience across multiple aspects of nonprofit work.

The ERT Foundation believes the trail is FOR everyone and strongly encourages candidates of all backgrounds and identities to apply.

- Assist with litter control, creating educational opportunities regarding litter.
- Assist full-time staff with day-to-day operations and reviewing Trail Ambassador reports.
- Conduct trail maintenance.
- Assist with wayfinding phase 2 signage and blazes.
- Manage beautification and landscaping.
- Assist other community partners with projects as needed.
- Intern period: flexible

Send a letter of interest and resume to hello@elizabethrivertrail.org with Internship in the subject line.

The Elizabeth River Trail Foundation provides equal employment opportunities (EEO) to all employees and applicants for employment without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, sexual orientation, disability or genetics.

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