

WATERSHED ASSESSMENT/ENGINEERING INTERN

Fall 2011 — part time — paid

Friends of Big Creek (FOBC) is an environmental 501c3 non-profit organization whose mission is to conserve, enhance and bring recognition to the natural and historic resources of the Big Creek Watershed and develop a recreation trail network that joins these resources to each other and the community. The FOBC office is located in the Old Brooklyn neighborhood of Cleveland, Ohio.

The successful candidate for this internship will assist the project manager and project consultants, under review of a technical advisory committee, in conducting a Storm Water Retrofit evaluation and ranking (see project summary at the end of the position description) in multiple locations throughout the Big Creek Watershed. This individual will learn how to work collaboratively in a small office and will develop skills useful in securing employment in the environmental field. The intern will have professional feedback from FOBC staff and consultants, who will work as mentors with the candidate.

The best candidate should want to work in a fast-paced environment and must be available for occasional evening and weekend work. The candidate will be a highly-motivated, self-starter who is willing to network with community leaders, project partners and volunteers.

Starting date: Early October 2011

Duration: 10-12 weeks

SUMMARY

- Reports to the Project Manager for Friends of Big Creek
- Position will be structured as an Internship for a current qualified college student or qualified college graduate
- Schedule: 20-30 hours per week
- Paid: \$10-\$12/hour (based on qualifications), no benefits except for duty-related mileage reimbursement

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

- College graduate with a B.S. or B.A., *or* current college student interested in a formal Internship assignment; college GPA of 3.0 or better.
- Attention to detail and superior analytical ability.
- Ability to work outdoors in various weather conditions and to traverse uneven terrain.
- Interest in the environment and natural resource management.
- Proficiency in word processing and spreadsheets/databases. Some ARC/GIS experience required.
- A personal commitment to attaining consistent levels of superior performance.
- Must have personal transportation, have a valid driver's license, and have auto insurance.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Completed coursework in the areas of environmental/civil engineering, environmental science, natural resource management, the physical sciences, or a related field preferred – however, persons with or seeking degrees in urban planning/studies, geography or a related field are also encouraged to apply.
- Strong verbal and written communications skills.

Duties

- Conduct preliminary screening through desktop GIS analysis
- Primarily responsible for performing the field inventory and the evaluation of potential storm water retrofit locations (training provided).
- Data management (spreadsheet/database).
- Present data, results and progress to project partners.

Send letter of interest (email preferred) with resume by September 23, 2011 to:

Bob Gardin, Project Manager

Friends of Big Creek

P.O. Box 609272

Cleveland, Ohio 44109

Phone: 216-269-6472

fax: 216-661-4998

Email: bgardin@friendsofbigcreek.org

website: www.friendsofbigcreek.org

PROJECT SUMMARY

In 2006 Friends of Big Creek and the Cuyahoga River Community Planning Organization initiated the development of a Balanced Growth Plan for the Big Creek watershed. The project received financial support from the five watershed communities making up over 90% of the watershed's population and land area: Cleveland, Parma, Parma Heights, Brook Park and Brooklyn. The completed plan had received resolutions of support from each of the watershed communities and in June of 2011 the plan received State Endorsement from the Ohio Lake Erie Commission.

Each community expressed support for the Big Creek Stormwater Retrofit Ranking Project discussed during the final Balanced Growth Plan presentations prior to their adoption of the plan. The retrofit project is being financed through grants awarded from the Ohio Lake Erie Commission, The Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District and Freshwater Future.

The Stormwater Retrofit Ranking Project builds on the work completed in the Balanced Growth Plan by utilizing the data gathered for the four types of storm water retrofits identified in the plan through GIS research. Stormwater retrofits are a series of green structural stormwater practices designed to mitigate erosive flows, reduce pollutants, and promote conditions for improved aquatic habitat that are retrofitted into developed watersheds. The Balanced Growth plan identifies 156 retrofit sites on public, commercial, industrial and institutional properties. These include:

- 69 large parking lots (5 acres or greater),
- 35 modified existing dry basins,
- 46 new storage below outfalls, and
- 6 storage areas at highway interchanges.

The ranking project will evaluate the retrofits identified in the Balanced Growth Plan through further desktop analysis and perform field analysis on 20-30 of the sites. The projects will be selected on criteria that has potential for treatment, greater ecological and community benefits, and that consider site constraints. Conceptual designs will then be completed for the highest priority projects. The project rankings and designs will be used and made available for future implementation funding by FOBC, the watershed communities, and by other interested stakeholders.