Organization Name: Groundwork Atlanta

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Organization Mission: The mission of Groundwork Atlanta is to achieve the sustained regeneration, improvement, and management of the physical environment by developing community-based partnerships, which empower people, businesses, and organizations to promote environmental, economic, and social well-being.

Internship Semester: Summer 2020

Project Title #1: Gun Club Park

Keywords: Community Outreach, Brownfield Redevelopment, Urban Development

SLS Priority Issue Areas: Equitable Development, UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Project Background: The Gun Club Park Program is a relatively new project for Groundwork Atlanta. Since late summer 2018, we have engaged with Trust for Public Land and the City of Atlanta to environmentally assess and remediate a decommissioned park, and then assess the highest and best, or most desired, use of the park lands for greenspace purposes, based upon community input and engagement. By addressing the greenspace areas in a soon-to-be-transitional neighborhood, with the involvement of legacy residents, we have an opportunity to engage current existing residents, many of whom who have lived in the area for 30-50 years or who have limited incomes, and to give these residents the opportunity to engage in the growth and excitement of a revitalized Atlanta. As a Groundwork trust, working within a lower income neighborhood to equitably make the neighborhood inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, is the foundational purpose of the organization. In this particular project, the SLS intern will work closely with the neighborhood residents to help them engage in the process to connect with the work that will happen at Gun Club Park. Specifically, the intern will (1) help convene community meetings, (2) educate residents about the work at Gun Club Park (status updates), (3) assist residents in the visioning sessions of their neighborhood, and (4) develop, design and prepare a community map of desired uses in and near the Park. The intern will work with Groundwork staff, staff from Trust for Public Land, and key members from Groundwork Atlanta’s Board of Directors. As such, hours may vary weekly, and may include evening and weekend hours.

Project Timeline: Due to the nature of this project, the overall timeline for completion of the project can take 12-24 months, or longer. However, the nature of this internship is to focus on the community engagement portion of the project, to obtain a written document (consensus map) from that community engagement, and to develop a methodology to continue to engage and inform the interested stakeholders. As such, this portion of the project can be completed by the end of the summer internship.

Desired skills and qualifications: Transit/ trails development or engineering related to the field, People engagement/ ability to connect with people, Urban or Real estate development or related engineering field
Deliverables: Community Outreach Event, Community Map of Desired Uses in or near the Park

Project Title #2: Multi-Modal Trail and Transit Development in Northwest Atlanta

Keywords: Community Outreach, Multi-Modal Trail and Transit Development, Urban Development

SLS Priority Issue Areas: Equitable Development, UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Project Background: The Multi-Modal Trail and Transit Development in Northwest Atlanta Program (Connections Program) is based in one of the five core programmatic areas for Groundwork Atlanta. Since our inception in 2015, we have engaged with Trust for Public Land, the Conservation Fund, the Atlanta Regional Commission, Invest Atlanta, Riverwalk Atlanta, Chattahoochee NOW and the City of Atlanta, and a host of other neighborhood associations and stakeholders, to develop and strengthen trails and other multi-modal forms of transit, for resiliency and sustainability purposes, based upon community input and engagement. Recently our work has been instrumental with a key Chattahoochee River initiative, Chattahoochee RiverLands, working with dozens of stakeholders and partners, to connect all possible uses and organizations around the River. By addressing the greenspace areas in a Northwest Atlanta, with the involvement of currently new and legacy residents, we have an opportunity to engage current existing residents, many of whom who have lived in the area for 30-50 years or who have limited incomes, and to give these residents the opportunity to engage in the growth and excitement of a revitalized Atlanta. As a Groundwork trust, working within a lower income neighborhood to equitably make the neighborhood inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, is the foundational purpose of the organization. In this particular project, the SLS intern will work closely with the neighborhood residents to help them engage in, and understand, the work we are currently undertaking under the Connections Program, and to help residents educate Groundwork about other potential trails and transit opportunities and challenges in the neighborhood. Specifically, the intern will (1) help convene community meetings, (2) educate residents about the current multi-modal trail and transit work (status updates), (3) assist residents in the visioning sessions of their neighborhood for future opportunities, and (4) develop, design and prepare a Community Map of Possible Trail locations/multi-modal trail options in the area. The intern will work with Groundwork staff, staff from Trust for Public Land, and key members from Groundwork Atlanta’s Board of Directors. As such, hours may vary weekly, and may include evening and weekend hours.

Project Timeline: Due to the nature of this project, the overall timeline for completion of the project can take 12-24 months, or longer. However, the nature of this internship is to focus on the community engagement portion of the project, to obtain a written document (Community Map of Possible Trail locations/multi-modal trail options in the area) from that community engagement, and to develop a methodology to continue to engage and inform the interested stakeholders. As such, this portion of the project can be completed by the end of the summer internship.

Desired skills and qualifications: Transit/ trails development or engineering related to the field, People engagement/ ability to connect with people, Urban or Real estate development or related engineering field

Deliverables: Community Outreach Event, Community Map of Possible Trail locations/multi-modal trail options in the area