

# Servant Leadership Summer Internship Placement Site Job Description Information Sheet Summer 2022

**Organization Name:** West Atlanta Watershed Alliance (WAWA)

**Address:** West Atlanta Watershed Alliance  
1442 Richland Rd. SW  
Atlanta, GA 30310

**Phone:** 404-752-5385

**Web site:** <https://www.wawa-online.org>

**Internship Supervisor:** Na'Taki Osborne Jelks

**Supervisor's contact information including e-mail.** [nojelks@wawa-online.org](mailto:nojelks@wawa-online.org)

**Organization's Mission Statement:** The West Atlanta Watershed Alliance (WAWA) is a community-based, non-profit organization that is dedicated to growing a cleaner, greener, healthier, and more sustainable West Atlanta. Our mission is to improve the quality of life within the West Atlanta Watershed by protecting, preserving and restoring the community's natural resources. WAWA serves low wealth and communities of color in the Proctor, Utoy, and Sandy Creek Watersheds of Northwest and Southwest Atlanta--- those overburdened with environmental stressors, but often least represented at environmental decision-making tables. Established as a result of community efforts to halt discriminatory wastewater treatment practices in West Atlanta, we have grown to become an impactful force in community-centered sustainable development. For over 23 years, WAWA has pioneered efforts to advance environmental education, community engagement in watershed and greenspace protection, climate and equity, and environmental justice in Northwest and Southwest Atlanta neighborhoods. While we are locally-based, we sit at important regional, statewide, and even national tables where our impact is felt and acknowledged.

**Vision:** West Atlanta Watershed Alliance believes a healthy environment equals a healthy community.

We envision:

- 1) a community that protects our watersheds and recognizes and appreciates our important connections to these vital resources;
- 2) informed and engaged residents who fully participate in decision-making on issues that impact environmental quality, our health and community well-being; and
- 3) strong and equitable environmental protections. We also envision WAWA as a trusted thought leader and primary resource for West Atlanta communities seeking to advance environmental, community, and systems change.

**Overview:** WAWA gets results for and with West Atlanta Communities through grassroots organizing; creating and delivering placed-based, culturally relevant and responsive environmental education to K-Grey community audiences; engaging in community science and other participatory research approaches; and facilitating community-led environmental protection strategies and hands-on land and watershed stewardship. As a key approach to our community research, WAWA engages West Atlanta residents in environmentally overburdened neighborhoods to bring their local community knowledge and lived experiences to bear along with monitoring local environmental conditions to generate actionable data for community change; thereby developing effective interventions that revitalize toxic, degraded spaces into healthy places.

## Summary of Programs

A summary of WAWA's programming is as follows:

- **Access to Atlanta green spaces.** WAWA serves as the steward for nearly 400 acres of urban forest land/greenspace in Southwest Atlanta, 200 of which it raised \$2.5M+ to protect before obtaining 501c (3) status, the Lionel Hampton Beecher Hills Nature Preserve. WAWA has worked diligently to make this and other greenspaces more accessible to the public.
- **Youth education programs.** WAWA's Outdoor Academy and field trip programs provide Atlanta youth with opportunities to engage with nature and take part in hands-on STEM education programs.
- **Urban Agriculture.** At WAWA's Outdoor Activity Center (OAC) which includes a 26-acre urban forest, the community co-manages a garden that provides fresh produce to neighboring food insecure households and serves as a space for healing and gathering. In the garden, WAWA has increased production to feed NPU-S families during the pandemic.
- **Family-focused community events.** Each year, WAWA hosts family-friendly outdoor recreation events and nature-based festivals for youth and families at the OAC and Cascade Springs and Lionel Hampton Beecher Hills Preserves. The Great American Campout and Urban Forest Festival have become staples that local families look forward to each year.
- **Participatory research and community science programs.** WAWA engages West Atlanta residents in environmentally overburdened communities to monitor local environmental conditions and generate actionable data for community change, thereby developing effective interventions that revitalize toxic, degraded spaces into healthy places.
- **Advocacy training.** Since its inception, WAWA has helped to set conditions that enable residents to empower themselves and elevate their voices to be advocates for their communities. Through programs, such as the Atlanta Watershed Learning Network, West Atlanta residents receive the knowledge and support needed to be powerful advocates for equitable green solutions to community challenges.
- **Climate and equity.** WAWA drives community-led solutions to the hyper-local impacts of climate change showing up within the "trifecta of insecurities" (housing, utilities, and food) experienced within West Atlanta communities

**Intern's title:** AgroForestry Intern

**Number of interns requested:** 1

**Internship project/job description (please include a virtual/socially distanced option if possible):**

Intern will assist the WAWA with implementing its [AgroForestry](#) Program at the Outdoor Activity Center, a 22+ acre urban forest in Southwest Atlanta and candidate for designation as Atlanta's Second Food Forest. Specific intern tasks will include helping to work the land (both the urban forest and food growing spaces—bioaponica/aquaponics system, traditional community garden, and hield yield "farm"-like growing space) as well as assist with community engagement efforts and planning to assist WAWA with the creation of a farmstand or other efforts to grow the site capacity as a fresh food access point. Social media engagement and assistance with documenting the progress and engagement with land stewardship and agroforestry techniques may also be required. Specific tasks could include the following:

- Monitoring and conducting land stewardship project areas by completing tasks such as weeding, watering, mulching, planting, irrigating, harvesting, targeted invasive species removal, and trail maintenance;
- Conducting qualitative and quantitative assessment of restoration projects by developing and maintaining maps and a database of volunteer stewardship projects;
- Working alongside or leading groups of volunteers to perform land stewardship and farming tasks;
- Inspecting and maintaining public hiking trails using maintenance tools;
- Assisting with the delivery of educational and service-related programs with youth and adult community members;
- Data collection, management, and map-making using GPS-enabled devices (instruction provided if needed).
- Assisting with planning and execution of tasks to grow the OAC's capacity as a fresh food access point (i.e., researching what it takes to start a farmstand or small-scale farmer's market);
- Assisting with community engagement efforts (i.e., attending community events or meetings to promote WAWA programs and opportunities for the community to get involved, etc.);
- Assist with project evaluation; and
- Other projects as they arise.

**Qualifications:**

Experience in social media, interest in technology, experience in planning, ability to acquire evaluation skills. Ability to learn about gardening/farming/land management if not already familiar with these areas. Interest in working in natural spaces, ability to work on feet and stand up for extended periods of time outside. Strong sense of purpose and ability to get tasks accomplished and shared, with clear communications. Ability to foster relationships and proactively schedule meetings with stakeholders

Internal drive to accomplish tasks, set timelines, and follow through on suggestions put forth by staff team; Bonus: Experience developing relationships or working with stakeholders across multiple sectors, including policy, public health, community, and non-profit, etc.

**Are there other requirements for this position (security check, drug screen, immunizations, etc.)? If yes, please note them here** Covid vaccination and booster if eligible; adherence to COVID-19 mask protocols and other public health measures.

**Will the internship require that the student have a car?** No, however, it might be helpful if feasible.

**Is placement site accessible by public transit or other transportation options?**  
Generally yes (both MARTA train and bus may be required)