

# Miami County Park District Internship, Summer 2020

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## BACKGROUND

- This summer, I was lucky enough to be able to work for Miami County Park District once again! This is my second summer interning for the Park District, and I was excited to return.
- The organization is in Miami County, Ohio, and park headquarters is in the county seat, Troy, Ohio.
- The Park District takes care of many parks in the county, including public lands such as the Great Miami River trail, and privately owned lands by the organization.
- I found the job via location and past visits to the various parks around my county. After speaking with the Operations Supervisor, I was offered the job due to my interest in NR management, and how I could help the Park District over the summer.

## Mission Statement:

*"To conserve natural resources and enrich the quality of life for the people of Miami County through stewardship, environmental education, outdoor experiences and passive leisure activities." (Miami Co. Park District).*

## Stillwater Prairie Reserve (SPR)



Figure 1: Morning work on the Stillwater River, Stillwater Prairie Reserve, Covington, Ohio. (Demmitt, H. 2020, May 13).

## ON THE JOB

While working for the Park District, I was able to gain a plethora of knowledge about Natural Resource Stewardship, Park Management, and other skills critical to taking care of our environment, such as:

- Removal of invasive species including Honeysuckle, Callery Pear Trees, and Autumn Olive throughout multiple park properties using the cut & treat method.
- Application of herbicide to invasive species such as Poison Hemlock and Garlic Mustard using backpack sprayers.
- Operated heavy machinery to remove logs and downed trees.
- Completed Ohio EPA chemical logs following the completion of spraying and application.
- Assisted the public on canoe floats that the Park District held to connect visitors to the outdoors.
- Built new trails and picnic areas for the public to enjoy.

## Treatment of Poison Hemlock & Garlic Mustard at SPR



Figure 2: On the job working on the removal of Poison Hemlock & Garlic Mustard at Stillwater Prairie Reserve, Covington, Ohio. A selective Herbicide was used in a backpack sprayer and applied to the weeds to kill and prevent regrowth. (Diegel, T. 2020, June 26).

## Installation of a New Trail & Bridge at SPR



Figure 3: Progress of a project I got to work on this summer of a new trail being installed in SPR that opened to the public this fall. The new trail gives visitors more area to hike, walk, and run and more opportunity to connect with the outdoors. (Demmitt, H. 2020, June 16).

## REFLECTION

Working with Miami County Park District the past two summers has allowed me to build my skills in the field. I have learned so much about Natural Resource Management and I am excited to continue to grow and expand my knowledge as I continue to pursue my degree.

I plan on staying with Miami County Park District through the remainder of my college career. After graduation, I hope to expand my resume and travel west to work for the United States National Park Service.

For those students who also wish to pursue a career in Natural Resource Management, or any environmental field, this would be a great starting job. With a friendly work environment, I was able to quickly learn the dynamic of the organization and make plenty of friends along the way.

My advice to peers looking for an internship: Be confident. Have an idea of what you know about environmental science and natural resources, but do not be afraid of what you don't understand. Internships are meant for growing and learning and it is okay to ask for help along the way! Be comfortable asking questions to get a better insight of the field and your future career.

## Installation of Tile to Picnic Area at SPR



Figure 4: Leveling the earth using a laser tool to install new tile in a picnic area that lays wet at Stillwater Prairie Reserve, Covington, Ohio. (Gade, J. 2020, June 4).

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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