

# City of Upper Arlington Internship

Will Novotny



## Background

My internship experience was with the City of Upper Arlington's Park and Forestry department as a park service worker. Upper Arlington is in Ohio right next to Columbus, making it only a twenty minute drive from my house. Their mission statement is, "to fulfill the recreational, cultural and educational needs of the community through an exciting array of programs and activities, as well as maintaining the City's beautiful parks, street trees and other public spaces." The Parks and Forestry department of Upper Arlington manages and takes care of 21 parks! I found this job on Indeed while looking online on different job finding websites.



## On the Job

- Park Maintenance – Trash, Mow Lawns, Basic Repairs
- Operated and Maintained Park Equipment
- Invasive Plant Removal & Pesticides
- Set up Special Events in Parks
- Park Restoration & Built Pathway



## Installing Park Pathway and Restoration



## Invasive Plant Poison Hemlock



## Zero Turn Mower



## Reflection

Learning how a park system is managed will be important to my future career. Gaining an understanding of how working with a government body to improve funding and approve park improvement projects will also relate to my career. The park maintenance skills along with solving issues like invasive species and trail building will be good skills to have experience in for the future. Moving forward I will find an internship more on the visitor services side of working for a park. I want to be a law enforcement park ranger, so gaining some visitor service skills to go along with the technical skills I learned on this job will be a good combination for me. For future students I recommend looking on different government websites for an opportunity like this. Many cities have local park systems with similar positions to this one. Also, to work a position like this be open to working with a wide variety of people and embrace some of the repetitive aspects of the job.



Thompson Park



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY