WHAT DID I DO THIS SUMMER?
This summer, I served as the Parks Intern for the City of Beavercreek Ohio, located near my hometown of Dayton. As the Parks Division intern, I was responsible for a very wide variety of tasks within the Division and the City that contributed to the Division’s mission statement: providing recreational experiences that enhance quality of life in the community. These included:
- Running the Summer Concert Series
- Planning and executing 4th of July and National Night Out
- Assisting with summer camp, classes and office tasks daily
- Writing a Natural Resource Management Plan for the City

I interned from June 1- August 11 and was able to work through a very exciting time with the Parks Division- land for a new 148-acre park was acquired during my time with the Division, which meant that I was also able to learn what the creation of a brand-new park looks like, and the logistics and challenges involved with that project.

WHAT TO KNOW FOR FUTURE INTERNS
Some of the big pluses of this internship include:
- Paid
- Flexible Hours
- Experience catered to what YOU want to learn

Some of the drawbacks of this internship include:
- No relocation support
- Working unusual hours and being on call to come in

WHERE DO I GO FROM HERE?
This internship made me consider alternative career paths from what I had originally been focused on. Working with the Parks Division showed me how rewarding local government work can be. It also showed me that I value being hands-on and directly impacting a community. While I still want to see what other opportunities the world of sustainability holds, this experience showed me that I enjoy working in local government and engaging residents with their green spaces.

HOW DID I GET THIS JOB?
Job boards and social media sites like LinkedIn are excellent resources- I found out about this job through a sign in one of my hometown parks and later discovered the application in LinkedIn.

This job is a good fit for those who are interested in working in parks in the future, for those who want to learn more about local government, for those who want to be hands on with their community, and for those who are skilled in communication, are detail oriented, and can handle constantly changing situations.

WHAT SKILLS DID I LEARN?
While working with the Parks Division, I learned many valuable skills that will assist my future career, including:
- Project management
- Delegation
- Technical Writing
- Data Analysis
- Grant Writing
- Professional Communication
- Meeting Etiquette
- Tabling Skills

This internship exposes me to a diverse set of responsibilities meant to enhance the experiences of Beavercreek residents. No day on the job looked the same- I spent time in the office, working at events around town, and out in the parks. One of the areas that I was able to grow the most of project/event management and the communication involved with that.

MY FAVORITE EXPERIENCES
Helping at a goat yoga class put on by the Division!

This internship has provided me with many different experiences that helped contribute to my professional development including:
- Improving professional communication skills with City employees, vendors, and the public
- Learning more about how to run large scale events such as the 4th of July celebration and National Night Out
- Creating professional relationships through networking
- Helping run different classes and activities held by the Division including Learn to Kayak, Goat Yoga, and the 8-week Summer Camp Series
- Working tabling events throughout the City to share the work of the Division with all of Beavercreek
- Overseeing grant writing for events throughout the City and observing levy processes relative to parks
- Understanding and practicing meeting etiquette in a modern office setting
- Creating and presenting a detailed Natural Resource Management Plan for the City to Park Board
- Leading nature education walks at different parks throughout the City

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