

2021 Horticulture Internship

Waterfront Botanical Gardens
P.O. Box 5056
Louisville, KY 40206

Location: The Avish Estate (5224 Avish Ln., Prospect, KY)

Duration: 10- to 16-week term completed within March to October time frame

Stipend: \$14.00/hr (32 or 40-hours/week)

This seasonal internship at Waterfront Botanical Gardens (WBG) encompasses horticultural, educational and/or curatorial tasks associated with the satellite small 1-acre garden and greenhouse complex at The Avish through a use-agreement with the private property owners.

Horticultural tasks include plant care, installation and all aspects of general maintenance of seasonal herbaceous flower and vegetable beds, greenhouse specimen plants and crop production and scheduling in a greenhouse setting. Additional tasks may include support of site preparation or program support of various adult or youth educational/camp offerings at the Avish facility.

The Avish serves as a primary plant production facility and educational, special event and display venue, supporting WBG's mission. Aquatic plants grow in a waterfall and reflecting pool feature and nearby are over twenty elongated growing beds among a network of brick walkways. Two large square formal beds stand nearby. These areas will grow herbaceous plants from seasonal annuals and perennials to herbs and vegetable crops. A historic production greenhouse serves to support production of plants suitable for planting in the growing beds. A smaller greenhouse nearby will be a multipurpose space displaying showcase plant specimens. Extensive garden maintenance, pest monitoring and harvesting will occur during the summer in the outdoor flower and vegetable beds. Seed-starting will be staggered across the growing season, both in-ground sowing and in the greenhouse.

The ideal intern candidate will have plant growing-experience, be familiar with basic hand gardening tools (shovel, rake, hand pruners, etc.), have a sound plant identification knowledge base, and have demonstrated ability to follow organizational policies, take direction well, display a demeanor that is positive and present their person in a professional manner.

The stipend is paid biweekly by direct deposit. No benefits and housing is not provided.

The Horticulture Intern receives hands-on training in all phases of garden development and care of the existing living collections, from trees and shrubs and herbaceous perennials to seasonal annual/vegetable crops. Specific emphasis is placed on refining practical horticultural skills. Supervisory skills may be developed by directing the activities of volunteers. Other activities include developing integrated pest management (IPM) skills, basic woody plant pruning

techniques, and the potential for operation and maintenance of simple garden machinery. Additional opportunity exists to assist in teaching of youth regarding plant life, botany and ecology, etc.

Duties & Responsibilities

Identify weeds and implement control methods, including applying basic integrated pest management strategies in an edible garden and ornamental landscapes.

Promote pollinator health and diversity in the gardens.

Assist in bed layout, scheduling, maintenance, harvest and rotation of fruit and vegetable food crops, herbaceous perennials and seasonal annuals.

Take part in watering plants and containers on daily schedule.

Learn practical garden digging concepts, proper planting techniques and propagation basics.

Gain familiarity with or operational experience with small garden maintenance machinery.

Potential for occasional event, youth camp or adult class preparation and tear-down.

Education and Experience

A proven academic or practical background in horticulture preferred; plant sciences, botany or closely related field will be considered as well.

Be able and willing to communicate professionally and cooperatively with WBG staff, board members, volunteers and educational programming participants.

Be able and willing to work independently and as part of a small team.

Be able and willing to work in all weather conditions, including intense sun rays and high ambient humidity outdoors as well as in greenhouse space.

Be able and willing to lift at least 20lbs, occasionally up to 35lbs.

A valid driver's license is required.

To Apply: Send a cover letter mentioning which location of the internship you are wishing consideration (e.g. Frankfort Avenue or The Avish), a current resume and list of at least 3 professional references to info@waterfrontgardens.org and write "Horticulture Internship" in the subject line. Applications being accepted through Monday, March 1, 2021.