2025 Horticulture Internship

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

Location: Waterfront Botanical Gardens (1435 Frankfort Ave. Louisville, KY)

Duration: 10- to 15-week term completed within May to September time frame

Stipend: $15.00/hr (40 hours/week)

Studies have shown that women and people of color are less likely to apply for jobs/internships unless they believe they can perform every job description task. We are most interested in finding the best candidate and that candidate may come from a less traditional background. WBG may consider an equivalent combination of knowledge, skills, education, and experience to meet minimum qualifications. If you are interested in applying, we encourage you to think broadly about your background and skill set for the role.

Internship Overview:

This seasonal internship at Waterfront Botanical Gardens (WBG) encompasses horticultural, grounds maintenance and curatorial tasks associated with the developing 23-acre botanical garden.

Horticultural tasks include plant care, installation and general maintenance of seasonal herbaceous flowers, in-ground woody plant materials and raised beds/decorative containers. The historic facade of the Heigold House is surrounded by plantings in a large traffic island bed on Frankfort Avenue near River Road. New plantings will be installed at this site as development and schedule allows. Groundskeeping tasks include prepping walkways for daily visitors, clearing debris or occasional invasive plants. Occasional curatorial tasks center around documentation, GPS mapping, logging and evaluation of plant materials. Plant accession information will be managed with the IrisBG computerized module.

The ideal intern candidate will have plant-growing experience, be familiar with basic hand gardening tools (shovel, rake, hand pruners, etc.), have some level/grasp of plant identification or knowledge base, and have reliable daily transportation to/from WBG.

The stipend is paid biweekly via direct deposit. 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 horticulture skills.

Interpersonal or basic supervisory skills may be developed by directing the activities of volunteers. Other activities include developing integrated pest management (IPM) skills, arboriculture techniques, and the potential operation and maintenance of simple garden machinery. Additional opportunities exist to assist in

teaching of youth regarding plant life, botany and ecology, etc.

Field trip opportunities occur for interns, allowing them to visit other public/private garden properties to further expose themselves to additional plant materials, landscape designs and general observations regarding the viability of horticulture as a rewarding career or lifelong hobby.

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 a 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 events, youth camp or adult class preparation and tear-down.

Preferred Education and Experience:

- An academic background (high school or college-age) in horticulture, plant sciences, botany or closely related field/subject study is preferred.
- 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 occasional summer rainstorms.
- Be able and willing to lift at least 25 lbs, occasionally up to 40 lbs.
- Interns must also adhere to a basic workplace dress policy to ensure they look professional and address their personal safety while working substantially outdoors.

Waterfront Botanical Gardens. (WBG) is committed to a policy of equal employment opportunity. The organization will not discriminate against employees or applicants for employment on any legally recognized basis including, but not limited to, veteran status, race, color, religion, sex, national origin, physical or mental disability, age, or any other protected group status as defined by law. Waterfront Botanical Gardens will also not discriminate against employees or applicants based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

To Apply:

Please submit a short cover letter/email stating your interest in this internship opportunity and a simple resume to: dcombs@waterfrontgardens.org

In your email subject line, please write “Hort. internship applicant”.

Deadline for submission is Monday, March 17, 2025.