



Environmental Science and Stewardship Fellow

June 5-August 11, 2023

The **Mystic River Watershed Association** (MyRWA) seeks a motivated, well-organized and creative fellow to assist in the implementation of our water quality science and invasive species removal programs. This person will join a cohort of fellows to carry out this work.

The Environmental Science and Stewardship Fellows will assist the Mystic River Watershed Association in three areas:

Water quality science. Working in teams, fellows will collect water quality data from throughout the watershed. Methods of data collection include grab sampling and electronic data-acquisition. A central focus of summer sampling will be documenting the presence and relative health risk associated with cyanobacteria, blue-green algae that can pose a cause of public health concern, at recreational sites in various water bodies. A newly adopted monitoring protocol includes intensive field work, microscopy, and the preparation of samples for external lab analysis. MyRWA runs one of the most sophisticated volunteer-based water quality sampling programs in the country. Summer work may also include assisting with that baseline monitoring program, maintenance of conductivity sensors, and other tasks. A priority of all the science work will be the careful recording, processing, and reporting of data.

Invasive plant management and other environmental stewardship activities. Fellows will assist by managing programs to remove invasive plants within the river and along the shoreline of the Mystic River and other tributaries. Our work to date has focused on the aquatic plant Water Chestnut (*Trapa natans*) and the vine Oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*) in riverside parks. Work will include running events for teams of volunteers to manage these species and mapping the extent of invasives in the field. This program typically engages hundreds of volunteers each season, across many events. Some events in the summer may include trash clean-ups as well as trash-mapping events, using volunteer protocols developed by the EPA Trash Free Waters program.

Research for a new stewardship program in environmental justice communities. Fellows will assist with research for the development of a meaningful new stewardship program in the Lower Mystic watershed. Working with our Engagement Manager, fellows will make site visits to map invasive plants and gather information from community stakeholders, including other non-profit organizations and residents. The goals will be to learn about the need for and feasibility of environmental stewardship events in communities where our organization has not focused previous volunteer efforts. Fellows



will learn about program-design, stakeholder engagement, and urban environmental restoration.

The fellow will work both in and out of the office and must be able to work both independently and as a member of a team that includes a watershed scientist, outreach expert, and other fellows. Beyond the internal team and volunteers, the fellow may also work with municipal staff, state park managers, and other community members. This is a 35 hour per week position for 10 weeks. Fellows will be compensated \$5250.

Qualifications:

- Ability or interest in learning to navigate a canoe (canoe safety training provided)
- Ability to lift 40 lbs.
- Must be able to swim
- Organized and detail-oriented
- Strong interpersonal skills
- Strong computer skills, including Microsoft Excel
- Ability to work closely with other fellows to develop workplan and execute priorities
- Ability to work early mornings and weekends (minimum 3 Saturdays/summer)
- Ability to travel in a timely manner throughout watershed. Driver's license and access to a vehicle is highly desired. Mileage is reimbursed. We will still consider candidates without a vehicle.
- Desire to learn about BOTH water quality science and equitable community engagement
- Candidates must be 18 years of age or older

Additional desirable skills: First aid and CPR certified, life guard certification, experience driving a motor boat, background in environmental science, R programming skills. Public speaking and event facilitation skills highly desirable. Knowledge of a second language relevant to our watershed (e.g., Spanish, Haitian Creole, Chinese, Vietnamese, Portuguese, French) is preferred but not required.

About the Mystic River Watershed Association

The Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA) works to protect and restore the health of the 21-community watershed for the benefit of both people and the natural environment. Founded in 1972, MyRWA has grown to a staff of 15 and an annual budget of more than \$5 million.



Our Mystic Greenways program creates and connects 25 miles of parks and paths along the Mystic River and its tributaries. Our education program engages over 1,000 youth and families in STEAM education focused on nature close to home. Hundreds of volunteers help us document and improve water quality, river herring, and urban heat islands. Finally, MyRWA founded and co-leads the Resilient Mystic Collaborative, a watershed-wide partnership among cities and towns to protect people and places from climate change. We are committed to incorporating racial equity and justice throughout our programs, operations, staff and board on an ongoing basis. We have embarked on a year-long training and strategic update to ensure that we are fully living into these values.

The Mystic River Watershed Association is an equal opportunity employer. This is an exciting time to join a highly collaborative and dedicated team doing work on behalf of the community and environment.

How to Apply

To apply send your cover letter and resume to Daria.Clark@mysticriver.org with "Environmental Science and Stewardship Fellow Application" in the subject line. No calls, please. The position will be open until filled, preference will be given to candidates who apply before March 20th, 2023. For more information about the Mystic River Watershed Association see www.MysticRiver.org.