



## Housatonic Valley Association CT/NY River Stewards of Tomorrow Two 2022 Internship Positions Available

The [Housatonic Valley Association \(HVA\)](#) is seeking applicants for our River Stewards of Tomorrow Internship positions, available for summer 2022. River Stewards will work on a variety of projects related to water resource management, human dimensions, wildlife conservation, and land protection. River Stewards will be based out of the office in Cornwall Bridge, CT and work mainly in Connecticut, with some work in New York. Each River Steward position will be full-time (40 hrs/week) and last 10 weeks from June – August. See a Story Map about the position created by one of our 2018 interns [here](#).

NOTE: We are also hiring two River Stewards that will work out of our Berkshire office in Stockbridge, MA. Please refer to that [position announcement](#) if you're interested in being based in the Berkshires.

**Internship Overview:** The 2022 River Stewards will be supervised by HVA's Watershed Conservation Project Managers, but will also work with other staff on occasion, including the Land Protection Team and Communications/Development Team. Work will include a mix of office and field-based activities (approximately 80% field-based and 20% office-based). Projects that the intern may be involved with include but aren't limited to the following (in order of estimated proportion of time spent):

- *Road-Stream Crossing Assessments:* Visit and assess bridges and culverts (using the North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative protocol) in the towns of Bethany and Thomaston to identify barriers to fish and wildlife passage, and assist with post-assessment data management and processing.
- *Stream Reach Assessments:* Assist Watershed Conservation Team staff in the field to conduct streamwalks along important stream reaches to document threats and identify restoration opportunities. Streamwalks will occur primarily in the Pootatuck River subwatershed. River Stewards will occasionally assist in post-assessment data management and processing.
- *Terrestrial Habitat Linkage Assessments:* Assist Land Protection Team staff in assessing core forest linkages for wildlife movement at likely pinchpoints. Evaluate what impedes/facilitates wildlife movement between core forests, and learn how HVA uses linkage data to set land conservation priorities.
- *Social Media/Communications/Development:* Assist Communications/Development Team in creating online content, providing photos and written summaries of summer tasks, and other tasks as needed.
- *Culvert Rod and Level Surveys:* Assist Watershed Conservation Team staff in collecting topographic data on existing structures and stream channels, at priority culverts. Data will be collected using a rod and prism, a Leica Total Station, and a Trimble data collector, and will advance preliminary design development for replacement structures.
- *Environmental Monitoring (pollution trackdown):* Assist Watershed Conservation Team staff in water quality monitoring, including collecting water samples from outfalls and storm drains for bacteria analysis. Environmental monitoring will be done in the Still River subwatershed.
- *Restoration project monitoring and maintenance:* Assist with riparian and aquatic restoration projects and conduct maintenance activities (e.g., rain garden weeding and watering). Sometimes this will be in conjunction with our high school youth program, Still River Watershed Connections.

- **River Information and Outreach (RIO) Program: July 4<sup>th</sup> and occasional weekend work required.** Help the RIO Stewards on July 4<sup>th</sup> and other weekend days as necessary. This work involves traveling among popular Housatonic River access sites along Route 7 (New Milford to Falls Village, CT) and engaging with site users. Tasks will include promoting sustainable site use, answering any questions, and collecting visitor use data. River Stewards may also be asked to help RIO Stewards with community events throughout the summer.

**Qualifications:** Candidates must be detail-oriented, passionate about conservation, and able to succeed both independently and as part of a team. In addition, the ideal candidate will possess:

- Enthusiasm for outdoor field work, including working under potentially inclement environmental conditions (hot, rainy, etc.);
- Strong interpersonal skills, and the ability to represent HVA in a professional manner;
- Strong organization and data management skills, and ability to follow detailed protocols;
- Ability to problem-solve and think creatively while out in the field.

**Requirements:** *Daily access to a reliable personal vehicle is a requirement of the position (HVA does not have a field vehicle, so all field work, including any work in New York and Massachusetts, will be done in personal cars with mileage reimbursements.)* The intern must also be physically able to participate in potentially strenuous field work (i.e., physically active work outside for several hours at a time during the heat of the summer).

**Compensation:** River Stewards will be paid at a rate of \$15/hour, up to a total amount not to exceed \$6,000 over the course of the internship. Work-related travel using personal vehicles will be compensated based on mileage. Housing is not provided, but HVA will assist successful applicants in finding lodging near the HVA office, if necessary.

**Application Procedure:** Submit the following materials via email (as a single PDF, titled “[YourLastName]\_HVARiverSteward”):

1. **COVER LETTER** explaining your interest and qualifications
2. **RESUME**
3. **CONTACT INFORMATION FOR TWO (2) PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES**

**Deadline:** Applications will be reviewed and positions filled on a rolling basis, so we encourage interested individuals to apply early. We intend to fill both positions by April 15, at the latest.

**Questions and applications should be directed to:**

Lindsay Larson, HVA Connecticut Watershed Manager  
Lkeenereck.hva@gmail.com

HVA is an equal opportunity employer. *If you have the drive, interest and skills to succeed in this position, tell us about what you can do and we will consider your application.* HVA provides equal employment opportunities to all eligible persons and administers personnel policies and practices in accordance with all applicable state and federal laws. We do not discriminate or abide discrimination on the basis of race, color, religious creed, age, marital status, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender identity or expression, political belief or affiliation, veteran status, sexual orientation, legal history, genetic information, intellectual disability, mental disability or physical disability unless such disability prevents performance of the work required. Our commitment to equal opportunity is a guiding principle in all of our employment practices and policies.