

Community Gardens Intern with UGROW

The Regional Environmental Council is a grassroots environmental and food justice organization that has been working in Worcester since 1971. The UGROW (Urban Garden Resources of Worcester) program is a grassroots, citywide Community gardens network. UGROW is founded on the belief that together we can help create community food security by growing food in our own neighborhoods. UGROW poses an alternative to fossil-fueled, corporate agriculture and strengthens and beautifies our neighborhoods through promoting and supporting urban gardening. UGROW began in 1995 with 1 garden and 1 volunteer gardener with a vision to grow food in the city. Since that time, the network has grown to include 60 community gardens throughout the city of Worcester involving more than 500 volunteer gardeners. 20 of these 60 gardens are school gardens—connecting young people to gardening on the campuses of Worcester Public Schools.

This position is a good fit for someone looking to develop/expand their skills in agriculture as well as gain experience working in the non-profit sector. Tasks will include supporting gardeners at their sites, working on physical infrastructure, some light data entry, and general garden upkeep. Candidates must commit to a minimum of 6 to 10 hours per week.

All internships are unpaid but provide invaluable insight into: urban agriculture, food justice, environmental justice, non-profit management, and customer service. Interns will learn what it is like working in a hugely diverse city like Worcester and the importance of honoring food justice by working in low-income, food-insecure neighborhoods. Interns are an integral part to the success of the REC's Farmer's market program and are part of what makes the program sustainable. If available through your educational institution, the REC is willing to help interns obtain credit for their work with us.

Skills Needed

- Strong communication skills
- Ability to lift 50 pounds and enthusiasm for working outdoors
- Ability to work independently and in a team
- Reliable transportation required, access to a vehicle is a plus.
- Ability to work a minimum of six and a maximum of ten hours per week during business hours with occasional Saturday morning projects.
- Familiarity with gardening, food justice issues, and experience working with diverse populations a plus.

To be considered for this position, please send a resume and cover letter to Pat Barnosky at UGROW@recworchester.org. Positions will be filled on a rolling basis with the internship and can start ASAP.