



## **POSITION GUIDE**

**ORGANIZATION:** Bayou Preservation Association, Inc.  
**POSITION:** Water Quality Monitor and Outreach Internship  
**REPORTS TO:** PROGRAM MANAGER  
**LOCATION:** Houston, Texas  
**DATES:** January 2023 – June 2023

## **ABOUT BAYOU PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION**

Our mission is to celebrate, protect and restore the natural richness of all our bayous and streams. Our vision is a network of healthy bayous, streams, and watersheds. The Bayou Preservation Association (BPA) focuses on four key programs to accomplish its mission: bayou appreciation, bayou citizen science, trash-free bayous, and stream corridor restoration. Bayou Preservation Association works to increase understanding of area bayous, creeks, and watersheds by providing educational programs, opportunities, activities, and events to engage all the region's demographics. BPA also seeks to expand educational and stewardship opportunities to improve the health of our region's bayous and watersheds through activities such as our annual Symposium, water quality monitoring, habitat restoration, and community engagement and outreach.

## **THE OPPORTUNITY**

Many of Houston's waterways suffer from high levels of bacteria, causing them to be designated as impaired under the Clean Water Act and unsafe for contact recreation. This led to the creation of the Bacteria Implementation Group (BIG) to create a plan to address these bacteria levels. The BIG identified 6 Assessment Units (AUs) for targeted bacteria monitoring to identify and report sources of bacteria contaminating the waterway, namely sewer overflows and illicit discharges. The intern will continue the work of past interns by completing the bacteria monitoring of the AUs. The intern will also be engaged in education and outreach efforts to communities surrounding these heavily impacted streams. Outreach efforts will focus on water quality issues, water quality monitoring training that is available, and how to report instances of pollution and infrastructure failure to improve public health and reduce bacteria levels in their local waterways. Using H-GAC's Regional Equity Interactive Tool to look at the neighborhoods surrounding the project AUs, many of them are shown to have high numbers of vulnerable populations. Specifically, the areas in the project watersheds are primarily Hispanic, and show high instances of residents living at poverty level, with limited English. The intern will need to be able to communicate effectively in both English and Spanish in order to effectively engage with affected communities.

## **POSITION SUMMARY**

The intern will conduct on-the-ground bacteria monitoring in the identified AUs. The intern will be responsible for travelling to monitoring sites, collecting and processing water samples, and collecting and recording data. The intern will also engage the surrounding communities with nonpoint source outreach, best management practice information, and training on source identification. The intern will directly

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engage residents of the communities surrounding the prioritized AUs through outreach workshops, trainings, or social media posts designed to inform the community on bacteria concerns and steps they can take to help reduce bacteria loads to their local waterways and to become volunteer “eyes on the bayou”.

## **SKILLS AND ABILITIES**

### **Required:**

- Professional written and oral communication skills, including the ability to compose professional documents, Spanish-language required.
- Must be able to adhere to a rigid data collection schedule
- Willingness to work in conditions that will include extreme temperatures, high humidity, precipitation, and busy public areas (up to 20%)
- Commitment to working within a two – three-person team; interpersonal skills are strongly desired
- Valid driver’s license, with reliable transportation
- Must commit to the entire position term and be local to the Houston area
- Demonstrated success in working in a team-oriented environment, as well as ability to work independently, once trained
- Detail oriented, accuracy, able to prioritize and manage
- Ability to exercise good judgement, understand and communicate effectively to resolve problems.
- Ability to maintain the highest level of confidentiality and discretion when needed
- Ability to travel (locally and regionally) in personal vehicle (mileage reimbursable).
- Demonstrated commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Ability to provide proof of Texas Driver’s license and vehicle insurance.
- Passion for waterways and love of nature.
- Ability to lift 30 – 40 pounds.

### **Training Provided**

- Texas State Meadows Center for Water and the Environment Texas Stream Team Standard Core, and bacteria monitoring training.
- Stakeholder Engagement, Public Participation

### **Main Area of Focus**

Water Quality

Bacteria Monitoring

Community Outreach

Natural Resource Management

### **Monthly Rate: \$800 per month + \$200 transportation stipend**

This will be a paid position, 15 - 20 hours per week, with work being conducted during normal business hours Monday – Friday 9:00am – 05:00pm.

**Application Procedure:** Interested candidates should send a resumé, cover letter, and three references to [info@bayoupreservation.org](mailto:info@bayoupreservation.org) by November 1, 2022. Please reference position title in subject line of email. We will contact those candidates who most closely match our requirements.

Thank you for your interest.

*Bayou Preservation Association firmly believes that diversity and equity make us a better organization and lead us toward a more inclusive, progressive society. We are an equal opportunity employer. We prohibit discrimination and harassment of any kind based on race, color, sex, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, genetic information, pregnancy, or any other protected characteristic as outlined by federal, state, or local laws.*