**Summer Research Assistant(s) (Paid): Benefits of urban forests and green infrastructure**

***Project Background:*** With the majority of the world’s people living in urban areas, and humanity facing joint biodiversity and climate crises, urban ecology has gained attention as a necessary part of the solution to these issues. Central to this challenge is the protection and management of urban green spaces, which play an important role in biodiversity conservation, and provision of ecosystem services (the benefits people receive from nature, such as temperature regulation, improvement of air and water quality, and promotion of mental and physical wellbeing). Knowing that people and wildlife depend on urban green spaces, it is important for managers to plan for and balance the needs of both. The Ziter lab is involved in several studies assessing the benefits of urban green infrastructure for biodiversity conservation and human wellbeing. A few examples include assessing: the diversity and benefits of trees on private land, the diversity of vegetation in Ruelles Vertes (green alleys) and other forms of green infrastructure, and bird and insect diversity in urban green spaces. We are looking for field and lab assistants to support these projects for May and June.

***Outline of the student’s role***: Selected student(s) will conduct fieldwork and lab work to assist in measuring the ecological benefits of green infrastructure (e.g. vegetation sampling, tree identification, insect identification, etc.). Fieldwork will take place in Montreal, and will also include some concentrated travel to regional cities (including one or more multi-day trips to Trois Rivières). Student(s) will work closely with other team members (undergraduate and graduate students) in the field and laboratory and have the chance to work on multiple projects. Additionally, students will be in regular communication with local residents and project partners, requiring comfort with communication and outreach.

***Required Skills and Experience:***

* Experience and enthusiasm for spending time outdoors
* Strong teamwork skills, a positive attitude
* Interest in ecology/environmental challenges

***Helpful Skills and Experience (but not required):***

* Natural history knowledge (e.g., experience with plant, insect, or bird identification)
* Valid driver’s license
* Previous experience with fieldwork or data collection
* Bilingual (French/English)

**Salary** is approximately $17.50/hour, and the position extends from early May through to the end of June. There may be some flexibility in hours (e.g. part time through full time) and length of contract depending on the needs and preferences of the candidate. *Applicants will also be considered for future or alternative positions in the Ziter lab depending on need as we approach the summer.*

**If interested, please contact Dr. Carly Ziter (**[**carly.ziter@concordia.ca**](mailto:carly.ziter@concordia.ca)**) by noon on February 16th, and cc:** [**ziterlab@gmail.com**](mailto:ziterlab@gmail.com) **in your email.**

**Please include:**

* Resume/CV
* (Unofficial) Transcript
* A short cover letter (a paragraph in your email is fine!) expressing your interest in this position