



LOS ANGELES CENTER FOR URBAN NATURAL RESOURCES SUSTAINABILITY

Los Angeles Urban Natural Resources Sustainability Science Fellowship Application 2014

ABOUT

The Los Angeles Center for Urban Natural Resources Sustainability (“LA Center”) operates through a partnership among the USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station, Urban Ecosystems & Social Dynamics Program; the USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region, State & Private Forestry, Cooperative Forestry: Urban and Community Forestry; the City of Los Angeles, Department of Recreation & Parks; and The CITY PLANTS Initiative (formerly Million Trees LA). The partners work jointly to oversee the LA Center in urban natural resources stewardship and promote adaptive management, technology transfer and science. The LA Center serves as a “Research Destination Hub” where key environmental, urban ecosystem, urban natural resource and socioeconomic studies will enhance the urban forests, urban waterways, urban wildlife, green infrastructure and lives throughout the Los Angeles metropolitan area. The LA Center is a physical place to focus research and technology transfer as well as a hub in the network of relationships among a growing community of scholars, policy makers, cooperators and their facilities focused on urban natural resources sustainability.

PURPOSE OF THE FELLOWSHIP

The Los Angeles Urban Natural Resources Sustainability Science Fellowship is a new program of the LA Center. The Fellowship provides research and science-delivery opportunities for graduate students from a diversity of academic disciplines and sociodemographic backgrounds. Selected Fellows conduct projects that contribute to the core mission and vision of the LA Center. Fellows receive a stipend of \$5,000 and are required to develop a poster and present their research findings through a webinar at the close of the fellowship period.

Mission of the LA Center

Foster collaboration and generate science, science-delivery, technology transfer and communication to sustain the health and diversity of natural urban ecosystems and enhance the quality of life within the urban landscape of the Los Angeles metropolitan region.

Vision of the LA Center

To enhance the urban forests, urban waterways, urban wildlife, green infrastructure and quality of life for all individuals throughout the Los Angeles metropolitan area and to create a healthy, safe and sustainable urban ecosystem for the benefit of individuals, communities, nature and the economy.



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EXPECTATIONS FOR FELLOWS

- **Exploring** – Each Fellow is expected to conduct and provide a literature review and accompanying annotated bibliography related to their project.
- **Researching** – Each Fellow shall develop an original research question and project or proposal related to the Fellow's ongoing work within the general topic parameters provided in the Research Areas section below.
- **Contributing** – Each Fellow is expected to secure a research mentor who the Fellow will spend time working with on data collection and professional development. This may vary considerably for each project, but Fellows should expect to commit up to 100 hours over the course of the fellowship working with their mentor. These interactions will serve as an opportunity for Fellows to develop relationships with researchers and practitioners in their area of interest. Although not a requirement, Fellows are encouraged to seek mentors with USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station Research Scientists.
- **Sharing** – Each Fellow will develop a poster to communicate the Fellow's research findings and present their research through a webinar at the close of the fellowship period.

WHAT FELLOWS CAN EXPECT FROM THE FELLOWSHIP?

- **Funding** – \$5,000 fellowship award to be dispersed in four equal payments of \$1,250 over the course of the fellowship (the fourth payment will be held until the completion of the Fellow's poster and webinar presentation related to the research conducted during the fellowship).
- **Mentoring** – Mentorship from Fellow's research mentor and networking and support from industry partners to help with project visibility and career development. Mentors should also help the Fellow with developing research questions.
- **Linking** – Access to local organizations, community groups, and industry practitioners.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must be currently enrolled in an accredited graduate degree program and must submit the following:

1. The attached cover page;
2. A statement of interest describing (1) your proposed research topic, including a timeline of deliverables, (2) why you are interested in your proposed research topic, (3) what you hope to learn from this fellowship, and (4) how this fellowship fits into your professional or academic goals;
3. A CV or resume;
4. Two letters of recommendation (one of which should be from a faculty member at your institution who may be able to provide guidance during this fellowship);
5. A statement of intent from the Fellow's research mentor, providing the mentor's name, title, institution, and contact information; and
6. Unofficial transcripts to document current enrollment, focal areas, and progress in your graduate studies; and
7. **Optional:** If you have an active study that you believe fits this fellowship please provide an abstract of that ongoing work and how you would augment that work through the fellowship if selected.



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RESEARCH AREAS

Framework for the Los Angeles Urban Natural Resources Sustainability Science Fellowship Project:

- **Social Science:** utilization of citizen science, urban environmental policies/issues, environmental justice, urban sustainability and low-income communities, etc.
- **Water and Sustainability:** new technologies for management, rainwater capture, climate change and water, water and vegetation, recycling water, etc.
- **Trees/Plants:** urban tree planting, environmental/social aspects of tree planting, restoration, invasive species, climate change and urban forests, etc.
- **Air Quality:** public health, urban heat island, air quality and the urban environment, etc.
- **Green Technology and Sustainability:** green infrastructure, energy efficiency, green alternatives, etc.
- **Biodiversity and Urban Natural Resources Sustainability:** urban ecology, urban wildlife surveying, urban plant surveying, natural restoration or renovation, etc.
- **Other Possibilities:** applicants are also invited to propose a current related project concerning urban natural resources and sustainability that they are actively engaged. For this possibility, applicants will need to state the current research question, how this fellowship would be used to augment or expand the work in a defined way, how other individuals or a faculty member would be involved and specific outcomes that could be attributed to the fellowship. Current status of the work would need to be carefully explained for this form of application (e.g., we would need to know if some work has already been completed, i.e., a literature review, etc.), if other funding is involved, and the specific role of the applicant in the ongoing work. Preference will be given to projects of this type when the applicant can clearly define their unique and identified role in the ongoing work and how this fellowship would result in a unique addition with a defined outcome.

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Application Due: Friday, September 26, 2014**
- Applicants Interviewed: October 13 – 24, 2014
- Applicants Notified: November 3 – 7, 2014
- Completion Date: The fellowships are not to exceed 1-year. All research and any related projects, including the required poster and webinar presentation, must be completed no later than 1-year from the start of the fellowship. Please indicate when you are available to begin the fellowship in the Desired Start Date section on the attached cover page.



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HOW TO APPLY

Prospective Fellows shall submit all required application materials by the application due date to Kevin B. O'Donnell, Center Administrator, kbodonnell@fs.fed.us, or mail directly to:

Kevin O'Donnell, LA Center Administrator
USDA Forest Service, PSW Urban Field Station
221 N. Figueroa St.
Suite #1520, Mail Stop: 625-26
Los Angeles, CA 92009



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Application Cover Page

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE ATTENDING: _____

EXPECTED DEGREE AND PROGRAM: _____

EXPECTED GRADUATION DATE: _____ **CURRENT GPA:** _____

NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION OF RESEARCH MENTOR:

DESIRED START DATE: _____

HOW DID YOU LEARN ABOUT THIS FELLOWSHIP?

EMAIL

WEBSITE

PROFESSOR

FRIEND

NEWSLETTER

UNIVERSITY CAREER SERVICES OFFICE

OTHER: _____