**Federal Lands Scholar Position Description**

**John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge, America’s First Urban Refuge - Pennsylvania**

This unique transportation scholar position will have the incumbent stationed at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge (JHNWR), America’s First Urban Refuge; while the incumbent will directly provide assistance to the JHNWR, they may also be asked to support the regional office.

John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge is the most urban refuge in the National Wildlife Refuge System, with more than 600,000 people within 5 miles of the visitor center and 1,700,000 million people within 10 miles of the visitor center. John Heinz is where urban needs to happen from the “community out”. Therefore, we are very engaged in community conversation, as related to transportation barriers. The work we do at the refuge is focused on three areas: Education (environmental education), Engagement (hiring youth, being a voice in the community, community projects, refuge projects), and Connecting with communities (breaking down transportation barriers and creating new solutions). The refuge visitor center is located within ½ mile from the nearest bus and train station, and embedded in the Philadelphia community of Eastwick. John Heinz is located in the FWS Region 5, in northeastern US, and is the most demographically urban of all the Service regions encompassing 13 states, 73.3 million people, and 4 of the nation’s top 10 metropolitan areas. In total, the region has 73 wildlife refuges and 13 fish hatcheries that are spread across 10 unique ecosystems.

- John Heinz NWR was established in 1972 and is about 1000 acres. The refuge is open to the public, and we provide environmental education and protect the largest remaining tidal marsh in the state of Pennsylvania.
- We welcome between 250,000 to 300,000 visitors annually, who enjoy a multitude of outdoor activities for the public to enjoy
- The Refuge is located on the [East Coast Greenway](#) (Maine to Florida) and [the Circuit](#) in Philadelphia (more than 750 miles of trails)

![East Coast Greenway](#) ![The Circuit](#)

Support for the transportation and facilities staff at the regional office located in Hadley, MA will be anticipated throughout the assignment and as times allows, the scholar could provide planning, research and general programmatic support. Branching out beyond support to John Heinz NWR will only occur through discussions with Region 5 leadership and Headquarters staff in Falls Church, VA.
We are actively working with a number of partners and funders to identify and break down transportation barriers that impact residents in Philadelphia. Augmenting non-motorized and expanded public transportation is a priority for the refuge. Therefore, the refuge is looking to work with a transportation scholar who has an emphasis in multi-modal transportation planning and can assist in executing a multi-modal action plan for the Refuge.

A detailed work plan, including tasks, deliverables, and approximate work schedule for this location, will be created by the scholar assigned to the John Heinz NWR during their first 4 weeks of onsite work and used as a guide throughout the planning assignment. The scholar will work with USFWS refuge, regional, and headquarters staff, as well as, their Shapiro Transportation Consulting (STC) mentor to develop this work plan. It is expected that the scholar would report for work at the John Heinz NWR through the duration of the assignment. Occasional business travel may be needed as part of the effort.

**Specifically, the incumbent could provide support to several of the following activities during the assignment:**

1. Lead a project to plan and seek funding for four bike share stations in Southwest Philadelphia, one of which would be at the refuge. We already have a number of partners on this project.
2. Take lead on bike and foot trail development leading to and out of the refuge, which would improve access to the refuge throughout Philadelphia. We are making headway on one of four projects, all of which you would take a lead role on.
3. Take the lead on working with [Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA), PENNDOT, Philadelphia Streets Department, Clean Air Council, Philadelphia Planning Commission](#), and other partners to identify opportunities, seek funding for identified projects, and implement improved public transportation to the refuge.
4. Develop a multi-modal action plan (Projects above will be folded into this plan) for the Refuge that will include:
   a. Identification of key locations/corridors where access should be augmented.
   b. Creation of a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis.
   c. Engagement of key stakeholders and organizations that have aligning priorities (Connect the Circuit, East Coast Greenway, PENNDOT, Philadelphia Department of Streets, SEPTA, etc.).
   d. Data gathering.
   e. Develop transportation goals and objectives
   f. Identify transportation needs and assist in prioritizing them
   g. Identification of applicable funding sources including, but not limited to: Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) and Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP).
   h. Execution of one or more grant applications for planning/design and/or construction of access improvements.
5. Provide planning, research and general programmatic support for the transportation and facilities staff at the regional office located in Hadley, MA. These additional efforts may include, but may not be limited to:
   a. Implementation of the Region 5 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).
   b. Research and data collection, as well as support to any other Region 5 stations with similar urban transportation connections and challenges.
   c. Identify transportation needs and develop the framework for multi-modal action plans for other urban refuges in Region 5, such as Potomac and Patuxent.

**Skills and Qualifications:**

1. Strong oral, writing, and graphic communication skills to interact with federal, state, and local agencies, interest groups, partners, FWS regional staff, and field staff.
2. Ability to establish and maintain positive professional relationships with a variety of agencies and the public.
3. Ability to assess transportation needs, evaluate and make priorities, and to modify or develop new approaches to solve transportation or access challenges.
4. Ability to assist with assembling grant applications with provided technical information, potentially handling multiple project submissions to meet several deadlines at once.

Financial Package:
- Assignment Period – 10 months onsite and an additional month at home to finalize the final report
- Eligible for benefits, [click here](#) for details
- Salary: $3,000 per month, total of $33,000
- Rent subsidy: reimbursable up to $1,000 per month
- Relocation Expenses: Up to $750 to and from Pennsylvania for a maximum total of up to $1,500
- Transportation while stationed at John Heinz NWR will be the financial responsibility of the scholar