GIS Analysis Internship

Summer 2026

INTERNSHIP DESCRIPTION

The GIS Analyst will be responsible for organizing, analyzing, and summarizing data for several indicators to be included in Narragansett Bay Estuary Program's (NBEP) upcoming State of the Watershed Report ("Status and Trends Report"). This report shares the current state and long-term trends of key indicators describing the environmental condition of the region.

The GIS Analyst will work with NBEP staff to clean and maintain existing GIS datasets and access, download, and organize datasets new to NBEP. The Analyst will be responsible for developing metadata and documenting all methods used to analyze the data. The material the analyst provides will be included in the public-facing website portion of NBEP's 2027 State of the Watershed Report as well as technical reports, and other materials. These materials can be presented in StoryMaps, dynamic maps, static maps, and as part of larger analyses.

Example indicators needing support are: shellfish harvest areas, open space, public access, impervious cover, flood zones, impaired waters, salt marsh, marine beaches, and population.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Every 10 years, NBEP publishes a "Status and Trends" (S+T) report that explores a diverse array of regional indicators of environmental condition, such as land use/cover, estuarine biodiversity, stormwater discharge, and recreational access points to aquatic resources. The S+T report is used as a communication tool to showcase the region's natural resources and biodiversity, highlight conservation challenges, identify restoration opportunities and successes, and explore the different ways that people recreate and access the local nature. The report may be used by multiple audiences, including practitioners to identify restoration project opportunities, researchers for writing grant applications and citing regional conditions, the interested public for learning more about their home, and policy makers or managers to identify critical resource needs related to our aquatic resources. This report compiles data from many different sources to tell the story of the Narragansett Bay (NB) Region.

INTERNSHIP GOALS AND LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Produce clean GIS datasets with metadata for sharing with partners and public.
2. Produce key messages and figures based on the results of the GIS analysis and synthesis

3. Intern will learn about key issues impacting Narragansett Bay and what current data tell us about how those issues are changing.
4. Intern will learn how to create technical and public-facing reports

APPLICANT QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPECTATIONS

Applicant must have demonstrable ArcGIS experience and knowledge of GIS analyses and coding language (including Python). Applicant should be an upper level undergraduate or graduate student. The Intern should have a desire to learn about environmental conditions in the Narragansett Bay Region.

Internship can be in-person, hybrid, or remote.

INTERNSHIP COMPENSATION

The intern will be financially compensated at $20 per hour for undergraduate students and $22 per hour for graduate students. We anticipate the internship will last 8-10 weeks at about 20 hours per week. The internship can go longer if the intern works fewer hours per week. The intern is welcome to earn academic credit in addition to financial compensation. If selected for the internship, the student is responsible for all paperwork and approvals to receive credit.

CONTACT INFORMATION & APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

For more information, please contact Mariel Sorlien, Geospatial and Design Manager, at NBEP by phone (401-633-0550) or email (msorlien@nbep.org).

Please email all applications to Mariel with the subject heading "GIS Analyst." The deadline to apply is 11:59 PM EST on Friday, March 27, 2026. All applications must include:

(1) 1-2 page cover letter stating your interest in working on the project, how this internship will help your overall academic and/or career goals, and what skills you can bring to the project;
(2) Resume or CV with your contact information;
(3) Contact information for three professional or academic references.

ABOUT THE NARRAGANSETT BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM

The Narragansett Bay Estuary Program (NBEP) is a catalyst for scientific inquiry and collective action to restore and protect water quality, wildlife, and quality of life in the Narragansett Bay region, including Narragansett Bay, Little Narragansett Bay, the Coastal Salt Ponds, and their watersheds in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut (Fig 1). Founded in 1987, NBEP is one of 28 National Estuary Programs (NEP) created by §320 of the Clean Water Act that enable voluntary, community-driven actions to protect and restore "estuaries of national significance." Hosted by Roger Williams University (RWU), with a staff of five and governed by a 30-member Steering Committee, the program operates across boundaries to communicate science, lead collaborative planning, and fund pre-construction work that helps build a pipeline of future projects that sustain the natural environment and communities.