PARCS STUDY RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Position Description

The Park Activity, Recreation, and Community Study (PARCS) is a mixed-methods project led by Dr. Deborah Salvo examining the determinants of accessibility and use of large metropolitan parks, specifically, Forest Park in St. Louis, MO. This study will inform the development and implementation of park use measurement tools at community and organizational levels to improve park use.

We are seeking two motivated, part-time graduate research assistants to assist in data management and analysis, recruitment and facilitation of citizen scientists, and some report and manuscript writing. Data management tasks include digitization, labeling, and organization. Familiarity with both qualitative and quantitative data analysis is preferred, but sub-studies currently in progress are primarily qualitative. This study may provide students with the opportunity to learn about qualitative data analysis, community-based participatory research, citizen science, and strategies for coordinating a large, complex research project. Graduate research assistants may also contribute to project reports and manuscripts. Experience with SAS, R, or NVIVO is preferred but not required.

These positions will be primarily supervised by the project coordinator and will begin immediately upon hiring. The preferred timeline of this position is from July 2021 – September 2021, with a possibility of extension.

Degree Program and Interests

Any graduate student in the fields of public health, social work, or social policy with interests in:

- Research methods
- Urban planning and design
- Public health and the built environment
- Community-based participatory research

Duties and Responsibilities

- Conduct data management tasks, including digitization, labeling, and entry
- Analyze qualitative data (e.g., thematic coding and analysis)
- Create tables and figures from data
- Assist in facilitating community meetings and recruiting and training citizen scientists
- Contribute to drafting and preparing manuscripts and internal project reports

Compensation and Time Commitment

- Weekly time commitment: likely 7-10 hours/week, with a maximum 10 hours/week
- Hourly compensation: $15/hour

Application Process and Timeline

We would like to fill these positions as soon as possible. To apply, please email project coordinator Áine O’Connor at aine.oconnor@wustl.edu with a resume, brief cover letter, and at least two references (professors, mentors, supervisors, or others who have worked with you).