Master or Ph.D. Assistantship in Green Spaces and Community Resilience
(Available for Spring 2021 or Fall 2021)

The Department of Plant Science and Landscape architecture (PSLA) at University of Connecticut invites applications for an M.S. (or MLA) or Ph.D.-level assistantship in Spring or Fall 2021 (start dates negotiable). The successful applicant will work under the supervision of Dr. Sohyun Park (Dept. of Plant Science and Landscape architecture) and Larua Brown (UConn Extension) and to pursue a degree in Landscsape Architecture. The studet will join a transdisciplinary research team, supported by an USDA NIFA-funded Capacity Hatch Multi-State grant, investigating the influences of trail enviornments and other green spaces on family and community resilience. The 3-year study focuses on multi-modal surveys on two regional trails in Connecticut, and uses a variety of techniques to assess the use and perception of the trails to achieve broader goals for research and community engagement. The student will study community resilience as a form of overarching framework to measure the health and well-being of community influenced by trails and other green enviornments, helping the research team engage with diverse communiies and stakeholders across study sites. Results will inform shared management of green spaces across a diverse array of communities and make informed program and policy decisions to promote healthy lifestyles.

Key Responsibilities & Opportunities (vary by degree objective):
- Work with faculty advisors and project team members to advance community resilience research and applications by conducting literature reviews and building appropriate skillsets
- Work with faculty advisors and project team memerers to enhance capaity for project execution in survey instruments.
- Assist or lead in developing peer-reviewed journal articles, academic presentations, technical reports and outreach materials, and other project deliverabes.
- Train and supervise undergradaute research assistants
- Interact with people at trail locations
- Contribute to the activities of the research project which offers unique intellectual focus and professional development in the realm of outdoor spaces and resilience.

Required Qualifications:
- BS/BLA (for MS level) or MS/MLA (for PhD) in landscape architecture, park/recreation mangement, human dimensions of natural resources, social sciences, or related field.
- Strong research and literature skills (search/summary/synthesis) and writing capacity.
- Strong interest or background in quantitative and qualitative methods
- Strong data collection and analysis (statistics) skills
- Working knowledge of GIS and graphic/visualization skills
- Demonstrated interest in trails, natural resources, recreation, or sustainability
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Excellent interpersonal and organization skills
- Strong commitment to interdisciplinary research and community engagement
- Interest in work in both research studio and field settings
- Valid driver's license

Desired Qualifications:
- Background and/or coursework in outdoor recreation, social studies, research methods, community planning, public health, or related field
- Experience with survey design and implementation
- Experience with spatial analytics and datasets
- Expreience working in the context of outdoor recreation, community development, and parks, trails, and open spaces as a researcher and/or practitioner

Starting Date: Salary and benefits are competitive. The ideal starting date for the assistantships is Janauray 19, 2021, but a later start is negotiable.

How to Apply: Please begin the application process by sending an email copying Dr. Sohyun Park (sohyun.park@uconn.edu), attaching the following items in one PDF document:

1) Letter of Intent (personal statement describing relevant experience and research interests, should also specify preferred assistantship – MS or PhD)
2) Resume or CV
3) Contact Information for 3 Academic References

The position will remain open until filled, with all applications submitted by November 15, 2020 receiving full consideration. If selected for the position, applicants will be asked to submit an online application to the UConn Graduate School.

About University of Connecticut
The University of Connecticut is a national leader among public research universities, with more than 32,000 students seeking answers to critical questions in classrooms, labs, and the community. A culture of innovation drives this pursuit of knowledge throughout the University's network of campuses. Connecticut's commitment to higher education helps UConn attract students who thrive in the most competitive environments, as well as globally renowned faculty members. Our school pride is fueled by a history of success that has made us a standout in Division I athletics. UConn fosters a diverse and vibrant culture that meets the needs and seizes the opportunities of a dynamic global society.

About the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources (CAHNR)
Home of the iconic Horsebarn Hill, the CAHNR is a destination for knowledge and recreation. As the oldest and one of the most academically diverse of UConn's colleges, CAHNR is recognized for its strong research, teaching, and extension outreach programs, which engage communities and enhance the public good in Connecticut residents. The college's diverse range of disciplines fosters innovative collaborations that ensure a vibrant agricultural industry and sustainable food supply; enhance health and well-being locally, nationally, and globally; facilitate the design of sustainable landscapes across urban-rural interfaces; and advance resilience and adaptation in a changing climate.

If you have any questions about this assistantship opportunity, please contact Dr. Sohyun Park at sohyun.park@uconn.edu.

As an Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity employer, UConn encourages applications from women, veterans, people with disabilities and members of traditionally underrepresented populations.