

## **Go South Summer Fellow**

### **About Our Organization:**

The Savannah Tree Foundation protects and grows Chatham County's urban forest through tree planting, community engagement, and advocacy. We see trees as an integral part of creating equitable streets, neighborhoods, and cities. We promote, through direct action and education, an awareness of trees as vital environmental, economic, and cultural resources in our community.

While our staff is small, we have worked with thousands of volunteers over our 38 year history to make Chatham County greener. Thanks to our devoted board of directors and young staff, we acknowledge the historical aspect of Savannah while incorporating modern best practices both in conservation and workplace standards.

### **How We're Advancing Equity in the South:**

Studies have shown that tree canopy is historically more robust in more affluent neighborhoods, and that is certainly the case in Chatham County, Georgia. We seek to advance equity and community health in Chatham County by identifying areas lacking in tree canopy and focusing our tree planting efforts in those areas of need. One way we do this is through our annual Chatham County tree canopy assessment using satellite imagery. Through this report, we can track long-term trends of canopy loss, which shapes our policy and planting work.

### **About The Role:**

The Fellow will focus on carrying out the canopy assessment for the summer. By monitoring the changes in tree canopy on a yearly basis, we can better track trends of canopy loss. These include causes of canopy loss, areas of loss, and areas of potential gain. This work informs our tree planting efforts, and helps us focus on demonstrated areas of need. The fellow will report to the Savannah Tree Foundation Field Manager, who coordinates tree plantings, volunteer events, and educational opportunities.

### **Responsibilities:**

The Fellow will perform a tree canopy assessment of Chatham County using a protocol established by a prior Go South Fellow. This protocol is open to editing and improvement, but will serve as a foundation for the project. The primary programs used will be ENVI and ArcGIS Online, both utilizing publicly-available satellite imagery. In particular, we are interested in improving the identification of cover classes in Chatham County using ENVI (e.g. tree cover, grass, bare soil, etc.), and comparing this to past assessments.

### **Key Skills & Qualifications:**

- Experience with ENVI (required)
- Experience with ArcGIS Online (preferred, but not required)
- Experience with Microsoft Office Suite (or equivalent, e.g. Google Docs)

This position is best suited for a student interested in environmental studies, mapping, or database management.

**Contact Information Email and phone number for a contact person at your organization**

Jake Henry, Field Manager

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