



Summer 2019 Internship at Paradise Creek Nature Park Sponsored by US Fish and Wildlife Service and Mitigation and Adaptation Research Institute at Old Dominion University

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Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better. – Albert Einstein

At Paradise Creek Nature Park in Portsmouth, Virginia, I worked with community partners and at-risk youth to restore the native ecosystem while researching the role of case study teaching in mitigating epistemic injustice.

Duties at Paradise Creek Nature Park

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Invasive species mitigation ✚ Native plant cultivation ✚ Park maintenance coordination ✚ Public outreach: RiverFest, Youth Career Fair ✚ Supervised community volunteers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Youth Conservation Intern supervision and mentoring • Plant of the Week: Taught common native and invasive species • Leave No Trace: Developed, instructed curriculum focused on 7 principles |
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Epistemic Injustice Findings

- ✚ Limits access to knowledge by underserved populations
- ✚ Exacerbates effects on environment, underserved communities
- ✚ Unknown state of schools' environmental education programs
- ✚ Lack of research on epistemic justice in US
- ✚ Low-income communities may become more distanced from public discourse and participation
- ✚ Case study teaching is a low-resource option
- ✚ Legislative support, curriculum reporting, teacher engagement critically needed