

Penny Retica

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B.A. in Geography and Urban Studies. Special interest in public spaces and community land stewardship.

Skills

ArcGIS, Excel, R, JMP, Python, Java, MS Office, MapBox, Leaflet; Strong research background; Horticulture

Relevant Coursework

Interactive Web Mapping, GIS, Spatial Statistics, Computer Science, Environmental Protection Engineering, Urban Ecology, Environment and Development

Experience

PENN STATE EXTENSION OFFICE, Philadelphia, PA January 2023 – present

Community Engagement and Geospatial Research Intern

- Joined team of soil scientists and educators working on cutting-edge project testing soils at urban farms and gardens for fertility and heavy metal levels
- Compiled individualized data reports, navigating risk communication without federal regulatory soil levels
- Creating ArcGIS Story Map comprehensive site assessment guide for urban growers using freely available online resources, including presentation on history of land tenure policy in Philadelphia
- Working with Map Collections of the Free Library on collaborative educational workshop open to the public

GEOGRAPHY AND URBAN STUDIES Dept of TEMPLE UNIV, Philadelphia, PA January 2023 – May 2023

Research Assistant

- Working closely with Dr. Hamil Pearsall and Dr. Christina Rosan (co-authors of *Growing a Sustainable City? The Question of Urban Agriculture*, pub. 2017)
- Researching land tenure policy in Philadelphia, institutional barriers to long-term effective land stewardship

COLLEGE ACCESS TUTORING, Philadelphia, PA & New York, NY September 2022 – February 2023

Freelance Tutor

SCOTT ARBORETUM GOOD FOOD GARDEN, Swarthmore, PA September 2018– August 2022

Gardener and Harvest Coordinator

- Worked two food gardens growing 34 unique crops for harvest; improved data management to ensure access
- Designed and led free educational programming on horticulture for children, students, and adults
- Formed connections with public gardens and horticulture programs in the Philadelphia area

SWARTHMORE COOP, Swarthmore, PA August 2021 – December 2022

Customer Service Representative

- Connected with local farmers, gardeners, and vendors over food sustainability in PA, implemented safe delivery programs for elderly and immunocompromised community members

Education

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY, College of Liberal Arts, Philadelphia, PA

Bachelor of Arts, Geography and Urban Studies, August 2022 – June 2023

James Gordon Bennett Scholarship | Accelerated degree pathway

SWARTHMORE COLLEGE, Swarthmore, PA

Peace and Conflict Studies, August 2018 – Spring 2022

Four-time recipient, James Gordon Bennett Scholarship | Two-time recipient, New York Times-Guild Scholarship

BARD COLLEGE, New York, NY

Completed Associate of Arts through dual credit high school program, September 2016 – May 2018

Awarded Don Shea Endowed Prize for Outstanding Writing | Student-Run Mentorship Program Coordinator