I had the pleasure of working as an intern for the City of Loveland, in the Risk Management department. The Risk Management Department was essentially in charge of making sure that the city of Loveland met environmental compliance regulations put forth by both the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment (CDPHE). Because just one department oversaw environmental compliance for the entire city, I got to work with all of the city’s many departments, and gained a lot of valuable insight on the day to day operations that keep a city running.

Throughout the course of my internship I got to manage a number of the city’s recycling programs, help conduct groundwater and soil sampling in a number of different locations, and help outside consultants perform surveys searching for Asbestos Containing Materials (ACMs) in properties that the city was considering purchasing. I was also in charge of conducting stormwater sampling for the city’s recycle yard, and had to go out during a rainstorm to collect runoff samples to make sure the recycle yard wasn’t introducing any contaminants into local water supplies. On 2 occasions I was also able to assist the city with emergencies in which we threatened to introduce contaminants into the environment, and I assisted with the cleanup and permitting for both of these incidents.

It was an incredible learning experience, with a wide variety of duties, and I would highly recommend it to anyone interested in learning how a city functions behind the scenes.