

# NYC FALL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM 2009

## PARKS & RECREATION-09

Fresh Kills Park Planning and Research Intern  
51 Chambers Street  
New York, NY 10007

**Contact:** Leslie Nusblatt  
**Phone:** (212) 360-8257  
**Fax:** (212) 360-8263  
**Email:** Leslie.Nusblatt@parks.nyc.gov

### **AGENCY DESCRIPTION**

Parks and Recreation is a public agency which employs over 4,000 employees (11,000 at the summer peak). Its principal mission is to keep the parks, playgrounds, and sitting areas clean and safe, while developing the City's recreational opportunities by offering quality facilities, programs, and events to meet the needs of all New Yorkers.

Parks & Recreation is the steward of more than 29,000 acres of land — 14 percent of New York City — including more than 4,000 individual properties ranging from Yankee Stadium and Central Park to community gardens and Greenstreets. We operate more than 800 athletic fields and nearly 1,000 playgrounds; we manage four major stadia, 550 tennis courts, 65 public pools, 51 recreational facilities, 17 nature centers, 13 golf courses, and 14 miles of beaches; we care for 1,200 monuments and 22 historic house museums; we look after 600,000 street trees, and two million more in parks. We are New York City's principal provider of athletic facilities. We are home to free concerts, world-class sports events, and cultural festivals.

The work of the agency goes far beyond the maintenance of 14% of New York City's land. Parks is the City's leading programmer of cultural, athletic and social activities, including nature walks, concerts, learn-to-swim classes, sports clinics, historic house tours, and much more. Each year Parks hosts annual events such as the WinterJam, Adventures NYC, the Pumpkin Festival and several others. In addition, Parks produces many special events, including concerts and movie premieres. In the summer, Parks' busiest season, the agency organizes free carnivals and concerts, and sends mobile recreation vans to travel throughout the five boroughs providing free rental equipment for skating, baseball, and miniature golf.

The Parks Commissioner is appointed by the Mayor to oversee and direct the work of the agency. The Commissioner appoints Deputy Commissioners, Borough Commissioners, and Assistant Commissioners who are responsible for managing the agency's divisions. These senior officials supervise the work of thousands of Parks employees. They work with elected officials to complete capital improvements for parks, playgrounds, and recreation centers. They work with the private sector to sponsor free public events. They get the community involved in Parks through volunteer initiatives and educational and athletic programming in recreation and nature centers. They prepare Parks' budget and monitor the work of Parks' ice-skating rinks, golf courses and other concessions.

### **UNIT DESCRIPTION**

The Fresh Kills Park project is working to transform the 2,200-acre Fresh Kills Landfill on the Arthur Kill waterfront of Staten Island into a new public park over the next 30 years. The City of New York has conducted a master planning process for Fresh Kills Landfill that resulted in an illustrative park plan, also known as the Draft Master Plan. While nearly forty-five percent of the site was used for landfill operations, the remainder of the site is composed of wetlands, open waterways, and unfilled lowland areas. New York's new parkland at Fresh Kills will be one of the most ambitious public works projects in the world, combining state of the art ecological restoration techniques with extraordinary settings for recreation, public art, and environmental education programming.

### **POSITION TITLE**

Intern for Freshkills Park Planning and Research

### **INTERNSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES**

Interns will be involved in researching and compiling information on other reclaimed land park projects. The intern will also research scientific institutional partners and potential sustainability project partners. They will also assist with grant writing and research and write content for various

park communications. Finally, they will have the opportunity to attend team meetings, interagency meetings and planning sessions along with reporting on planning, parks and sustainability-related events and projects throughout the city.

### **QUALIFICATIONS / SPECIAL SKILLS / AREAS OF STUDY**

Excellent written and verbal communication skills

Attention to detail

An ability to work in a team environment as well as independently

An interest in environmental sustainability, development and public affairs

### **APPLICATION PROCESS**

Email cover letter and resume to Leslie Nusblatt

### **SALARY RANGE**

Unpaid

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION / COMMENTS**

Graduate students preferred but qualified undergraduate students are encouraged to apply