

# NYC SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM 2010

## PARKS & RECREATION-027

Central Forestry & Horticulture GIS/GPS Internship  
Flushing Meadows Corona Park  
Flushing, NY 11368

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### **AGENCY DESCRIPTION**

Parks & Recreation is the steward of more than 29,000 acres of land — 14 percent of New York City — including more than 5,000 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 five major stadia, 600 tennis courts, 66 public pools, 51 recreational facilities, 17 nature centers, 14 golf courses, and 14 miles of beaches; we care for 800 monuments and 23 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 City of New York Parks & Recreation Department cares for approximately 2.5 million trees in the five boroughs of New York City. Over 590,000 of these trees line the streets, with the remaining trees growing in parks. Central Forestry & Horticulture is responsible for citywide urban forestry and horticulture initiatives including street tree planting, landscape and garden construction and maintenance, Greenstreets and horticulture education programs. Interns help to further the department's mission by assisting in the collection and analysis of valuable data essential for effective management of New York City's urban forest.

### **POSITION TITLE**

Central Forestry & Horticulture GIS/GPS Intern

### **INTERNSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES**

This is an internship position to work with the Central Forestry & Horticulture GIS unit, and is an excellent opportunity for students interested in careers in social and biological fieldwork. Interns will assist Parks by creating a thorough and accurate inventory of the number, species, and condition of trees in selected parks. This internship will be field-based, and interns will be spending the vast majority of their time in city parks collecting data with handheld GPS devices. While opportunities may exist to perform office GIS tasks such as basic analytics and mapping, this internship is primarily focused on fieldwork and applicants should expect to be working outdoors for the duration of their employment.

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

Minimum college sophomore standing with an interest in fieldwork, urban forestry, GIS, and/or GPS. Preference will be given to students in environmental science, forestry, or biology. Familiarity with spreadsheets/tabular data formats such as Excel or Access is required; familiarity with

[nyc.gov/internships](http://nyc.gov/internships)

ArcGIS or other GIS software is very helpful. Familiarity with data collection and post-processing using Pathfinder/ArcPad GPS is useful. Familiarity with tree identification is useful. Interns will be required to work outdoors in a variety of weather conditions and to utilize public transportation. A strong preference will be given to applicants who can demonstrate an ability to work independently and consistently in the field.

### **APPLICATION PROCESS**

Please email cover letter and resume to [Leslie.Nusblatt@parks.nyc.gov](mailto:Leslie.Nusblatt@parks.nyc.gov)

### **SALARY RANGE**

Unpaid

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION / COMMENTS**

This is an unpaid internship. Interns will gain valuable, hands-on experience in field data collection and GIS, as well as in working with city agencies.