**2014 NYC FALL & WINTER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM**

**PARKS & RECREATION-003**

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**AGENCY DESCRIPTION**

The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation manages 14 percent of the land in New York City. These assets range from playgrounds and large parks, to tranquil wooded areas and over 14 miles of beaches. Parks serve as New Yorkers’ backyards, as vital meeting areas for outdoor play and recreation – but also as critical engines for economic growth and development.

The past decade has seen a remarkable expansion of this system, with new parks, playgrounds, recreational facilities, and amenities opening across the five boroughs. The Bronx River was transformed from an urban dumping ground into a waterway that welcomes kayakers and has gleaming new parks dotting its shoreline. In Queens, Elmhurst Park flourishes where huge gas tanks once stood. In Manhattan, the High Line is a unique open space that brings much needed parkland to the Chelsea community. Brooklyn's once-abandoned industrial waterfront is revitalized with the creation of Brooklyn Bridge Park, Transmitter, and Bushwick Inlet Parks. On Staten Island, Freshkills will cover 2,200 acres of former landfill with lush rolling hills and winding streams. And through PlaNYC, we are ensuring a greener and more sustainable city for future generations. NYC Parks has built new regional parks, restored abandoned Works Progress Administration-era facilities such as McCarren Pool, greened asphalt traffic medians, converted part-time schoolyards into full-time public playgrounds, and has already planted more than 800,000 trees toward our goal of one million.

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 WinterJam, Adventures NYC, and the Pumpkin Festival. In addition, Parks produces many special events, concerts and movie premieres, as well as 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**

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The Freshkills Park Team 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 25 years. The creation of New York’s new parkland at Fresh Kills is one of the most ambitious public works projects in the history of New York City, combining state of the art ecological restoration techniques with an extraordinary setting for recreation, public art, and environmental education.

We are looking for talented and qualified interns with backgrounds in art, urban planning and design, landscape architecture, public policy or community advocacy and interested in natural and cultural sustainability issues to join our small staff in the park project's lower Manhattan headquarters. All positions are part-time, will involve site visits and provide opportunities to collaboratively contribute to ongoing park planning and project implementation. We offer competent supervision, a supportive work environment, and interaction with staff from different disciplines. Our interns walk away with knowledge of NYC Parks and solid projects that have life after the internship. No two internships are the same. Graduate students preferred but qualified undergraduates are encouraged to apply.

**POSITION TITLE**

Freshkills Park Environmental Education Intern

**INTERNSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Freshkills Park Environmental Education Intern will support public outreach, programming and educational efforts for Freshkills Park. The Environmental Education Intern will assist with presentations and outreach efforts that take the Park’s message of sustainability, environmental education, public art, cultural and recreational programming.

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stewardship and planning for the future, to schools and community organizations across the City. The intern would join our team in the month leading up to our fifth annual Sneak ‘Peak,’ our main public event that occurs each fall. In addition to planning new Fall and Winter events and gaining understanding of program planning and implementation, the intern will be responsible for coordinating components of Sneak ‘Peak’ and will have the opportunity to work in various settings and in collaboration with a range of program partners.

- Assist in the planning and coordination of this year’s Sneak ‘Peak’ on Sunday, September 28 – our main public event that drew over 3,500 attendees last year
- Expand and refine school year and summer educational programs in sustainable design, landfill-to-park ecology, and the environment
- Record participation in park programs for year-end reports and grant reporting; develop evaluation standards for educational programming
- Co-lead bus tours, hikes, birding tours, kayaking tours and other outdoor programs as well as art programming and crafts workshops at Freshkills Park
- Assist staff in coordinating races, sporting events, arts events, and festivals at Freshkills Park
- Attend community meetings and events with Freshkills Park staff; help organize public planning meetings
- Contribute to the research and writing of original content across social media including a blog, Facebook and Twitter; update our website and social media with event and program information
- Attend team meetings, interagency meetings and planning sessions when possible

QUALIFICATIONS / SPECIAL SKILLS / AREAS OF STUDY
- Self-determination and willingness to work outdoors
- Enthusiasm for outdoor activities including hiking, kayaking, etc.
- Knowledge of and interest in topics in natural sciences, environmental science, waste & recycling helpful
- Experience with formal or informal education in schools, museums, zoos, botanical gardens, parks or similar desirable
- Ability to work independently to proactively undertake projects and execute delegated tasks as well as communicate progress in a collaborative team environment
- Diligent research capability and attention to detail
- Strong interpersonal skills and ability to effectively communicate with the public in writing and speech
- Exceptional writing/ editing skills, experience writing for web desirable
- Graphic design skills, experience with Adobe Suite and web publishing desirable
- Familiarity and ease with A/V (particularly photography and film) and digital media desirable

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
- Expected Duration: dates flexible, early September through late December with possibility of extension into winter session | Hours: 20-30 per week (schedule by arrangement) | Salary: Unpaid; school credit depending on school requirement |

APPLICATION PROCESS
Please email cover letter and resume to Leslie.Nusblatt@parks.nyc.gov

SALARY RANGE
Unpaid