2015 NYC SPRING INTERNSHIP PROGRAM
PARKS & RECREATION-014

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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 PlanNYC, 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
Partnerships for Parks (PfP) is a joint program of NYC Parks and the City Parks Foundation (CPF) helping New Yorkers work together to make neighborhood parks thrive. We strengthen our diverse, growing network of dedicated park volunteers and groups by creating opportunities for them to celebrate their parks and accomplishments, access resources, become more effective leaders in their communities and work with the government to affect decisions about their parks. We equip park volunteers and groups with the skills and tools they need to transform these spaces into dynamic community assets.

The 3-person PfP Bronx team is seeking a part time intern to support the borough’s growing park stewardship volunteerism. We invite you to discover or learn more about the unique and varied parks in the Bronx.

POSITION TITLE
Partnerships for Parks Bronx Intern

INTERNSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES
- Data entry: Organizing The Bronx PfP contact list
- Layout & Design: Assist in the creation of outreach materials
- Community Organizing: Help with outreach for The Mayoral Community Parks Initiative (CPI) sites, visioning meetings, volunteer projects, tool issue and return
- Project Management & Facilitation: Offer support in managing park stewardship and nature volunteer projects

QUALIFICATIONS / SPECIAL SKILLS / AREAS OF STUDY
Not required, but preferred:
- Bilingual in Spanish or other language
- Computer skills
- Customer Service Skills/Community Organizing Skills
- An interest in helping underserved communities improve their parks
- Knowledge of Bronx history and neighborhoods

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Based out of the Ranaqua Park Headquarters in the Bronx, he/she will have opportunities to work offsite with the PIP Bronx Team in various projects

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

SALARY RANGE
Unpaid