

2016 NYC SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

PARKS & RECREATION-031

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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 more than 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.

NYC Parks' mission is to plan resilient and sustainable parks, public spaces, and recreational amenities, build a park system for present and future generations, and care for parks and public spaces to benefit New Yorkers across the five boroughs.

Through an effort to improve the quality, accessibility, efficiency and sustainability of our city parks by increasing investment in underserved neighborhoods and expanding parkland: NYC Parks' **Community Parks Initiative**, at the center of the Mayor's plan, is completely redesigning and reconstructing dozens of parks in neighborhoods across the city with the greatest needs—35 of which are nearing the construction phase.

NYC Parks is also leading in innovative park design with **Parks Without Borders**, a new design approach that focuses on improving park entrances, edges, and spaces adjacent to parks. By extending parks into communities, Parks Without Borders will improve New Yorkers' access to quality parks.

Ongoing work to care for our parks has:

- Reconnected the City's two most northern boroughs, Manhattan and The Bronx, when NYC Parks' historic High Bridge was reopened.
- Re-energized Flushing Meadow Corona Park in Queens, one of New York's largest parks, drawing visitors from around the globe.
- Reinforced our commitment to growing greenspaces by meeting our goal to plant 1,000,000 trees.

The work of the agency goes far beyond the maintenance of New York City's nearly 30,000 acres. 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 Fall Field Day. 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

Staten Island Forestry is responsible for maintaining the city trees in the borough of Staten Island. Specifically, we assess health and quality of trees and determine removal and pruning needs for the safety of constituents as well as for construction and utility purposes. We also assess damage done to trees during construction, natural disasters or other activities and issue appropriate restitutions and actions.

In addition, we have a subdivision that focuses on conservation work on natural areas in regards to local ecology. Through analysis of existing conditions in natural resource areas, management planning is developed to aid, protect, and conserve the remaining natural areas on Staten Island. The work will involve planting various herbaceous plants, trees, and shrubs as well as mapping point and area locations of flora. During the spring season breeding bird surveys will be conducted. The work will involve a mixture of field exercises as well as office duties to analyze and process the collected data.

The field work will involve working in areas where you may be exposed to briars, ticks, mosquitoes, mud, wet conditions, poison ivy, flies, and other naturally occurring hazards. While exceptionally poor weather conditions may limit the amount of work conducted, interns should be prepared to work in all weather conditions including light rain, extreme heat during the summer, and freezing cold during winter periods. Interns should have appropriate clothing and gear for fieldwork to include: durable boots, clothes that can get dirty, water, food, sunscreen, hat, belt, bug repellent (some sprays provided) and extra socks. It is highly recommended (but not required) that interns obtain field guides to assist their studies and work for Northeast US birds, wildflowers, and trees.

POSITION TITLE

Staten Island Forestry Intern

INTERNSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

We are requesting 5 interns to assist our division with a variety of Forestry related activities, including scientific research, inspecting and documenting trees for pruning or removal, reviewing construction sites to determine tree protection measures, maintaining a computerized tree data base, etc. Interns will survey and assess city trees and collect additional data that our office can use to prioritize tree care activities. Interns will learn how to measure, identify and assess health of urban trees; collect, organize, summarize and present data; and coordinate with other interns and our office staff.

Interns may learn about local flora and fauna and local ecological systems. Interns will be using GIS mapping services as well as basic Microsoft Office software (Excel, Word, Powerpoint, etc...). Interns may learn various avian calls and songs, studying mammalian behaviors, and plant identification. Depending on task requirements, interns may be involved in various surveys to include but not limit to: fish surveys, turtle surveys, salamander surveys, bird surveys, deer surveys, and fauna tracking. Interns will be working on restoration techniques and study for habitat restoration. Depending on the time of the year of the internship, work may consist of studying local systems in order to provide beneficial attributes to local wildlife such as turtle surveys with platform creation for sun basking, removal of garbage/debris, seed collection, trail maintenance, invasive plant removal, or other types of work designed to increase the quality of the local ecosystems and to help remaining wildlife. Additional work may be conducted in association to collaborative efforts with other organizations and agencies such as salt marsh sparrow studies with SUNY-ESF, or native plant gardens with NYC Audubon, and/or others as needed. Normal working hours will be 0800-1600 with some variation according to the tasks at hand (e.g., breeding bird surveys will require being on site by sunrise).

QUALIFICATIONS / SPECIAL SKILLS / AREAS OF STUDY

Interns should have some horticultural, botanical, forestry or ecological training. Computer technology, statistics and math majors are also welcome as we work with large data sets. Experience using a species identification key and assessing tree health or quality is helpful. They should be physically able to carry surveying supplies up to 20 pounds and conduct field surveys on city streets for 6-8 hours a day in varying types of weather. Interns should also be well-acquainted with MS office suite and have experience creating and using excel spreadsheets and word documents.

The number one qualification required is interest. Interns must be interested in this type of work and study. Anyone afraid of getting dirty or exposed to natural elements should not apply. Interns should have a basic understanding of conventional computer software and be willing to learn. The intern must be willing to arrive on time each day and be able to provide some degree of flexibility to the scheduled work as the work sometimes entails some days to be longer than others. Interns should have a positive friendly attitude and be willing to be creative and to think outside of the box.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For out of town/foreign interns, it is not the agency's responsibility to locate temporary housing, please be sure to make all housing and VISA arrangements prior to the start of internship.

APPLICATION PROCESS

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

SALARY RANGE

Unpaid