

2017 NYC 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 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

Central Forestry (CF) street tree planting manages street tree planting contracts across the city. A team of four within the division are currently working on resolving a number of specific issues pertaining to street tree soil quality. Soil issues are far reaching and affect multiple aspects of CF tree planting work impacting contractor productivity, species selection, and tree mortality rates. Resolving soil issues will realize numerous benefits both economic and in terms of improving CF service quality delivery.

At present, there are gaps in the division's knowledge regarding the particular soil characteristics across the city. To develop understanding, the soil team have outlined a pilot project which will serve to sample, analyze and log soil types across Queens. A secondary aspect of the project will also involve researching and comparing existing CF tree mortality data to determine whether there exists any correlation between species mortality and the particular soil types sampled.

Upon completion, the intern project will provide CF with a useful dataset containing valuable information pertaining to soil characteristics in Queens. Additionally, through then linking the soil dataset to existing tree mortality data, CF could gain an additional metric through which to make more informed species selection decisions.

POSITION TITLE

Street Tree Soil Profiling Project Intern

INTERNSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

- Experience of conducting urban, biological field research.
- Greater understanding of urban soil mechanics and characteristics.
- Ex situ soil testing and analysis.
- Data compilation, mining and analysis incorporating descriptive statistical techniques (soil sample data), exploratory analysis (tree mortality data) and inferential statistical techniques (soil and mortality data).
- Report writing.

QUALIFICATIONS / SPECIAL SKILLS / AREAS OF STUDY

Research design and development.

Problem solving.

Urban Forestry/Ecology/biology.

Data management

APPLICATION PROCESS

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

SALARY RANGE

Unpaid