

2017 NYC INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

PARKS & RECREATION-016

Contact: Leslie Nusblatt
Phone: (212) 360-8212
Fax: (212) 360-8263
Email: Leslie.Nusblatt@parks.nyc.gov

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

The Wildlife Unit promotes coexistence between people and urban wildlife. We conduct public outreach and provide education on urban wildlife. We perform research and help develop policy. The Wildlife Unit oversees active conservation efforts such as monitoring the endangered piping plover at Rockaway Beach. We serve as a resource and engage stakeholders. We also aim to encourage future urban wildlife professionals through internship, volunteer, and educational experiences.

POSITION TITLE

Deer Awareness Intern

INTERNSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

This intern will deliver Deer Awareness Presentations to schools in Staten Island. The goal of these presentations is to raise children's awareness about white-tailed deer on Staten Island, and promote human-wildlife coexistence for the next generation that will be growing up with deer and other urban wildlife. Each presentation is a 45-minute interactive lesson focused on basic deer biology, behavior, and life history, as well as tick safety. The target audience for these presentations are 4th through 6th grade students.

By leading Deer Awareness Presentations, the intern will gain teaching experience. After the presentation, a brief teacher survey is emailed to the coordinating school staff. Feedback from teachers will help the intern develop their teaching abilities. Presentations may be given in a small classroom

setting, or in large multiple-class assemblies. Delivering Deer Awareness Presentations to these varied audiences will enhance the intern's public speaking skills. After the presentation, the intern will log information about program (school, attendance, etc.) in a tracking Excel file. By completing this task, the intern will gain clerical skills such as typing and maintaining a database.

The intern will also assist in promoting a message of co-existence with wildlife at special events or outreach events that the Wildlife Unit participates in. They will gain public speaking skills by completing this task.

The intern may also assist in deer population monitoring and data analysis. They may check game cameras and sort through pictures taken by them. Through their work on this project, the intern will learn how to conduct game camera assessments of wildlife populations. The intern will also gain skills in data entry into Microsoft Excel.

QUALIFICATIONS / SPECIAL SKILLS / AREAS OF STUDY

Interest in urban ecology, conservation, biology, animal behavior

Teaching experience is desirable

Excellent interpersonal and communication skills

Ability to use Microsoft PowerPoint

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

15-20 hours per week

Location: Blue Heron Park, with the possibility of working on projects citywide

APPLICATION PROCESS

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

SALARY RANGE

Unpaid