

2017 NYC INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

PARKS & RECREATION-019

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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

The Bronx River Alliance's Ecological Restoration and Management Program works to protect, restore, and improve water quality and ecosystem health within the Bronx River watershed, including hands-on fieldwork, education, public outreach, and data analysis for scientific reporting.

POSITION TITLE

Bronx River Alliance Intern

INTERNSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

The Bronx River Alliance is looking for an Ecology Intern to help with the following projects:

- Assist Ecology Director (BxRA) and Bronx River Project Manager (NRG) in tasks relating to:
 - Diadromous fish and eel passages monitoring
 - Water quality monitoring, including field and laboratory sampling and data analysis
 - Biotic integrity testing, including fishes and benthic macroinvertebrates
 - Outreach to community stakeholders on water quality and other river issues
 - Project WASTE, our trash collections and assessment program
 - Lead in-field events with BxRA Staff and volunteers
 - Data entry, management, analysis

- Social media and newsletter posts with up-to-date information
- Assist Conservation Crew in fieldwork to manage invasives, restore native plant species, and install/maintain raingardens along the Bronx River
- Other tasks as needed

QUALIFICATIONS / SPECIAL SKILLS / AREAS OF STUDY

- Experience with data collection (water quality, wildlife, trash assessments, etc.) and analysis; experience with IDEXX is preferred
- Experience working outdoors; experience teaching outdoors preferred
- Interest in addressing water quality pollutants affecting the Bronx River
- Interest in community outreach and engagement
- Familiarity with social media applications and e-communication methods
- Ability to handle multiple tasks, keep track of details, and work independently
- Ecology/Natural Resources degree or coursework required
- Mapping/GIS skills a plus
- Ability to walk over uneven ground, wade in the river, carry up to 50 lbs. of equipment, and work outside in hot/cold/rainy conditions

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Position is both office- and field-based. Schedule is flexible and may require some evening and weekend work. Must be comfortable working outside.

APPLICATION PROCESS

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

SALARY RANGE

Unpaid