

2017 NYC SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

PARKS & RECREATION-039

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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, the Mayor's office has funded a number of equity initiatives including:

Community Parks Initiative

NYC Parks' Community Parks Initiative, at the center of the Mayor's plan, is completely redesigning and reconstructing nearly 60 parks in neighborhoods across the city with the greatest needs—35 of which are in construction.

Parks Without Borders

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 public realm.

Anchor Parks

Under Anchor Parks, the city selected eight parks that have historically received underinvestment, high surrounding population, and potential for park development. The Anchor Parks program is part of NYC Parks Commissioner Mitchell Silver's Framework for an Equitable Future, a commitment to create thriving public spaces for all New Yorkers.

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 NYC 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 mission of Forestry, Horticulture, and Natural Resources is to protect, restore, expand, and manage New York City's natural spaces and green infrastructure to maximize their benefits and promote their value within and outside of the urban ecosystem.

The Central Forestry & Horticulture units within the Forestry, Horticulture, and Natural Resources Division of the Parks Department manage citywide urban forestry and horticultural initiatives including street tree planting, landscape enhancement, horticultural and tree preservation programs, as well as educational stewardship and training programs, and the Asian longhorned beetle eradication effort. Specific projects include street tree planting, various horticulture practices, repair of sidewalks damaged by trees, and the installation of tree guards. The unit consists of foresters, horticulturalists, and GIS staff.

POSITION TITLE

Small Park and Playground Tree Inventory Intern

INTERNSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

Interns will be responsible for collecting tree information, including species, size, location, and condition, within small parks and playgrounds, citywide, which will be used by the NYC Parks Forestry divisions for forest management and tree work. This internship is part of a larger effort to catalog the trees in New York City. Data will be collected with a partner and interns will be expected to travel throughout the five boroughs – travel could be by foot, public transit, and/or bicycle.

QUALIFICATIONS / SPECIAL SKILLS / AREAS OF STUDY

- Undergraduate or graduate students studying biology, forestry, horticulture, botany, or other related environmental science topic
- Interest in fieldwork
- Ability to identify tree species helpful (and preferred)
- Willingness to travel to a number of New York City neighborhoods; a good sense of direction and ability to utilize public transportation helpful
- Ability to work and think both independently and as part of a team
- Must be able to work in a variety of weather conditions and be able to walk/ be on one's feet for 4-5 hours at a time, minimum
- Familiarity with mobile data collection platforms and Microsoft Office software.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

May to August 2017 (flexible start/ end date), minimum 2 days/ week. 2-4 intern positions are available.

APPLICATION PROCESS

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

SALARY RANGE

Unpaid