

# 2017 NYC SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

## PARKS & RECREATION-050

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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 Randall's Island Park Alliance (RIPA) is a non-profit organization that works with the City of New York and local communities to provide an innovative and exciting destination through a wide range of sports venues, cultural events and environmental exploration. As the dedicated steward of Randall's Island Park, the Alliance sustains, maintains, develops and programs the Park to support the wellbeing of all New Yorkers.

As part of RIPA, the Natural Areas Team is responsible for the maintenance and monitoring of over 20 acres of restored salt marshes, freshwater wetlands, meadows and woodlands, as well as almost 5 miles of shoreline within Randall's Island Park. These sites offer a unique opportunity for people to explore and learn from the natural world. Through the Randall's Island Waterfront Stewardship Program, RIPA provides education for environmental stewardship and coastal wetland ecology.

Our restored waterfront areas offer natural flood and erosion control, actively clean air and water, provide nurseries for fish, and are sources of food for resident and migrating birds. As a public park that is also an island in the middle of New York City, the Island has enormous potential as a resource for research into issues such as water quality and the success of restoration work in urban environments.

The Natural Areas Intern will work with the Natural Areas Team and gain hands-on experience in restoration, maintenance, monitoring, and environmental education.

## **POSITION TITLE**

RIPA Natural Areas Intern

## **INTERNSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES**

This internship will provide the participant with experience and an opportunity to learn various ecological field work techniques, as well as environmental education strategies. Natural Areas interns, you will learn:

- Assist the Natural Areas Team to identify, plant, and care for restored native habitats
- Participate in ongoing avian, marine, and vegetation monitoring surveys with opportunity to develop their own monitoring program
- Involvement in the development of outreach materials and programming
- Training in effective environmental education and leadership

Each intern will be responsible for developing and completing an independent project under the guidance of the Natural Areas Team during their internship

## **QUALIFICATIONS / SPECIAL SKILLS / AREAS OF STUDY**

The ideal candidate will have taken courses in ecology, biology, horticulture, environmental science, environmental education and/or a related field. The intern candidate should have an interest in ecological field work and enjoy working outdoors. This position requires an ability to work under strenuous conditions outdoors during all types of weather. Ideal candidates should also have experience and interest in environmental education.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Randall's Island Park is accessible by walking across one of four footbridges from Harlem (2 bridges), the South Bronx, and Queens, by taking the M35 bus from Harlem (at 125th Street and Lexington), as well as by car via the Robert F. Kennedy Bridge (aka the Tri-borough). The bridge toll is \$8.00 (pay to enter, not to leave).

## **APPLICATION PROCESS**

Please email cover letter and resume to [Leslie.Nusblatt@parks.nyc.gov](mailto:Leslie.Nusblatt@parks.nyc.gov)

## **SALARY RANGE**

Unpaid