

# 2017 NYC SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

## PARKS & RECREATION-051

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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

Randall's Island Park is operated as a public-private partnership by the New York City Parks Department and the Randall's Island Park Alliance (RIPA). The park is open to the public and is located between the Bronx, Manhattan, and Queens. We work to provide an innovative and exciting destination through a wide range of sports opportunities, cultural events, educational programming, and environmental exploration. We sustain, maintain, develop, and program this nearly 500 acres of mixed use park space to support the wellbeing of all New Yorkers.

The Randall's Island Urban Farm provides free programming to New York City's public schools, community groups and summer camps. The farm is used as an educational tool to support lessons in the environmental sciences, nutrition, and wellbeing. Students and visitors explore how their food is made and how to make good food choices along with a space in which to appreciate the park.

### POSITION TITLE

RIPA Urban Farm Intern

## **INTERNSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES**

As a RIPA Horticulture Intern, you will report to the Horticulture Director, Phyllis Odessey, and the Urban Farm Manager, Nick Storrs. The RIPA Urban Farm Intern will be responsible for assisting with the implementation and execution of Farm maintenance and programming.

Specific tasks include:

- Outreach
- Introducing park patrons to the farm
- Agricultural tasks
- Leading classes of up to 15 students
- Caring for our flock of chickens
- Water
- Feed
- Cleaning coop

The internship experience will provide an in-depth introduction to various aspects of urban agriculture and outdoor education. Interns will work in all areas of the farm while having direct responsibility for certain key enterprises. As they work directly with urban farm staff members, the intern's daily tasks may include assisting with planting, watering, pruning, mulching and overall daily maintenance, as well as participating in class visits.

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

The qualified candidate will:

- Possess excellent communications skills: written and verbal
- Be comfortable interacting with people of diverse backgrounds and positions
- Be a highly motivated individual capable of working independently, without supervision
- Possess a demonstrated interest in urban agriculture and outdoor education
- Come to the internship with a positive attitude
- Bring a desire to learn
- Possess good time management skills
- Complete accepted tasks with attention to detail
- Communicate clearly
- Possess a willingness to do physical work
- Be able to lift 50 lbs.
- Be able to work outside in all kinds of weather

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

The location for this internship is located in Randall's Island Park – reporting to the Horticulture Department in Icahn Stadium.

## **APPLICATION PROCESS**

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

## **SALARY RANGE**

Unpaid