

2017 NYC SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

PARKS & RECREATION-065

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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 Street Tree Planting program is responsible for managing and facilitating all street tree plantings throughout New York City, and is part of the Million Trees initiative. Specific tasks that this unit manages range from designing and managing street tree planting contracts and their subsequent tree procurement contracts, and conducting various street tree research projects.

POSITION TITLE

Tree Longevity Study Intern

INTERNSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

The interns would assist in a research project to study the dynamic nature of tree mortality and survival in New York City. This study, which began in the summer of 2006, investigates what biological, social, and urban design factors contribute to street tree success and failure. Together with a partner,

the interns will be expected to travel throughout the five boroughs to collect biological, social, and urban design data associated with a subset of Parks' six hundred thousand street trees. Examples of data items to be collected include tree species, size, and condition; building type and land use; and street width and traffic density. Travel could be by car, foot, and/or bicycle. Office work will include defining and preparing the dataset for field collection. This may involve the use of ArcGIS or other GIS software to identify data integrity issues and improve data accuracy.

QUALIFICATIONS / SPECIAL SKILLS / AREAS OF STUDY

- Undergraduate or graduate student studying biology, forestry, horticulture, urban planning, or other related topic
- Ability to identify tree species helpful
- Willingness to travel to a number of New York City neighborhoods; a good sense of direction would be helpful
- Ability to work 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
- Familiar with personal data assistants and Microsoft Office software
- Experience with ArcGIS and GIS data helpful, but not required

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

May to August 2017 (flexible start/end date). 4-6 intern positions are available.

APPLICATION PROCESS

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

SALARY RANGE

Unpaid