

2017 NYC SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

PARKS & RECREATION-087

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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 Planning and Parklands Division is seeking to select two (2) interns to support our work planning parks across all five boroughs. Work may include contributing to agency-level initiatives, such as the Walk to a Park and Anchor Parks initiatives; the preparation of master plans; parks surveys or studies; development of metrics, data collection and analysis; and/or community engagement events. This year, interns will conduct an extensive field research project to analyze park usership. Interns are given a broad range of professional development opportunities and will be encouraged to provide creative input in to projects and tasks. Self direction and strong communication skills are essential. Both positions will be based at the Arsenal, located in Central Park at E. 64th and Fifth Avenue but include significant time spent in the field. Learn more about the work of the Division at: nycgovparks.org/planning-and-building/planning

POSITION TITLE

Planning and Parklands Intern

INTERNSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

The Planning Division is engaged in planning for the City's parks and open spaces, including: Strategic planning and analysis, Real Estate Management, Conceptual Plans, Environmental Review, Site Analysis and research. The intern will participate in a variety of projects as needed:

- Conduct and document site visits

- Observe and interview park users as part of Parks Survey project
- Undertake research, developing metrics, and data analysis
- Prepare maps and graphics for reports and presentations
- Participate in work sessions to discuss problems and brainstorm solutions, evaluate feasibility and desirability
- Draft text describing issues, background and proposals
- Prepare text and graphics for final Parks Survey report, and for meetings with senior staff, partner agencies, or the public as needed

QUALIFICATIONS / SPECIAL SKILLS / AREAS OF STUDY

- Planning or landscape background is preferred, but not required
- Demonstrated interest in urban and park planning and public health
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills and/or marketing skills
- Strong writing skills and ability to synthesize and summarize quantitative and qualitative data
- Strong, independent problem solving skills
- Familiarity with ArcGIS, Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop
- Ability to work some weekends

APPLICATION PROCESS

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

SALARY RANGE

Unpaid