

# 2014 NYC SPRING INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

## PARKS & RECREATION-011

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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 over 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.

The past decade has seen a remarkable expansion of this system, with new parks, playgrounds, recreational facilities, and amenities opening across the five boroughs. The Bronx River was transformed from an urban dumping ground into a waterway that welcomes kayakers and has gleaming new parks dotting its shoreline. In Queens, Elmhurst Park flourishes where huge gas tanks once stood. In Manhattan, the High Line is a unique open space that brings much needed parkland to the Chelsea community. Brooklyn's once-abandoned industrial waterfront is revitalized with the creation of Brooklyn Bridge Park, Transmitter, and Bushwick Inlet Parks. On Staten Island, Freshkills will cover 2,200 acres of former landfill with lush rolling hills and winding streams. And through PlaNYC, we are ensuring a greener and more sustainable city for future generations. NYC Parks has built new regional parks, restored abandoned Works Progress Administration-era facilities such as McCarren Pool, greened asphalt traffic medians, converted part-time schoolyards into full-time public playgrounds, and has already planted more than 800,000 trees toward our goal of one million.

The work of the agency goes far beyond the maintenance of 14% of New York City's land. 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 Pumpkin Festival. 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

City Parks Foundation (CPF) is the only independent, non-profit organization to offer park programs throughout the five boroughs of New York City. CPF works in over 700 parks citywide, presenting a broad range of free arts, sports and education programs and helping citizens to support their parks on a local level.

CityParks Education presents a wide range of programs targeted to children, youth, and educators in public schools, parks, recreation centers and other community sites. City Parks Education seeks two interns for our long-standing Seeds to Trees program. Seeds to Trees delivers urban ecology instruction to elementary and middle school students during school days and after school hours through lessons in the classroom, parks and waterways.

### POSITION TITLE

City Parks Foundation Education Intern

### INTERNSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

City Parks Foundation Education seeks an intern for the spring semester who will work with us 1-2 days per week for up to a total of 8-10 hours/week. Interns will assist in the preparation and execution of urban ecology lessons in the office, classroom, afterschool and field environments. There will be a wide variety of office tasks which include, but are not limited to: care and maintenance of live animals, creation of educational materials, and maintenance of field equipment. In the classroom and field, interns will support the execution of lessons, such as distributing materials and leading small groups, when appropriate.

Interns will work alongside our experienced environmental educators. The interns will gain a broader understanding of urban ecology and associated fields of study, including botany, entomology, field ecology, and pond/stream ecology. Interns will also gain a better understanding of informal science education and youth development.

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

- Knowledge of Urban Ecology
- Interest in environmental education
- Patience and ability to work with youth, including youth with special needs
- Professionalism in a fast-paced environment
- Punctual, reliable and efficient
- Attentive to the needs of educator and students.
- Proactive in helping the educator in quickly setting and cleaning up instructional materials.

## **APPLICATION PROCESS**

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

## **SALARY RANGE**

Unpaid