

# 2014 NYC SPRING INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

## PARKS & RECREATION-019

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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

Staten Island Forestry performs regular maintenance and upkeep to all Staten Island city owned street trees as well as management of over 12,300 acres of protected parkland. This particular unit (Staten Island Forestry & Ecology) is responsible for identifying and management of forest conditions in Staten Island parks and natural areas as well as ecological services to improve overall forestry health and diversity while integrating programs to promote conservation, education, and interaction with the public. Site conditions vary and can result in hazardous/rough terrain at times. Climate and weather conditions can change and some days may be required to work in rain, heat, or other adverse conditions that may be considered challenging. It is extremely likely that the intern(s) will be exposed to pests such as mosquitoes, flies, ticks, poison ivy and other naturally occurring conditions. All precautions will be made to limit exposure to these conditions; however the intern must be prepared to work in adverse conditions. Proper field clothing, water bottle, bug spray, sunscreen, and any other individual needs will be necessary for field work. It is possible that field work may result in clothing being soiled or damaged beyond reasonable repair depending on site conditions. Suitable footwear and clothing for field work is emphatically recommended.

### POSITION TITLE

Staten Island Forestry Intern

### INTERNSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

The intern(s) will be involved in two categories of work; field and office. Field work will offer the intern an opportunity to increase knowledge of flora and fauna located throughout Staten Island woodlands and forests. Work will consist of ecosystem analysis and assessments as well as various other needs as generated. Work will range from hands on forest restoration practices to inventory mapping and indexing of flora populations, forest conditions, and heritage trees. Interns may be trained in use of Trimble GPS backpack units for mapping purposes. Interns will have the opportunity to gain or increase knowledge in vegetation identification, bird identification, white-tailed deer study and management, tracking skills, resource management, ecological studies, and various other environmental studies. Office duties will consist of map development with GIS software, as well as Google Earth and other mapping resources as available. Office duties may include extensive research on applicable environmental topics, writing

or assisting in reports, general clerical organization needs, and analysis of field data. Interns may be asked to assist in development, supervision, and tracking of active projects.

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

Intern(s) must be competent with Microsoft Office. Knowledge of mapping and/or graphic software such as G.I.S., Photoshop, Illustrator, Google Earth, Google Sketchup/3d rendering, is a plus. Intern(s) should have a positive demeanor with desire to learn and perform to fullest ability. They will need to be able to hike, bend, crouch, walk, run, lift/carry up to 30 lbs., and work in natural area settings. They will need to be able to follow instruction, collect data, research, photo-document work and site conditions, file data in an organized fashion, analyze data sets, prepare reports, and be able to multi-task in a demand changing environment. Ideal candidates will have enthusiasm for environmental work and be able to communicate in a professional manner with agency employees and the public. Intern(s) must be able to work in a small team setting and in independent settings.

### **APPLICATION PROCESS**

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

### **SALARY RANGE**

Unpaid