

2015 NYC SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

PARKS & RECREATION-029

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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 is responsible for maintaining the city trees in the borough of Staten Island. Specifically, we assess health and quality of trees and determine removal and pruning needs for the safety of constituents as well as for construction and utility purposes. We also assess damage done to trees during construction, natural disasters or other activities and issue appropriate restitutions and actions.

POSITION TITLE

Staten Island Forestry Intern

INTERNSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

We are requesting 5 interns to assist our division with sections of the upcoming NYC tree census. Interns will survey and assess city trees according to census parameters and collect additional data that our office can use to prioritize tree care activities. Interns will learn how to measure, identify and assess health of urban trees; collect, organize, summarize and present data; and coordinate with other interns and our office.

QUALIFICATIONS / SPECIAL SKILLS / AREAS OF STUDY

Interns should have some horticultural, botanical, forestry or ecological training in order to identify tree species. Experience using a species identification key and assessing tree health or quality is helpful. They should be physically able to carry surveying supplies up to 20 pounds and conduct field surveys on city streets for 6-8 hours a day in varying types of weather. Interns should also be well-acquainted with MS office suite and have experience creating and using excel spreadsheets and word documents.

APPLICATION PROCESS

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

SALARY RANGE

Unpaid