

# 2015 NYC SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

## PARKS & RECREATION-054

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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

Fort Greene Park's history is rife with important names--Walt Whitman, Nathaniel Greene, Frederick Law Olmsted, Calvert Vaux, William Howard Taft, and McKim, Mead and White, to name a few--hinting at the important role the park has played in the city's history. Originally the site of forts built for the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812, the community surrounding the land started using it as public space shortly after the threat of the War of 1812 passed. By 1847, it was designated a park (Brooklyn's first), and twenty years later, famed landscape architects Olmsted and Vaux began designing its new layout. In 1897, the park, formerly known as Washington Park, received its name.

Hundreds of years after its early use for the good of the Revolution, the 30-acre Fort Greene Park continues to reward its neighborhood. A basketball court, playgrounds, BBQ area, and tennis courts, not to mention enriching events, sloping hills, 30+ garden beds, and majestic trees, are a magnet for visitors from all walks of life.

The park is managed by a Director who is responsible for all aspects of the park's maintenance, long-term planning, and programming in partnership with the non-profit Fort Greene Park Conservancy. The Director coordinates improvements with local elected officials, government agencies, community groups, and the wealth of cultural/civic institutions that surround the park. Volunteers recruited from local schools and corporations carry out park restoration projects on a regular basis.

### POSITION TITLE

Fort Greene Park Horticulture Intern

### INTERNSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

The Horticulture Intern would work closely with the Park Director to carry out the park's ambitious restoration agenda. An internship at Fort Greene Park offers the opportunity to implement tangible improvements to a public space considered by many to be the hub of the vibrant and growing Fort Greene/Clinton Hill community. A typical day would be spent tending to the park's 30+ horticultural areas. Tasks include:

- Watering, weeding, planting, pruning, deadheading, fertilizing, mulching, mending fences, raking leaves, cultivating, and cleaning out planting beds.
- Aerating hillsides and lawn areas in partnership with the Central Park Conservancy Five Borough Crew
- Collaborating with Brooklyn Horticulture office to shore up eroded hillsides
- Identifying and leading volunteer restoration projects focused on erosion control and horticulture
- Engaging youth from the neighborhood in horticulture projects

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

The following skills/abilities are required for the position:

- Previous work or volunteer experience in gardening, landscaping, or trail work
- Comfort with working outdoors
- Ability to work with people from a diversity of socioeconomic backgrounds
- Interest in natural resource management, horticulture, urban ecology, and environmental education
- Knowledge of plants native to NE United States

### **APPLICATION PROCESS**

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

### **SALARY RANGE**

Unpaid