

# 2015 NYC SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

## PARKS & RECREATION-094

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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

A green roof is a roof of a building that is partially or completely covered with vegetation and soil, or a growing medium, planted over a waterproofing membrane.

There are 30 different kinds of green roof systems (intensive, extensive, etc.) totaling more than 35,000 square feet already installed at 5-Boro, including a Layered System I, a Layered System II, a Tray System I, II, a Bag System, a Layered System III, a Planter Box System, a Raised Planter Box System, a Xero Flor Green Roof System, a Green Grid System, a Native Northeast Wildflower Seed Mix, an Atrium System, and more that will be ever evolving and innovative. We estimate that our green roof absorbs **2.77 tons** of carbon per year, retains **64-84 thousand gallons** of water between May and October, saves **10%** in heating and cooling costs, and removes **252.18 lbs** of airborne particulates every year

The Benefits of a Green Roof include:

- Reducing storm water run-off
- Mitigating the heat island effect
- Extending the service life of roofs
- Conserving energy
- Reducing air pollutants
- Creating wildlife habitats
- Improving carbon/dioxide exchange

### POSITION TITLE

Citywide Services – Green Roof Intern

## **INTERNSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES**

The intern will help the gardener and research new green roof systems. Green roof interns will be responsible for assisting in the maintenance of one of the largest green roofs in the country. Gardening tasks include planting, seeding, weeding, composting, harvesting, mulching, and pest control. This internship will be designed to offer hands-on experience for persons aspiring to a career in horticulture, public gardening, landscape architecture, or design. Students may also become involved in special projects such as accessing records, garden inventories, plant signage, or flower arranging.

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

Experience in nutrition education, sustainability initiatives, or gardening is preferred, but not required. Training will be provided.

## **APPLICATION PROCESS**

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

## **SALARY RANGE**

Unpaid