

2016 NYC SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

PARKS & RECREATION-069

Contact: Leslie Nusblatt
Phone: (212) 360-8212
Fax: (212) 360-8263
Email: Leslie.Nusblatt@parks.nyc.gov

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 more than 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.

NYC Parks' mission is to plan resilient and sustainable parks, public spaces, and recreational amenities, build a park system for present and future generations, and care for parks and public spaces to benefit New Yorkers across the five boroughs.

Through an effort to improve the quality, accessibility, efficiency and sustainability of our city parks by increasing investment in underserved neighborhoods and expanding parkland: NYC Parks' **Community Parks Initiative**, at the center of the Mayor's plan, is completely redesigning and reconstructing dozens of parks in neighborhoods across the city with the greatest needs—35 of which are nearing the construction phase.

NYC Parks is also leading in innovative park design with **Parks Without Borders**, a new design approach that focuses on improving park entrances, edges, and spaces adjacent to parks. By extending parks into communities, Parks Without Borders will improve New Yorkers' access to quality parks.

Ongoing work to care for our parks has:

- Reconnected the City's two most northern boroughs, Manhattan and The Bronx, when NYC Parks' historic High Bridge was reopened.
- Re-energized Flushing Meadow Corona Park in Queens, one of New York's largest parks, drawing visitors from around the globe.
- Reinforced our commitment to growing greenspaces by meeting our goal to plant 1,000,000 trees.

The work of the agency goes far beyond the maintenance of New York City's nearly 30,000 acres. 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 Fall Field Day. 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

The Forestry, Horticulture & Natural Resources Group (NRG) is a division within NYC Parks & Recreation (Parks) and is responsible for acquisition, protection, restoration, and management of remnant and restored natural areas within the nearly 29,000 acres of City parkland. The Wetlands Team (within NRG) is responsible for freshwater, riparian, and salt marsh protection, restoration and management and conducts assessments of restored and natural wetlands systems, identifies restoration opportunities and protection needs, and works with partners to plan and implement projects.

POSITION TITLE

Salt Marsh Assessment Intern

INTERNSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

The intern will participate in a city-wide ecological field assessment of multiple restored and natural salt marshes throughout the Bronx, Queens, Brooklyn, and Staten Island. The intern will work alongside the Salt Marsh Assessment Project Manager collecting vegetation community data and other functional data, including vegetation species name and percent cover, at many points throughout each marsh, as well as recording information on data sheets and aerial maps. The majority of the intern's time will be spent in the field collecting salt marsh data. The intern will also assist in entering field data into an Excel table and creating maps in GIS, as needed. The intern will learn many of the vegetation species and functional metrics of salt marshes during the internship. The intern will also learn about restoration, field research, and ecological assessment methods.

QUALIFICATIONS / SPECIAL SKILLS / AREAS OF STUDY

- Undergraduate to graduate student with interest or course work in salt marsh ecology, ecological restoration, natural areas management, coastal processes, wetland botany, or related fields
- Experience collecting ecological field data or knowledge of salt marsh plants
- Experience with GPS and GIS
- Ability to work under strenuous field conditions, including heat and challenging environments (deep mud, dense vegetation, mosquito swarms)
- Ability to carry 20 lb of field gear while wearing hip or chest waders for long distances in dense vegetation and mud is essential.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Expected Start Date: May – end of October (flexible start and end dates for qualified candidates)

Hours & Duration: 20-35 hours per week, for 2 to 5 months

APPLICATION PROCESS

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

SALARY RANGE

Unpaid