

# NYC SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM 2008

## PARKS & RECREATION-020

Dyckman Farmhouse Museum  
4881 Broadway at 204<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10034

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### **AGENCY DESCRIPTION**

Parks and Recreation is a public agency which employs over 4,000 employees (11,000 at the summer peak) Its principal mission is to keep the parks, playgrounds, and sitting areas clean and safe, while developing the City's recreational opportunities by offering quality facilities, programs, and events to meet the needs of all New Yorkers.

Parks & Recreation is the steward of more than 29,000 acres of land — 14 percent of New York City — including more than 4,000 individual properties ranging from Yankee Stadium and Central Park to community gardens and Greenstreets. We operate more than 800 athletic fields and nearly 1,000 playgrounds; we manage four major stadia, 550 tennis courts, 54 public pools, 48 recreational facilities, 17 nature centers, 13 golf courses, and 14 miles of beaches; we care for 1,200 monuments and 22 historic house museums; we look after 600,000 street trees, and two million more in parks. We are New York City's principal provider of athletic facilities. We are home to free concerts, world-class sports events, and cultural festivals.

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 the Easter Eggstravaganza, the Great Halloween Party, the Bocce and Beach Volleyball Tournaments, and Green-Up Day. In addition, Parks produces many special events, including concerts and movie premieres. In the summer, Parks' busiest season, the agency organizes free carnivals and concerts, and sends mobile recreation vans to travel throughout the five boroughs 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 Dyckman Farmhouse was built c. 1784 and was once the center of a thriving farm. The small house built by William Dyckman housed three generations of the Dyckman family before leaving family ownership in the 1870's. In 1915 the farmhouse faced an uncertain future and Mary Alice Dyckman Dean and Fannie Fredericka Dyckman Welch, daughters of the last Dyckman child to grow up in the house, bought the property to ensure its preservation. The farmhouse was restored and donated to the city in 1916 and has been open to the public since. Today, nestled in a small park, the house is an extraordinary reminder of early Manhattan and an important part of its diverse Inwood neighborhood. The Dyckman Farmhouse Museum is owned by the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation and is a member of the Historic House Trust of New York City. The Dyckman Farmhouse staff, with assistance from volunteers, manages the house and maintains the gardens.

### **POSITION TITLE**

Garden Intern.

### **INTERNSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES**

The farmhouse sits within a 1/2-acre park and the staff, volunteers and interns are responsible for the maintenance of the park. The landscape includes a Kitchen Garden, planted with crops the Dyckman family would have grown, as well as early 20th century features such as the formal garden and seating area. Over the past two years over 1,400 new bulbs, plants and shrubs were planted around the site.

[nyc.gov/internships](http://nyc.gov/internships)

The museum is in need of a garden intern capable of a combination of field work and research opportunities. The hands-on fieldwork would include such things as planting, weeding, watering, and pruning throughout the site. The intern would also have primary responsibility for the maintenance of the Kitchen Garden. Work will include climbing on ladders, carrying heavy supplies and gardening in all conditions.

Research opportunities could include documentation of changes in the landscape over time, investigation into early 19th century farming methods and plant and tree identification. The intern may also have the opportunity to help plan and implement garden specific programs along with the museum staff and other interns.

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

We are looking for candidates who have an interest in history, landscapes and historic sites, have some gardening experience, are physically fit, capable of completing the rigors of garden work, able to work in a variety of weather conditions, have the appropriate sensitivity to working on a historic site, work well in a team atmosphere and are able to handle multiple tasks.

### **APPLICATION PROCESS**

Send your cover letter and resume to Leslie Nusblatt see email address above.

### **SALARY RANGE**

Unpaid and/or school credit depending on school requirements.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION / COMMENTS**

Spanish language skills are particularly helpful, but not required. There is some flexibility in the start and end dates, but a minimum of eight weeks is required, 15- 20 hours/week.