

2017 NYC SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

PARKS & RECREATION-044

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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 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, the Mayor's office has funded a number of equity initiatives including:

Community Parks Initiative

NYC Parks' Community Parks Initiative, at the center of the Mayor's plan, is completely redesigning and reconstructing nearly 60 parks in neighborhoods across the city with the greatest needs—35 of which are in construction.

Parks Without Borders

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 public realm.

Anchor Parks

Under Anchor Parks, the city selected eight parks that have historically received underinvestment, high surrounding population, and potential for park development. The Anchor Parks program is part of NYC Parks Commissioner Mitchell Silver's Framework for an Equitable Future, a commitment to create thriving public spaces for all New Yorkers.

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 NYC 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 Freshkills Park Team is working to transform the 2,200-acre Fresh Kills Landfill on the Arthur Kill waterfront of Staten Island into a new public park over the next 25 years. The ongoing development of Freshkills Park is one of the most ambitious public works projects in the history of New York City, using state of the art ecological restoration techniques in an extraordinary setting for recreation, public art, and environmental education.

We are looking for talented and qualified interns with backgrounds in art, planning, design, ecology, or community advocacy to join our small staff in the park project's lower Manhattan headquarters. All positions are part-time, will involve site visits and provide opportunities to collaboratively contribute to ongoing park planning and project implementation. We offer competent supervision, a supportive work environment, and interaction with staff from different disciplines. Our interns walk away with knowledge of NYC Parks and solid projects that have life after the internship. No two internships are the same. Graduate students preferred but qualified undergraduates are encouraged to apply.

POSITION TITLE

Freshkills Park Development Intern

INTERNSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

The Freshkills Park Development Intern will support the Freshkills Park project through research and fundraising. The internship offers an opportunity to understand the inner workings of Park programming and communications and support exciting new initiatives including public art and scientific research at this unique site.

Interns will gain experience in:

- Prospect research
- Grant writing
- Messaging strategy
- Funding databases
- General office procedures (filing, data entry, answering phones, etc.)

QUALIFICATIONS / SPECIAL SKILLS / AREAS OF STUDY

Preferred Skills/Qualifications:

- Familiarity with grant writing and non-profit fundraising, community relations and communications strategy
- Ability to work independently and execute delegated tasks as well as communicate progress in a collaborative team environment
- Diligent research capability and detail-oriented
- Knowledge of and interest in topics in art, natural sciences, environmental science, waste & recycling helpful
- Excellent oral and written communication skills, experience writing for web desirable
- Graphic design skills, experience with Adobe Suite and web publishing desirable

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Expected Duration: three month summer term, dates flexible | Hours: 21 hours per week (schedule by arrangement)

APPLICATION PROCESS

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

SALARY RANGE

Unpaid