

2017 NYC SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

PARKS & RECREATION-068

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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

Riverside Park and Riverside Park South are the most beautiful and picturesque waterfront Parks in all of Manhattan. Together they make up 335 acres spanning from 59th Street to 155th Street along the Henry Hudson River.

Historic Riverside Park designed by Frederick law Olmsted, is home to some of the oldest and most beloved monuments in NYC: Soldiers and Sailors Monument, Joan of Arc, Eleanor Roosevelt, Lajos Kossuth, Grant's Tomb and the Fireman's Memorial. In addition, Riverside Park has numerous sports fields, playgrounds, dog runs and concessionaires, including Hudson Beach, the sand volleyball court that borders the only swing-a-rings in New York City.

Riverside Park South is being constructed in six phases: The first phase opened in 2001 and the final phase is to be completed in 2019. The award-winning modern park was designed by Thomas Balsely & Associates, and includes the nationally landmarked 69th St Transfer Bridge and rebuilt Pier I. The design pays homage to the site's important industrial history as a railyard, and the striking ornamental grasses echo the seaside grasses that historically bordered its shores.

The NYC Parks Maintenance and Operations (M&O) staff maintain the parks' infrastructure, playgrounds, recreation areas, horticulture beds, trees and monuments. The Riverside Park Conservancy administers the two parks.

POSITION TITLE

Riverside Park South GIS Intern

INTERNSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

Working closely with Parks staff, the intern may learn the role and structure of City government, the importance of public spaces, and the relationship between parks, the public and government officials. These internships provide opportunities to learn and finesse supervising and coordinating experience, specialized skills in horticulture, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and maintenance & operations management.

Each intern will work with NYC Parks staff and volunteers to improve the park, learning the behind the scenes process which ensures a wonderful experience for park patrons.

The GIS Intern will:

- Review GIS maps and organize existing data relating to horticulture and maintenance & operations of the park. Conduct infield data collection.
- Fuse together existing map GIS layers and create new ones, to make a horticulture bed map using GIS.

QUALIFICATIONS / SPECIAL SKILLS / AREAS OF STUDY

- Undergraduate or Graduate student with coursework in urban planning, landscape design and horticulture, community development, environment or other related field
- Enthusiastic and able to work with a wide array of people
- Strong writing, communications and interpersonal skills
- Computer skills: Microsoft Word, Adobe Creative suite and Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
- Sense of humor is a must
- Comfortable interacting with the public
- Comfortable working outside in all park environments

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Expected Start Date: June 2017 – September 2017 (with the capacity to potentially extend)
- Hours & Duration: 15 – 20 hours per week. May include some weekend days. All shifts can be negotiated.

APPLICATION PROCESS

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

SALARY RANGE

Unpaid