

2016 NYC SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

AGENCY NAME

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION

DIVISION

Freshkills Park

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ADDRESS2 New York, NY

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AGENCY DESCRIPTION (Max characters 3000)

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 miles of beaches. Parks serve as New Yorkers' backyards, as 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 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.

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 skating rinks, golf courses and other concessions.

UNIT DESCRIPTION (Max characters 1000)

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. There will be 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. Interns walk away with knowledge of NYC Parks and solid projects that have life after the internship

POSITION TITLE (Max characters 100)

Freshkills Park Development Team Special Project Intern

INTERNSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES (Max characters 1500)

The Freshkills Park Development Team is seeking a qualified candidate with a background in urban planning, civil engineering or environmental science to support ongoing research and projects. A centerpiece to the internship is the design and implementation of a follow-up study on two completed park projects: Owl Hollow Soccer Fields (2012) and the recently completed 3.2-mile New Springville Greenway. Located along the eastern edge of the Freshkills Park site and the eight-lane arterial roadway, Richmond Avenue, the Greenway was funded through a federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) grant. This study will examine and quantify the environmental impact of infrastructural improvements with a unique focus on public space and quality of life.

Depending on the skill set of the chosen candidate, the Special Projects intern will develop GIS maps, perform field surveys, analyze traffic data, and prepare outreach materials. The internship will provide exposure to a wide range of planning considerations in New York City's largest civic project of the past century.

Responsibilities:

- Assist with field research, data collection, data analysis, demographic studies, graphics, maps and data presentation, as well as report development
- Analyze and annotate existing research and narrative writing
- Contribute to the research and writing of original content across social media including a blog, Facebook, Twitter
- Attend team meetings, interagency meetings and planning sessions

QUALIFICATIONS/SPECIAL SKILLS/AREA OF STUDY (Max characters 1500)

Preferred Skills/Qualifications:

- Strong research, database management, and organizational skills
- Graphic design skills, experience with Adobe Creative Suite, AutoCAD and GIS desirable
- 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
- An ability to work independently as well as in a team environment

Graduate students preferred but qualified undergraduates are encouraged to apply.

APPLICATION PROCESS (Max characters 700)

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

SALARY RANGE

Unpaid

Internship may be used to fulfill college credit requirement

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION / COMMENTS (Max characters 700)

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