

2016 NYC SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

AGENCY NAME

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION

DIVISION

Forestry, Horticulture & Natural Resources

ADDRESS1 Olmsted Center

ADDRESS2 Queens, 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 mission of Forestry, Horticulture, and Natural Resources is to protect, restore, expand, and manage New York City's natural spaces and green infrastructure to maximize their benefits and promote their value within and outside of the urban ecosystem.

The Street Tree Planting program is responsible for managing and facilitating all street tree plantings throughout New York City. Specific tasks that this unit manages range from designing and managing street tree planting contracts and their subsequent tree procurement contracts, and conducting various street tree research projects.

POSITION TITLE (Max characters 100)

Tree Longevity Study Intern

INTERNSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES (Max characters 1500)

The interns would assist in a research project to study the dynamic nature of tree mortality and survival in New York City. This study, which began in the summer of 2006, investigates what biological, social, and urban design factors contribute to street tree success and failure. Interns will learn field sampling methods, tree species identification techniques, and tree hazards and conditions. Together with a partner, the interns will be expected to travel throughout the five boroughs to collect biological, social, and urban design data associated with a subset of Parks' six hundred thousand street trees. Examples of data items to be collected include tree species, size, and condition; building type and land use; and street width and traffic density. Travel could be by car, foot, and/or bicycle.

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

- Undergraduate or graduate student studying biology, forestry, horticulture, urban planning, or other related topic
- Ability to identify tree species helpful
- Willingness to travel to a number of New York City neighborhoods; a good sense of direction would be helpful
- Ability to work both independently and as part of a team
- Must be able to work in a variety of weather conditions and be able to walk/ be on one's feet for 4-5 hours at a time

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)

- May to August 2016 (flexible start/end date)
- Weekly schedule flexible -3 day minimum commitment preferred
- 4-6 intern positions are available