

2016 NYC SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

AGENCY NAME

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION

DIVISION

Urban Field Station

ADDRESS1 Urban Field Station

ADDRESS2 Queens, NY

CONTACT NAME Leslie Nusblatt

E-MAIL Leslie.Nusblatt@parks.nyc.gov

PHONE (212) 360-8257

FAX (212) 360-8263

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 Urban Field Station (<http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/nyc/>) is sustained through a core partnership between the USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station, NYC Department of Parks & Recreation and the Natural Areas Conservancy. Since its founding in 2006, the NYC Urban Field Station's mission is to conduct and support social-ecological research and has engaged over 50 non-profit, academic, and government partners, creating innovative "research in action" programs to support urban ecosystem management, sustainability and resilience initiatives in New York City.

POSITION TITLE (Max characters 100)

Urban Field Station Intern

INTERNSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES (Max characters 1500)

This intern's responsibilities will include involvement in multiple, ongoing social-ecological research projects at the Urban Field Station. Research activities include a combination of social science methods (participant observation, interviews, and surveys) and natural science methods (soil sampling, vegetation sampling, and bird surveys). Depending upon the stage of individual research projects, the intern will be involved in various stages of research: data collection in the field, data analysis (data entry, QA/QC, lab-related tasks), and reporting results (writing). **Field tasks can occur within all five boroughs, but data analysis and writing will primarily occur at the NYC Urban Field Station, which is located in Bayside, Queens.**

Example projects the intern could become involved with include:

- Mapping and vegetation surveys in Kissena Park (Queens) and Freshkills Park (Staten Island)
- Social assessment of a landscape restoration effort in Prospect Park (field work and data entry)
- Identifying new organizations in New York City engaging in environmental stewardship for a Stewardship Mapping and Assessment Project (contacting organizations, Internet searches)
- Street tree health data collection and analysis (field work and data entry)
- Soil and plant material analysis of food items foraged in New York City (field work and lab preparations)
- Deer browse surveys on Staten Island

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

For this internship, we are looking for an individual interested in urban ecology, including interactions between people and nature within cities. A background in social science and/or ecology is preferable, but experience in other scientific disciplines is also welcome.

Qualifications include:

- Strong communication skills, including writing
- Proficient/comfortable working with spreadsheets (e.g., EXCEL)
- Willingness and interest in conducting social and ecological field work
- Willingness and interest in conducting data analysis
- Attention to detail

Desired skills include:

- GIS
- Statistical software
- Experience with databases
- Experience writing literature reviews

This internship experience will expose the intern to a wide variety of urban ecology research projects. This is a great opportunity to learn about conducting scientific research, particularly interdisciplinary social-ecological research. Individuals interested in a career in scientific research and/or urban natural resources stewardship will benefit from working alongside Forest Service social scientists and ecologists and NYC Parks' natural resource managers and ecologists. During the summer, the NYC Urban Field Station is also home to a number of visiting researchers; opportunities also exist to join these researchers in the field, depending upon the intern's interest.

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)

The NYC Urban Field Station is located in Bayside, Queens, at the end of the Q13 bus line. Access from other boroughs may take significant travel time via subway, LIRR, and/or bus. The selected intern should be willing to travel to eastern Queens, as well as throughout the five boroughs for field work and meetings.