

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)

NATURAL RESOURCES GROUP (NRG) is a division within NYC Parks & Recreation (Parks) and is responsible for acquisition, protection, restoration, and management of remnant and restored natural areas within the nearly 29,000 acres of City parkland. NRG develops natural area management and restoration programs and provides technical research that aids in the protection of the City's natural resources. The Wetlands Team within NRG, which focuses on the assessment, management and restoration of wetlands and riparian resources, has a position available for a qualified intern.

POSITION TITLE (Max characters 100)

Urban Lakes & Ponds Restoration Opportunities Intern

INTERNSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES (Max characters 1500)

The intern will assist with the following tasks:

1. Contribute to the management of potential wetlands restoration opportunities throughout New York City
 - a. Analyze the results of the prioritization according to criteria such as site size, ecological benefit, regional planning context, and potential stewardship opportunities. Produce maps and summary reports
 - b. Refine cost estimates for sites according to topographic data and desktop site information
 - c. Conduct site visits to collect data on existing conditions. Update spatial and spreadsheet information on potential sites on an ongoing basis as site visits are conducted and field data is received from other sources
 - d. Assist with dissemination of products to the key stakeholders within (Planning, Capital) and outside of Parks (NYCDEP, NYSDEC, ORR, USACE, HEP, etc)
2. Formalize a coastal wetland stewardship strategy in partnership with the Stewardship Team
 - a. Compile and incorporate existing field data on volunteer opportunities in coastal wetlands into the restoration opportunities inventory
 - b. Categorize opportunities according to proposed activity, region, recommended ages, maximum number of volunteers, level of expertise, etc.
 - c. Coordinate with Stewardship Team to identify potential dates and mechanisms to implement work, with the goal of elevating wetlands stewardship within the agency, using MillionTrees
3. Research ecosystem benefits of living shorelines and coastal green infrastructure

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

- Undergrad or Graduate student with coursework in biology, environmental science, ecology, or related fields
- Familiarity with GIS
- Familiarity with field data collection
- Analytic, organizational, and writing skills
- Ability to work independently
- Ability to work in challenging outdoor environments and weather conditions

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 Start Date: May - September (by arrangement)
Hours & Duration: 20-30 hours per week (by arrangement), for 3 to 4 months