

2016 NYC SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

AGENCY NAME

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION

DIVISION

Northern Manhattan Parks

ADDRESS1 Fort Tryon

ADDRESS2 New York, NY

CONTACT NAME Leslie Nusblatt

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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)

Northern Manhattan Parks is comprised of 600 acres with over 199 garden sites spread out over 35 different sites. The Village Voice designated Fort Tryon Park as the "Best Park to make you remember why you love NYC Parks," in its Best Of issue in 2013. Its gardens have been featured in horticulture books and garden guides. Northern Manhattan Parks Awarded "Greenest District" in the Best of Park awards in 2011. The beauty and vast horticulture of uptown's parks are well recognized and appreciated by area residents and visitors. Stellar gardens sends a welcoming message to park visitors, foster improved park stewardship, provide public health benefits, and serve as essential natural classrooms. NYU students, NYBG students, Garden Clubs and budding horticulturists come to Fort Tryon to use it as an outdoor teaching lab and to learn garden design, given its abundant varieties of plant material and unique trees that don't thrive in many other parts of NYC.

POSITION TITLE (Max characters 100)

Northern Manhattan Parks Horticulture Intern

INTERNSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES (Max characters 1500)

The Heather Garden intern will work alongside NYC Parks horticulturists in the day to day care of the city's largest garden with unrestricted public access as well as in the park's Alpine Garden and other horticultural areas. Fort Tryon Park boasts over 500 varieties of plants, trees and shrubs. The Heather Garden intern will work under the direction of Northern Manhattan Parks' Landscape Coordinator, learning tasks such as identifying invasive species, amending soils to facilitate plantings, transplanting, mulching and some pruning. The position will involve the assessment of horticultural needs for an area, and identifying the tools, equipment and materials required to address them. The intern will gain exposure and some competency with all necessary components of landscape management. Knowledgeable horticulturists on site will serve as resources for helping identify plant types, pruning needs, soil assessment and other aspects involved in caring for a public space's horticulture.

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

-Some horticultural or gardening experience is preferred, but not necessary.
-Ability to do physical labor in a beautiful but sloped area.
-Willingness to follow directions in order to preserve and sustain a historical garden
-Ability to work alongside NYC Parks gardeners and regular horticultural volunteers on large scale plantings or removals projects

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 horticulturist hours are generally 7 am to 3:30 p.m, so the position may be well suited for someone who is taking NYBG or other horticultural or landscape classes in the late afternoon/evening and wanting to secure related field experience