

2013 NYC SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

PARKS AND RECREATION-124

Jamaica Bay Restoration Corps
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AGENCY DESCRIPTION

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 over 14 miles of beaches. Parks serve as New Yorkers' backyards, as vital meeting areas for outdoor play and recreation – but also as critical engines for economic growth and development.

The past decade has seen a remarkable expansion of this system, with new parks, playgrounds, recreational facilities, and amenities opening across the five boroughs. This expansion was catalyzed by PlaNYC, which included construction of eight large regional parks, such as the restoration of McCarren Park Pool and Play Center in Brooklyn and the expansion of recreational opportunities and enhanced waterfront access in Bronx's Soundview Park. Other initiatives, such as Schoolyards to Playgrounds, which opened more than 200 new school playgrounds to community use, and MillionTreesNYC, which has engaged thousands of volunteers to help plant over 600,000 new trees, are contributing to the greening of New York City, enlivening neighborhoods, and greatly enhancing New Yorkers' quality of life.

The work of the agency goes far beyond the maintenance of 14% of New York City's land. 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, the Pumpkin Festival and several others. In addition, Parks produces many special events, including concerts and movie premieres. In the summer, Parks' busiest season, the agency organizes free carnivals, and sends mobile recreation vans to travel throughout the five boroughs providing free rental equipment for skating, baseball, and miniature golf.

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 rinks, golf courses and other concessions.

UNIT DESCRIPTION

The Cooperative Management Agreement between New York City and the National Park Service (NPS) encourages new ways in which the agencies can work together to manage the 10,000 acres of parkland in and around Jamaica Bay. One way that NYC Parks and NPS will work together is through the Jamaica Bay Restoration Corps. As part of the ongoing recovery from Hurricane Sandy, NYC Parks was awarded a \$4.5 million grant from the Department of Labor to create the Jamaica Bay Restoration Corps. The six-month program will provide 200 corps members with work experience, employment skills, counseling, and leadership skills while they restore and develop the landscape in and around Jamaica Bay/Rockaway Parks (in Brooklyn and Queens).

The crews will work with various NYC Parks divisions on wetlands restoration, erosion prevention, grounds keeping, and trail maintenance. They are also expected to work with community residents to develop local connections through surveys and need assessments, and participate in community improvement projects to assist surrounding neighborhoods in recovery efforts. Furthermore, crews may collaborate with NPS teams on federal parkland.

POSITION TITLE

Jamaica Bay Restoration Corps Intern

INTERNSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

The intern would help a small team to facilitate the JBRC program by potentially assisting with:

- documenting the corps' work through photos and narrative
- entering program data
- facilitating educational and career events
- conducting social and ecological research
- natural restoration work, if desired.

He or she would be able to experience the launch of a new workforce program and the historic collaboration between the City and the National Park Service, while learning more about resiliency efforts at NYC Parks.

QUALIFICATIONS / SPECIAL SKILLS / AREAS OF STUDY

- Strong verbal, written, and visual skills
- Great organizational skills
- Quantitative and/or qualitative research experience
- Ability to work well with a diverse group of people
- Flexibility with assignments and locations; ability to travel to the Jamaica Bay area
- Proficiency with Microsoft Office; ArcGIS is a plus.

APPLICATION PROCESS

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

SALARY RANGE

Unpaid

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION / COMMENTS