

2013 NYC SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

PARKS AND RECREATION-125

Prospect Park Horticulture Crew
95 Prospect Park West
Brooklyn, NY 11215

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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

Prospect Park is Brooklyn's 585-acre historic flagship park, designed by the famed Olmsted and Vaux. It is the home of Brooklyn's only lake and forest, with nature trails, numerous recreational activities, public educational programs, volunteer opportunities, and the first urban Audubon Center.

The intern(s) will work closely with a member of the horticulture crew maintaining park entrances, gardens and woodland edges.

POSITION TITLE

Prospect Park Horticulture Crew Intern

INTERNSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

The intern(s) will play a crucial role in the maintenance and beautification of Prospect Park. Intern(s) will work on a multitude of tasks, including mulching, weeding, removing invasive species, watering and a variety of other park maintenance projects. Opportunities for learning include but will not be limited to: proper pruning techniques, native plant identification and invasive species controls.

QUALIFICATIONS / SPECIAL SKILLS / AREAS OF STUDY

High school graduation or equivalent

Some hands on experience in horticulture or landscaping

Experience in community work or community centered activities for diverse peoples of all ages

Have good physical stamina including the ability to lift up to 25 lbs for sustained periods of time

Possess a professional, positive attitude and a willingness to pitch in at all times

APPLICATION PROCESS

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

SALARY RANGE

Unpaid

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION / COMMENTS

The schedule for this internship is generally 7:30AM-3PM Mon-Fri, starting in mid-June until the end of August. There is some flexibility in scheduling.