

# 2016 NYC SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

## AGENCY NAME

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION

## DIVISION

Freshkills Park

ADDRESS1 100 Gold St

ADDRESS2 New York, 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 )

The Freshkills Park Team is working to transform the 2,200-acre Fresh Kills Landfill on the Arthur Kill waterfront of Staten Island into a new public park over the next 25 years. The ongoing development of Freshkills Park is one of the most ambitious public works projects in the history of New York City, using state of the art ecological restoration techniques in an extraordinary setting for recreation, public art, and environmental education.

We are looking for talented and qualified interns with backgrounds in art, planning, design, ecology, or community advocacy to join our small staff in the park project's lower Manhattan headquarters. There will be site visits and provide opportunities to collaboratively contribute to ongoing park planning and project implementation. We offer competent supervision, a supportive work environment, and interaction with staff from different disciplines. Interns walk away with knowledge of NYC Parks and solid projects that have life after the internship

## POSITION TITLE (Max characters 100)

Freshkills Park Environmental Monitoring Intern

## INTERNSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES (Max characters 1500 )

The Environmental Monitoring internship will offer a unique research opportunity to scientists-in-training to analyze landfill monitoring data and to actively assist with scientific studies in the creeks and wetlands of Freshkills Park.

The Freshkills Park office has a variety of data collected for the purpose of monitoring the ecological restoration on site. The intern will be responsible for compiling reports from these data to make overall claims about the changes taking place, and to support other scientific studies at the Park.

In addition to analysis of collected landfill monitoring data, the intern will also be responsible for monitoring the ongoing ecological restoration project at the North Park Wetlands. This project calls for developing progress reports and later applying this experience and critical thinking to incorporate relevant information with our outreach and educational programming.

Responsibilities:

- Compile reports based on collected data sets from this former landfill site, including: landfill gas, surface water composition, sediment monitoring, and groundwater conditions
- Monitor the restoration progress at the North Park Wetlands pilot project and compile final report with new data and analysis
- Assist with new fish monitoring program and citizen science water monitoring program
- Contribute to the Freshkills Park Blog
- Opportunities to attend team meetings, interagency meetings and planning sessions
- General administrative work as needed

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

Preferred Skills/Qualifications:

- Self-determination and willingness to work outdoors
- Knowledge of and interest in topics in natural sciences, environmental science, waste & recycling
- Familiarity with field data collection preferred
- Ability to work independently as well as in a team environment
- Exceptional writing and editing skills and attention to detail
- Enthusiasm for outdoor activities - hiking, kayaking, etc. - preferred

## APPLICATION PROCESS (Max characters 700 )

Please email cover letter and resume to [Leslie.Nusblatt@parks.nyc.gov](mailto:Leslie.Nusblatt@parks.nyc.gov)

## SALARY RANGE

Unpaid

Internship may be used to fulfill college credit requirement

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION / COMMENTS (Max characters 700 )

Expected Duration: three month summer term, dates flexible | Hours: 21 hours per week (schedule by arrangement)