

2016 NYC SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

AGENCY NAME

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION

DIVISION

Randall's Island Park Alliance

ADDRESS1 Randall's Island

ADDRESS2 New York, NY

CONTACT NAME Leslie Nusblatt

E-MAIL Leslie.Nusblatt@parks.nyc.gov

PHONE (212) 360-8257

FAX (212) 360-8263

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)

Randall's Island Park is operated as a public-private partnership by the NYC Parks Department and the Randall's Island Park Alliance (RIPA). We work to provide an innovative and exciting destination through a wide range of sports opportunities, cultural events, educational programming, and environmental exploration. We sustain, maintain, develop, and program this nearly 500 acres of mixed use park space to support the wellbeing of all New Yorkers.

As part of RIPA, the Natural Areas Crew is responsible for the maintenance and monitoring of over 10 acres of restored salt marshes, freshwater wetlands and woodlands, as well as almost 5 miles of shoreline within Randall's Island Park. These sites offer a unique opportunity for people to explore and learn from the natural world. Through the Randall's Island Waterfront Stewardship Program, RIPA provides education and mentoring for environmental stewardship and lessons in wetland ecology.

POSITION TITLE (Max characters 100)

Randall's Island Park Alliance Urban Farm Intern

INTERNSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES (Max characters 1500)

This internship will provide the intern with experience and an opportunity to learn various ecological field work techniques, as well as environmental education strategies. As a Natural Areas intern, you will learn:

- To identify, plant, and care for native wetland plants
- To identify and remove invasive plants
- To securely place erosion control fabric where needed
- To conduct avian, shellfish, fish, and vegetation monitoring surveys
- To work with volunteers on ecological restoration projects
- Skills to become an effective environmental educator

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

The ideal candidate will have taken courses in ecology, biology, horticulture, environmental science, environmental education and/or a related field. The intern candidate should have an interest in ecological field work and enjoy working outdoors. This position requires an ability to work under strenuous conditions outdoors during all types of weather. Ideal candidates should also have experience and interest in environmental education.

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)

Through our programming, we foster volunteerism and offer environmental education, guided by our on-site Natural Areas Manager and small team. The Natural Areas Intern will work with the Natural Areas Team and gain hands-on experience in restoration, maintenance, monitoring, and environmental education.

Randall's Island Park is accessible by walking across one of four footbridges from Harlem (2 bridges), the South Bronx, and Queens, by taking the M35 bus from Harlem (at 125th Street and Lexington), as well as by car via the Robert F. Kennedy Bridge (aka the Tri-borough). The bridge toll is \$8.00 (pay to enter, not to leave).