

# 2025 NYC SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

## PARKS & RECREATION-013

**Contact:** Leslie Nusblatt  
**Phone:** (212) 360-8212  
**Fax:** (212) 360-8263  
**Email:** Leslie.Nusblatt@parks.nyc.gov

### AGENCY DESCRIPTION

The New York City Department of Parks & Recreation manages 14 percent of the land in New York City with facilities ranging from playgrounds and large parks, to tranquil wooded areas and more than 14 miles of beaches. Parks serve as New Yorkers' backyards, as vital meeting areas for outdoor play and recreation – but also as an important tool in mitigating the effects of climate change, critical engines for economic growth and development.

NYC Parks' mission is to grow, maintain, and program a world-class park system prioritizing equity, access, safety, and nature.

Highlights of Parks' work over the last year include:

- Launching the Vital Parks for All plan, an initial investment of over \$3.2 billion across ten strategic initiatives to expand greenspace access, promote public safety, and engage New Yorkers in the stewardship of their local parks. Vital Parks for All delivers a plan to restore aging park facilities, bring new park resources where they are needed most, and empower New Yorkers with the data they need to advocate for their public greenspaces. This included the creation of the Vital Parks Explorer, a digital map that provides New Yorkers with data on park conditions to help them advocate for strategic investments and show how their parks compare to other communities across NYC.

- Joining Mayor Adams to launch “Let’s Swim NYC,” a more than \$1 billion capital investment in building, improving, and protecting New York City’s public pools over the course of five years. This funding marks the city’s highest investment in swimming infrastructure since the 1970s and includes two brand-new pools.

- Keeping New Yorkers healthy in the face of extreme heat by planting nearly 18,000 new trees, our highest tree planting total in the past six fiscal years — with a special focus on neighborhoods impacted by high heat vulnerability.

- Deploying additional “second shift” maintenance services to approximately 100 hot spots throughout the five boroughs, giving extra cleaning attention to the sites that most needed it. We also unveiled special trash receptacles designed specifically for pizza boxes, giving New Yorkers a place to dispose of their bulky boxes while limiting the food available to rodents.

- Helping visitors enjoy our greenspaces more comfortably by installing new baby changing tables in over 1,200 restrooms citywide, while also launching an ambitious initiative to build 46 new restrooms and renovate 36 existing restrooms throughout the five boroughs.

The work of our staff goes far beyond the maintenance of New York City’s nearly 30,000 acres and more than 2.5 million trees. Parks is the City’s leading programmer of cultural, athletic, and social activities, including nature walks, volunteer programs, sports clinics, historic house tours, and much more. In addition, Parks produces special events, concerts and movie premieres, and manages agreements with more than 300 businesses that operate on public parkland.

### UNIT DESCRIPTION

The NYC Parks Compliance Division ensures agency compliance with local, state, and federal regulations related to health, safety, and the environment. Under the Compliance Division is the Stormwater Management (MS4) Team – we ensure that NYC Parks follows our Municipal Separate Storm Sewer (MS4) Permit. This permit aims to prevent and limit stormwater pollution from entering waterways through a detailed inspection, mapping, reporting, and outreach program overseen by the NYC Department of Environmental Protection and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

The Stormwater Management Team’s work is dynamic and varied. We travel throughout the city to inspect NYC Parks operations, collect stormwater infrastructure data, coordinate with other city agencies, write inspection reports, and lead environmental education programming.

### POSITION TITLE

Stormwater Management Intern

### INTERNSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

- Get to travel to Parks across all 5 boroughs and gain valuable field experience in environmental work including conducting inspections, reporting, data collection, policy analysis, and environmental education.

- Learn about the importance of stormwater pollution prevention, protecting natural resources, NYC’s sewer systems, and NYC Parks’ daily operations.

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- Help collect field data on storm sewer infrastructure on Parks property across using GIS applications.
- Assist team members with investigating illegal dumping on NYC Parks properties.
- Learn how to inspect an NYC Parks facility for stormwater management regulations and strategize ways to prevent pollution from entering nearby waterbodies.
- Learn how to complete an environmental compliance report.
- Assist team members with educational events for school groups, Parks staff, and the public on the importance of preventing stormwater pollution.
- Assist with researching and updating training programs and outreach materials for the MS4 Team.

### **QUALIFICATIONS/SPECIAL SKILLS/AREAS OF INTEREST**

- Current college student completing related coursework in: Environmental Science, Ecology, Civil Engineering, Environmental Policy, Political Science, Sustainability, Public Policy, Environmental Engineering, Biology, Marine Science, Urban Studies, or related discipline.
- Demonstrated interest in environmental issues, sustainability and/or natural resource protection.
- Comfortable traveling in a car, working outside in varying weather, and occasionally working in varying terrain (forest, landscaped park areas, wetland, muddy areas, rocky coastline).
- Comfortable working on a team and working with diverse audiences of all ages and backgrounds during outreach events.
- Positive attitude, likes to see different parts of the City, likes to explore new parks and natural areas, and interest in learning about real world environmental policy applications.
- Ability to report to Olmsted Center, in Flushing Meadows Corona Park. Majority of days will start between 8am – 10am with occasional and optional weekend/evening outreach events.

### **APPLICATION PROCESS**

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