

2025 NYC SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

PARKS & RECREATION-027

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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 Urban Park Rangers are uniformed peace officers who provide services to and engage the public in parks throughout the five boroughs of New York City and work to build environmental stewardship for City parks through innovative, park-based programs. The mission of the Urban Park Rangers is to build stewardship for NYC Parks by connecting New Yorkers to the natural world through environmental education, outdoor recreation, active conservation, and wildlife management. Rangers offer a wide variety of educational programs and maintain open hours for visitor and nature centers across the city.

POSITION TITLE

Nature Center Intern

INTERNSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

Interns will assist with maintaining open hours at nature and visit centers; assist in caring for nature center animals; assist with public educational programs; work closely with Urban Park Rangers to create nature and visitor center programs and offer programs for the public; sort and organize historic files; create outreach lists; assist in maintaining organization of shared workspace;

Interns will have the opportunity to learn about local environmental education and cultural, historical and natural interpretation efforts as well as program promoting, building and presentation, public speaking, and customer service skills.

QUALIFICATIONS/SPECIAL SKILLS/AREAS OF INTEREST

Interest in the natural world, working with children, and connecting patrons to nature. Comfort with live animal care. Experience with environmental program outreach.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Interns should expect to work weekends. Positions available at the following locations:

Bronx – Crotona Nature Center

Brooklyn – Salt Marsh Nature Center

Manhattan – Inwood Hill Nature Center

Queens – Ft. Totten Visitor Center

APPLICATION PROCESS

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