

2025 NYC SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

PARKS & RECREATION-030

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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

NYC Parks’ Natural Resources Group (NRG) sits within the Environment and Planning Division of NYC Parks. NRG’s mission is to protect, restore, expand and manage New York City’s natural spaces and green infrastructure to maximize their benefits to both ecological function and quality of life. The division is responsible for planning, citywide urban forestry, ecological and horticulture initiatives. Our core values are: Champion Urban Nature, Apply Science and Embrace Innovation, Be Respectful and Inclusive, and Advance an Ecological Legacy.

The Wetlands Team within NRG, which focuses on the assessment, management and restoration of wetlands and riparian resources, has one position available for a qualified intern.

POSITION TITLE

Aquatic Monitoring Intern

INTERNSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

The intern will work closely with the Fisheries Ecologist and other staff at NRG to monitor fish, eel and oyster populations in the Bronx River and assess aquatic resources at lakes and ponds throughout NYC. Largely field-oriented with two days per week at a desk, the intern’s responsibilities will include:

- Working with staff and volunteers to conduct aquatic wildlife monitoring of eel and river herring and oyster populations
- Monitoring and restoring diadromous fish populations on the Bronx River by maintaining, cleaning and documenting use of a fishway and eel mops in River Park, Bronx
- Independently collecting environmental and water quality data
- Entering monitoring data and uploading photo and video data into office database
- Assisting with quality control of all data and databases
- Assisting with data analysis and reporting
- Working with staff to assess and document lake and pond conditions, including water quality monitoring and assessment
- Working with staff to train and educate volunteers and students in aquatic monitoring activities
- Working with staff to assess the effectiveness of green infrastructure, including monitoring weather forecasts, taking photos and videos during rain events, ascertaining the rainfall depth after a rain event, and making sure staff complete storm logs

QUALIFICATIONS/SPECIAL SKILLS/AREAS OF INTEREST

- Current college student with a background or strong interest in aquatic ecology and wildlife
- Experience with field data collection
- Knowledge of aquatic fish and macroinvertebrate species
- Familiarity with aquatic wildlife population and water quality monitoring techniques
- Ability to independently work in and travel to field sites
- Excellent analytical, organizational, and written communication skills
- Ability to work in challenging outdoor environments and weather conditions

APPLICATION PROCESS

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