

2025 NYC SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

PARKS & RECREATION-034

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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 Environment and Planning division aims to protect, restore, and expand New York City Parks including green spaces and natural areas to maximize their benefits for environmental and community health and resilience. The Natural Resources Group’s mission is to protect, restore, expand, and manage New York City’s over 12,000 acres of natural spaces and green infrastructure across the five boroughs, including forests, grasslands, and wetlands. The Greenbelt Native Plant Center (GNPC) is the Division’s native plant nursery and seed bank. Our mission is to provide native plants and seeds from local plant populations in support of the restoration and management of many of the City’s most valuable natural areas.

POSITION TITLE

Greenbelt Native Plant Center: Greenhouse and Plant Production Intern

INTERNSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

This internship is an opportunity to gain valuable skills in horticulture and native plant production by learning from experienced plant propagation staff. The intern will gain hands-on experience identifying, propagating, and cultivating native plants.

Intern will assist in many of the typical duties of nursery growing in our six (6) greenhouses, which may include:

- Sow seeds in the propagation ranges
- Assist staff with other forms of propagation, such as fern spores or cuttings

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- Mix and prepare various types of growing media (“soil”)
- Transplant herbaceous and woody plants at varying stages of development
- Hand water crops in the greenhouses
- Hand weed nursery stock and growing ranges
- Assist in the upkeep and sanitation of greenhouses and other work areas
- Research plant propagation protocols
- Keep and update digital propagation and greenhouse inventory records
- Monitoring greenhouse crops for weeds, pests and diseases.
- Physically move crops from indoor growing ranges (the greenhouses) to outdoor growing ranges (“Quonsets”) and keep records of those moves.
- Clean seeds to prepare them for storage

QUALIFICATIONS/SPECIAL SKILLS/AREAS OF INTEREST

- Has interest in learning about plant propagation
- Has experience or interest in gardening
- General knowledge of greenhouse environments and plant culture preferred
- Ability to work independently
- Willingness to work with others, including volunteers and nursery staff of varying abilities

Please note that this position involves getting your hands dirty, heavy lifting up to 25 pounds, repetitive tasks, and exposure to heat, humidity, various insects, and the elements in general. Candidates should be prepared to work in these conditions.

APPLICATION PROCESS

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