

2025 NYC SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

PARKS & RECREATION-036

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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 City of New York Parks and Recreation Department manages trees in all five boroughs of the City of New York. Over 666,000 of these trees line the streets, of which approximately 65,000 are in Manhattan. Environment and Planning is responsible for citywide urban forestry and horticulture initiatives which includes street tree planting, landscape and garden construction and maintenance, Greenstreets, green infrastructure and horticulture education programs. Interns help to further the department’s mission by assisting in the collection and analysis of valuable data essential for effective management of New York City’s urban forest.

POSITION TITLE

Manhattan Forestry Tree Planting Intern

INTERNSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

This is an internship position to work with the Environment and Planning Manhattan Tree Planting unit and is an excellent opportunity for students interested in careers in forestry, environmental science and social and biological fieldwork. The intern will gain valuable, hands-on experience in field data collection and urban forestry, as well as working with city agencies.

Interns will assist Parks by creating a thorough and accurate survey of new potential planting locations, make decisions regarding species selection and site design. They will also inventory existing trees and catalog the condition of recently planted trees. Manage the citywide database including the number, species, condition, and size on streets throughout the borough of Manhattan.

This internship will be field-based, and interns will be spending the vast majority of their time on the streets of New York City collecting data with tablets. While opportunities may exist to perform office tasks such as basic analytics and mapping, this internship is primarily focused on fieldwork and applicants should expect to be working outdoors for the duration of their employment.

QUALIFICATIONS/SPECIAL SKILLS/AREAS OF INTEREST

Minimum college sophomore standing with an interest in fieldwork, urban forestry, plant entomology, and/or plant pathology. Preference will be given to students in forestry or a related subject. Familiarity with spreadsheets/tabular data formats such as Excel or Access is required. Familiarity with data collection and post-processing is useful. Familiarity with tree identification is useful. Interns will be required to work outdoors in a variety of weather conditions and to utilize public transportation. A strong preference will be given to applicants who can demonstrate an ability to work independently and consistently in the field.

APPLICATION PROCESS

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