

2025 NYC SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

PARKS & RECREATION-037

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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 Permits & Plan Review (PPR) team handles tree work permit requests and review small- and large-scale construction projects. We review incoming applications to make sure applicants adhere to all Parks' rules and regulations and standards when working around trees and planting new trees. The team provides comments and guidance on best practices during review and manages thousands of requests received on a yearly basis for all five boroughs.

POSITION TITLE

Tree Health and Inventory Specialist Intern

INTERNSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

The intern will gather information on tree planting mortality and success rates for permitted plantings and existing trees. PPR has thousands of permitted and reviewed projects where tree maintenance and tree care cannot be regulated or enforced easily. Therefore, the planting and preservation success with these projects can vary. Quantifying the success of trees preserved and planted between projects will help the team and agency learn which variables lead to lower mortality rates and understand the survival rate of the urban canopy on construction projects. As part of the internship, the intern would also analyze PPR's database and ForMS record keeping on these projects and inspect trees where a final inspection has yet to be

requested. The intern would assist in reviewing the data and looking at newer applications that have yet to reach signoff (a critical touch point within the permitting process).

The intern will learn the following:

- Parks' tree work permitting process and urban forest planning
- Parks' tree preservation standards
- Parks' tree planting standards
- NYC's tree laws and regulations
- How to gather data in the field
- How to review plan sets and surveys
- Hone their arboricultural skills such as tree ID, management of urban stands of trees and gathering data for
- Hone their database analyzing skills
- How to map data (with assistance)

QUALIFICATIONS/SPECIAL SKILLS/AREAS OF INTEREST

- Tree ID course and/or general plant health knowledge or experience
- Prefer GIS and database course or experience, such as: ArcGIS suite, AutoCAD, etc.
- Basic understanding of mapping and reading maps
- Experience using Microsoft Office suite: Excel, SharePoint, Teams, PowerPoint
- Interest and/or majoring in urban forestry/forestry, conservation, environmental planning, environmental sciences and/or sustainability

APPLICATION PROCESS

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