

2025 NYC SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

PARKS & RECREATION-041

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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

Borough Forestry manages the urban tree canopy of Staten Island. The mission of NYC Parks is to plan resilient and sustainable parks, public spaces, and recreational amenities, build a park system for present and future generations, and care for parks and public spaces. Environment and Planning works to protect, restore, expand, and manage New York City’s green spaces and natural areas to maximize their benefits for environmental and community health and resilience.

Interns would work alongside office staff and foresters to interact with the public, manage data, and conduct field surveys. They will learn about the various roles a forester plays including skills applicable throughout environmental fields like contract management, invasive species removal, plant ID, public communications, and ecological surveys.

POSITION TITLE

Staten Island Forestry Intern

INTERNSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

This is an internship position to work with the Environment and Planning Staten Island Forestry office 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.

nyc.gov/internships

- Identify tree species and perform basic inspections
- Assess work to be done by contractors; engage with contractors regarding professional forestry activities.
- Communicate Park's goals and mission to the public in the field and through
- Survey parks and trails for hazards
- Assist Forestry Project Managers with contracts responsible for tree maintenance, removal, planting, sidewalk repair, invasive species removal, and natural area restoration.
- Utilize forestry databases to track, monitor, and produce reports on productivity, accomplishments, and program status updates.
- Develop a data-based project or study throughout the internship that would benefit Forestry goals

QUALIFICATIONS/SPECIAL SKILLS/AREAS OF INTEREST

Successful candidates should have an interest in or studying forestry, biology, ecology, environmental studies/science, conservation or tree care (preferred not required)

- Basic tree/plant ID (preferred not required)
- At least two years of education in the field of urban forestry, arboriculture, biology, or equivalent (preferred not required)
- Proficient in Microsoft suite, including Word, Excel, and PowerPoint.
- High level of organizational skills
- Ability to multi-task
- Motivated and outgoing
- Punctual and reliable

APPLICATION PROCESS

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