

2025 NYC SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

PARKS & RECREATION-044

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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 Trees and Sidewalks program, part of the Tree Preservation team at NYC Parks, inspects street trees across the city that have damaged sidewalks and performs repairs to the sidewalk designed to mitigate trip hazards and preserve the health of the tree. These repairs involve tree pit expansions and close reviews of tree root systems to determine the best solution for each site’s unique issues. The program repairs hundreds of sites across the city each year, but is not able to systematically review the outcomes of the repairs on long-term tree health – one of the main goals of the program. Interns will help study the impact of repairs using tree health metrics and generate data on the effectiveness of the program on tree preservation across the city.

POSITION TITLE

Trees and Sidewalks Intern

INTERNSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

Interns will record tree health observations for street trees across many neighborhoods of NYC. Interns will be trained on how to record these observations, and will actively assist in designing the methodology and samples to be used. Ideally, they will use the Healthy Trees, Healthy Cities Tree Health Metric standards for gathering tree health data that can be analyzed using quantitative methods. After data collection, interns will analyze

the data, including using statistical analysis to look for trends/correlation in tree health across cohorts. At the end of the internship, interns will produce suggestions for how future studies can continue to generate useful information to the program.

QUALIFICATIONS/SPECIAL SKILLS/AREAS OF INTEREST

Basic knowledge of tree biology. Some knowledge of statistics or data analysis. Ability to work outdoors and perform tasks independently.

APPLICATION PROCESS

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