

# 2025 NYC SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

## PARKS & RECREATION-047

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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

Prospect Park Alliance is a non-profit organization that sustains, restores and advances Prospect Park for the benefit of diverse communities, in partnership with the City of New York. Prospect Park is Brooklyn’s flagship park and a National Historic Landmark, designed by Fredrick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux. The alliance cares for the natural environment, preserves historic design and serves the community by providing public programming and amenities for the Park, which receives more than 10 million visits each year. PPA is committed to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Prospect Park Alliance is an equal opportunity employer committed to making diversity as much a part of its everyday operations as it is a part of its mission and values. The Alliance is committed to providing an environment of mutual respect where equal employment opportunities are available to all applicants and employees without regard to race, color, religion, sex, pregnancy (including childbirth, lactation and related medical conditions), national origin, age, physical and mental disability, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information (including characteristics and testing), military and veteran status, and any other characteristic protected by federal, state or local laws. Prospect Park Alliance manages, restores, and conserves 250 acres of forested natural areas and 62 acres of water bodies located within historic Prospect Park. Work includes data collection, monitoring, landscape management, active restoration and maintenance throughout Prospect Park.

### POSITION TITLE

Prospect Park Alliance Woodland Ecologist Volunteer

## **INTERNSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES**

Volunteers will have the opportunity to take part in a variety of projects including forest restoration, Rapid Site Assessment, and forest health monitoring. Work in forested restoration will include removal of invasive vegetation, erosion control, trail maintenance, and garbage removal. They will assist Sr. Forest Ecologist and staff in conducting Rapid Site Assessments (RSA) of restoration sites, Ecological Assessment monitoring and may assist in other research projects. Additionally, they will learn techniques for all of the above tasks plus plant identification with a focus on species native to the Northeast Region and the non native species that present a threat, restoration methodologies, ecological principles, climate change resiliency, and all about the details of operating a forested urban park.

- Work week is Monday through Thursday, from end of May until mid-August (actual dates TBD)
- Work day is 7:30 am - 3:00 pm
- Minimal work week requirement is 3 days (volunteers may choose days); welcome to work 4 if desired

## **QUALIFICATIONS/SPECIAL SKILLS/AREAS OF INTEREST**

Successful candidates should have an interest in ecology and/or botany, an aptitude for fieldwork, enjoy learning new concepts, and should be prepared for physical work. Proper clothing and footwear are required. Candidates should also have good social skills to be able to interact with both the public and other team members successfully. Educational experience in a related field is a plus.

## **APPLICATION PROCESS**

Please email cover letter and resume to [Leslie.Nusblatt@parks.nyc.gov](mailto:Leslie.Nusblatt@parks.nyc.gov)