

2025 NYC SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

PARKS & RECREATION-051

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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 NYC Parks’ Wildlife Unit promotes coexistence between people and urban wildlife. As an informed resource for residents and policymakers, the Wildlife Unit serves as an ambassador for New York City’s diverse wildlife communities. We support future urban wildlife professionals through internship and educational experiences. The Wildlife Unit currently oversees several initiatives such as conservation of the endangered piping plover at Rockaway Beach, presence/absence studies using game camera images, raptor nest monitoring and deer management.

POSITION TITLE

Wildlife Unit Health Program Intern

INTERNSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

The Wildlife Unit is developing a comprehensive Wildlife Health Program to support the health of wildlife in our Parks. We are looking for a highly motivated intern to assist us in addressing knowledge gaps in wildlife health and management strategies. As an intern you’ll research and gain understanding about issues including avian influenza, canine distemper virus, land use changes, toxins, and more. By conducting literature reviews and analyzing necropsy reports, you will learn about the complexities of urban wildlife health as well as current best practices for prevention and management.

One key deliverable of the internship will involve synthesizing research findings into actionable wildlife health management insights and producing one-page resources on priority health threats.

This work will contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of the threats urban wildlife face allowing the unit to further advance our ability to make proactive data driven decisions.

Join the NYC Parks Wildlife Unit in making an impact on wildlife, environmental and public health.

Intern will:

- research and fill knowledge gaps related to known or potential wildlife health threats in our urban environment
- strengthen their own awareness of urban wildlife found within New York City

QUALIFICATIONS/SPECIAL SKILLS/AREAS OF INTEREST

- Ability to conduct thorough literature reviews, evaluate scientific papers and reports, and extract relevant information from diverse sources
- Proficient using Excel
- Capability to accurately record and manage data, ensuring precision in documentation
- Self-sufficient, comfortable working individually
- Excellent writing, administrative, and interpersonal skills
- Ability to write concise, organized summaries of literature
- Enjoy organizational projects and meticulous with details
- R statistical language skills (not necessary, but a plus)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Wildlife Unit is interested in an individual who can commit 35 - 40 hours per week starting in June. Typical business hours are Monday through Friday, 9:00 – 17:00.

APPLICATION PROCESS

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