

# 2016 NYC SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

## AGENCY NAME

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION

## DIVISION

Freshkills Park

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ADDRESS2 New York, NY

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## AGENCY DESCRIPTION (Max characters 3000)

The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation manages 14 percent of the land in New York City. These assets range from playgrounds and large parks, to tranquil wooded areas and miles of beaches. Parks serve as New Yorkers' backyards, as meeting areas for outdoor play and recreation - but also as critical engines for economic growth and development.

NYC Parks' mission 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 to benefit New Yorkers across the five boroughs.

Through an effort to improve the quality, accessibility, efficiency and sustainability of our city parks by increasing investment in underserved neighborhoods and expanding parkland: NYC Parks' **Community Parks Initiative**, at the center of the Mayor's plan, is completely redesigning and reconstructing parks in neighborhoods across the city with the greatest needs --35 of which are nearing the construction phase.

NYC Parks is also leading in innovative park design with **Parks Without Borders**, a new design approach that focuses on improving park entrances, edges, and spaces adjacent to parks. By extending parks into communities, Parks Without Borders will improve New Yorkers' access to quality parks.

Ongoing work to care for our parks has:

- Reconnected the City's two most northern boroughs, Manhattan and The Bronx, when NYC Parks' historic High Bridge was reopened.
- Re-energized Flushing Meadow Corona Park in Queens, one of New York's largest parks, drawing visitors from around the globe.
- Reinforced our commitment to growing greenspaces by meeting our goal to plant 1,000,000 trees.

The work of the agency goes far beyond the maintenance of New York City's nearly 30,000 acres. Parks is the City's leading programmer of cultural, athletic and social activities, including nature walks, concerts, learn-to-swim classes, sports clinics, historic house tours, and much more. Each year Parks hosts annual events such as WinterJam, Adventures NYC, and the Fall Field Day.

The Parks Commissioner is appointed by the Mayor to oversee and direct the work of the agency. The Commissioner appoints Deputy Commissioners, Borough Commissioners, and Assistant Commissioners who are responsible for managing the agency's divisions. These senior officials supervise the work of thousands of Parks employees. They work with elected officials to complete capital improvements for parks, playgrounds, and recreation centers. They work with the private sector to sponsor free public events. They get the community involved in Parks through volunteer initiatives and educational and athletic programming in recreation and nature centers. They prepare Parks' budget and monitor the work of Parks' ice-skating skating rinks, golf courses and other concessions.

## UNIT DESCRIPTION (Max characters 1000 )

The Freshkills Park Team is working to transform the 2,200-acre Fresh Kills Landfill on the Arthur Kill waterfront of Staten Island into a new public park over the next 25 years. The ongoing development of Freshkills Park is one of the most ambitious public works projects in the history of New York City, using state of the art ecological restoration techniques in an extraordinary setting for recreation, public art, and environmental education.

We are looking for talented and qualified interns with backgrounds in art, planning, design, ecology, or community advocacy to join our small staff in the park project's lower Manhattan headquarters. There will be site visits and provide opportunities to collaboratively contribute to ongoing park planning and project implementation. We offer competent supervision, a supportive work environment, and interaction with staff from different disciplines. Interns walk away with knowledge of NYC Parks and solid projects that have life after the internship

## POSITION TITLE (Max characters 100)

Freshkills Park Environmental Education Intern

## INTERNSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES (Max characters 1500 )

The Freshkills Park Environmental Education Intern will support the Freshkills Park project by assisting with education programs in classrooms and at the site. The internship offers an opportunity to understand the inner workings of Park programming and communications and support education initiatives focusing on waste management, design, ecology, and more.

Interns will gain experience in:

- Curriculum Development
- Classroom Facilitation
- Experiential Education
- General office procedures (filing, data entry, answering phones, etc.)

Responsibilities:

- Assist in leading classroom presentations in NYC schools
- Assist with workshops and educational programs on the Freshkills Park project site
- Assist in the planning and coordination of our Discovery Days
- Coordinate and lead educational activities during public events
- Work with staff to develop relevant lesson materials and exercises to accompany programs
- Assist in developing evaluation, tracking, and scheduling systems

## QUALIFICATIONS/SPECIAL SKILLS/AREA OF STUDY (Max characters 1500 )

Preferred Skills/Qualifications:

- Experience leading groups in classroom and/or outdoor settings
- Enthusiasm for working with school children
- Ability to work some weekends
- Exceptional writing and editing skills and attention to detail
- Enthusiasm for outdoor recreation
- Experience with formal or informal education in schools, museums, zoos, botanical gardens, parks or similar desirable
- Basic knowledge of topics in natural sciences, environmental science, waste & recycling

## APPLICATION PROCESS (Max characters 700 )

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

## SALARY RANGE

Unpaid

Internship may be used to fulfill college credit requirement

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION / COMMENTS (Max characters 700 )

Early April through June, dates flexible | Hours: 15-25 hours per week (schedule by arrangement)