

2018 NYC SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

PARKS & RECREATION-069

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AGENCY DESCRIPTION

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, the Mayor's office has funded a number of equity initiatives including:

Community Parks Initiative

NYC Parks' **Community Parks Initiative**, at the center of the Mayor's plan, is completely redesigning and reconstructing 67 parks in neighborhoods across the city with the greatest needs—with a number from the original 30 opening in 2018, more than half are in construction.

Parks Without Borders

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 public realm.

Anchor Parks

Under Anchor Parks, the city selected eight parks that have historically received underinvestment, high surrounding population, and potential for park development. The Anchor Parks program is part of NYC Parks Commissioner Mitchell Silver's Framework for an Equitable Future, a commitment to create thriving public spaces for all New Yorkers.

The work of the agency goes far beyond the maintenance of New York City's parks. 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, Street Games, Adventures NYC, and the Fall Field Day. In addition, Parks produces many special events, concerts and movie premieres, as well as providing free rental equipment for skating, baseball, and miniature golf.

The NYC 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 rinks, golf courses and other concessions.

UNIT DESCRIPTION

The Forestry, Horticulture, and Natural Resources (FHNR) division of NYC Parks has mapped over 325 miles of trails in natural areas parkland. These hiking trails provide a means for New Yorkers to connect to nature in their public parks, but the majority of these trails are unmarked and difficult to navigate. Some trails are in need of rehabilitation to mitigate erosion and other hazards, and other webs of social trails (called desire lines) are promoting damage to natural resources and should be closed to restore healthy forest.

POSITION TITLE

Forestry, Horticulture, and Natural Resources Trails Program Intern

INTERNSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

- Collect and ground-truth trail data using ArcPad on a hand-held GPS unit
- Coordinate, schedule and run meetings with land managers to discuss and formalize trail networks within individual parks
- Coordinate with outside groups such as the NY-NJ Trail Conference to solicit expertise and assistance in trail-blazing and other associated trail work. Establish strong relationships with these groups and assist with the setup and management of coordinated volunteer events.
- Manage GIS datasets to maintain the currency and accuracy of trail information. Track decision making and completed work for individual trail segments.
- Facilitate the creation of requested trail maps

- Assist with the coordinated release of regular data updates to other Parks divisions.
- Work with colleagues to scope trail projects to be performed by contractors and coordinate with contract supervisor during projects.
- Collaborate with stewardship team, marketing and press offices to elevate the profile of individual trail projects and to expand community engagement.

QUALIFICATIONS / SPECIAL SKILLS / AREAS OF STUDY

Familiarity with general concepts in urban land management
Familiarity with ArcGIS, including GPS data collection and database measurement
Proficiency with MS Office
Stellar communication skills
Plant identification skills
Experience or interest in trail building and trail improvement techniques

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The intern will build additional capacity in the trail management program by focusing on the day-to-day work of the project, including data management and quality assurance, cartography, project scoping and coordination, planning and execution of stewardship events, coordination with our non-profit partner the Natural Areas Conservancy, and assisting with the coordinated release of regular data updates.

APPLICATION PROCESS

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

SALARY RANGE

Unpaid