

2016 NYC SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

AGENCY NAME

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION

DIVISION

Fort Greene Park

ADDRESS1 Fort Greene Park

ADDRESS2 Brooklyn, 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 park is managed by a Director who is responsible for all aspects of the park's maintenance, long-term planning, and programming in partnership with the non-profit Fort Greene Park Conservancy. The Director coordinates improvements with local elected officials, government agencies, community groups, and the wealth of cultural/civic institutions that surround the park. Volunteers recruited from local schools and corporations carry out park restoration projects on a regular basis.

POSITION TITLE (Max characters 100)

Fort Greene Park Horticulture Intern

INTERNSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES (Max characters 1500)

The Horticulture Intern would work closely with the Park Director to carry out the park's ambitious restoration agenda. An internship at Fort Greene Park offers the opportunity to implement tangible improvements to a public space considered by many to be the hub of the vibrant and growing Fort Greene/Clinton Hill community. A typical day would be spent tending to the park's 30+ horticultural areas. Tasks include:

- Watering, weeding, planting, pruning, deadheading, fertilizing, mulching, mending fences, raking leaves, cultivating, and cleaning out planting beds.
- Aerating hillsides and lawn areas in partnership with the Central Park Conservancy Five Borough Crew
- Collaborating with Brooklyn Horticulture office to shore up eroded hillsides
- Identifying and leading volunteer restoration projects focused on erosion control and horticulture
- Engaging youth from the neighborhood in horticulture projects

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

The following skills/abilities are required for the position:

- Previous work or volunteer experience in gardening, landscaping, or trail work
- Comfort with working outdoors
- Ability to work with people from a diversity of socioeconomic backgrounds
- Interest in natural resource management, horticulture, urban ecology, and environmental education
- Knowledge of plants native to NE United States

APPLICATION PROCESS (Max characters 700)

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

SALARY RANGE

Unpaid

Internship may be used to fulfill college credit requirement

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION / COMMENTS (Max characters 700)

Fort Greene Park's history is rife with important names--Walt Whitman, Nathaniel Greene, Frederick Law Olmsted, Calvert Vaux, William Howard Taft, and McKim, Mead and White, to name a few--hinting at the important role the park has played in the city's history. Originally the site of forts built for the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812, the community surrounding the land started using it as public space shortly after the threat of the War of 1812 passed. By 1847, it was designated a park (Brooklyn's first), and twenty years later, famed landscape architects Olmsted and Vaux began designing its new layout. In 1897, the park, formerly known as Washington Park, received its name.