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 over 14 miles of beaches. Parks serve as New Yorkers’ backyards, as vital meeting areas for outdoor play and recreation—but also as critical engines for economic growth and development.

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 30 years. The creation of New York’s new parkland at Fresh Kills is one of the most ambitious public works projects in the history of New York City, combining state of the art ecological restoration techniques with an extraordinary setting for recreation, public art, and environmental education.

We are looking for talented and qualified interns with backgrounds in art, urban planning and design, landscape architecture, public policy or community advocacy and interested in natural and cultural sustainability issues to join our small staff in the park project’s lower Manhattan headquarters. All positions are part-time, will involve site visits and provide opportunities to collaboratively contribute to ongoing park planning and project implementation. Interns are given wide latitude to craft their own project while gaining exposure to a range of in-depth activities and day-to-day tasks. We offer competent supervision, a supportive work environment, and interaction with different levels of staff. Our interns walk away with knowledge of NYC Parks and solid projects that have life after the internship. No two internships are the same. Graduate students preferred but qualified undergraduates are encouraged to apply.

Expected Duration: late May through late August with possibility of extension into the fall

Hours: 20-30 per week (schedule by arrangement) | Salary: Unpaid; school credit depending on school requirement

Please send materials per below to Mariel Villeré, mariel.villere@parks.nyc.gov

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Freshkills Park Environmental Monitoring and Education Intern

The Environmental Monitoring and Education internship will offer a unique research opportunity to scientists-in-training to continue coordination of an ongoing project to monitor scientific studies in the restored wetlands of Freshkills Park. The intern will be responsible for monitoring, developing progress reports, and later applying this experience and critical thinking to developing evaluation standards for an expanding environmental education program for Freshkills Park. Additionally, the intern will have the opportunity to conceptualize and implement his or her own unique environmental project using the unique conditions and resources made available by the Park.

Responsibilities:
- Working with Freshkills Park staff and institutional partners to conduct independent environmental projects
- Develop evaluation standards for environmental projects and environmental education programs
- Assist in leading classes in educational programs on the Freshkills Park project site
- Develop relevant lesson materials and exercises in urban planning and ecology to accompany programs
- Conceptualize and research potential new programs and recruit potential partner organizations for the park
- Opportunities to attend team meetings, interagency meetings and planning sessions

Preferred Skills/Qualifications:
- Self-determination and willingness to work outdoors
- Knowledge of and interest in topics in natural sciences, environmental science, waste & recycling
- Familiarity with field data collection preferred
- Ability to work independently as well as in a team environment
- Exceptional writing and editing skills and attention to detail
- Experience leading groups in environmental education or urban planning settings preferred
- Experience and enthusiasm for working with school children preferred
- Enthusiasm for outdoor activities – hiking, kayaking, etc. – preferred

Requested application materials: cover letter, resume, and a writing sample (up to 5 pages)
Freshkills Park Visualization and Research Intern

The Freshkills Park Visualization and Research Intern will have the opportunity to bolster the Park’s web and print presence, which offers future visitors an understanding of what the Park will become as it opens incrementally to the public. The internship offers an opportunity to understand the inner workings of Park programming and communications, explore the Parks historic photo archive and ongoing oral history project, and support exciting new initiatives at this unique site. The intern is given flexibility in either suggesting a new independent project, or continuing initiatives that have already begun. We are looking for a driven designer with interests in the environment and planning who can imagine and develop a captivating print or digital project using planning proposals by former interns and design studio courses, including but not limited to a pamphlet series, an interactive digital feature for our new website, or book-length publication. The internship offers the opportunity to develop curated content for several media, as well as professional development through contact with university and professional partners.

Responsibilities:
- Collaborate with Freshkills Park staff and institutional partners to conduct an independent media project
- Conceptualize and execute the design and distribution of print and/or digital material on the Park, specific projects and events
- Digital archiving of past design proposals and youth education projects
- Contribute to the research and writing of original content across social media including a blog, Facebook and Twitter
- Support program development and general project initiatives with original research
- Attend site visits, tours and events to document and support park development and programs
- Attend team meetings, interagency meetings and planning sessions when possible

Preferred Skills/Qualifications:
- Ability to work independently to proactively undertake projects and execute delegated tasks as well as communicate progress in a collaborative team environment
- Diligent research capability and attention to detail
- Exceptional writing/editing skills, experience writing for web desirable
- Graphic design skills, experience with Adobe Suite and web publishing desirable
- Familiarity and ease with A/V (particularly photography and film) and digital media preferred
- Strong interpersonal skills and ability to effectively communicate with the public in writing and speech

Requested application materials: cover letter, resume, and up to 5 pages of design samples (PDF, under 2 MB)

Freshkills Park Events and Programs Intern

The Freshkills Events and Programs Intern will gain exposure to the wide range of events and programs offered by Freshkills Park and will have the opportunity to propose and plan a new program or event. Over the summer, the main focus for programming and events staff is the preparation for our fifth annual Sneak Peak, our main public event that occurs each fall. In addition to planning new events and gaining understanding of program planning and implementation, interns will be responsible for developing critical program components for Sneak Peak and will have the opportunity to work in various settings and in collaboration with a range of program partners.

Responsibilities:
- Assisting in the planning and coordination of this year’s Sneak Peak – our main public event
- Acting as liaison with event partners
- Participating in, and documenting, site tours and public events
- Updating our website, blog and social media with event and program information
- Outreach and marketing for event listings
- Attend team meetings, interagency meetings and planning sessions when possible

Preferred Skills/Qualifications:
- Self-determination and willingness to work outdoors
- Knowledge of and interest in topics in natural sciences, environmental science, waste & recycling helpful
- Ability to work independently as well as in a team environment
- Strong interpersonal skills and ability to effectively communicate with the public
- Enthusiasm for outdoor activities including hiking, kayaking, etc.

Requested application materials: cover letter, resume