2016-2017 CITY SERVICE CORPS
Urban Environment Corps Member Position Description
(Department of Parks & Recreation)*

Member Position / Title: Urban Environment Corps - Wetland Community Engagement

# of Member Slots in this Position: 1

City Agency Host Site Name: NYC Parks & Recreation, Natural Resources Group

Mission and Goals for the Host Site
Natural Resources Group (NRG) is a division within NYC Parks & Recreation (Parks) and is responsible for acquisition, protection, restoration, and management of remnant and restored natural areas within the nearly 29,000 acres of City parkland. NRG develops natural area management and restoration programs and provides technical research that aids in the protection of the City’s natural resources.

Member Position Summary
The primary function of this position is to engage with communities for two main wetland projects:
1. Field mapping streams and wetlands
2. Community wildfire protection along the South Shore of Staten Island. The Corps Member will help with project coordination, planning, research, and monitoring at wetland field sites as needed.

Mission and Goals for Urban Environment Corps:
The Wetland and Riparian Restoration Team focuses on the assessment, management and restoration of wetlands and riparian resources.

Community Need
New York City has between 1,700 and 2,700 acres of freshwater wetlands, representing less than 20% of the historic wetlands that once existed within our city. Many remaining wetlands have diminished and become degraded due to eutrophication, invasive species, increased stormwater runoff, encroachment, and other stressors. Not only does this impact water quality, but it provides limited habitat for wildlife, and in some cases, invasives species can be a wildfire hazard. Mapping conditions and locations of our streams, wetlands, and management concerns will allow park managers to identify problems, develop recommendations to improve management practices, and better allocate resources to improve stream and water quality.
Essential Functions of Position:
1. Develop and implement community outreach strategy and identify community stakeholders
2. Plan, coordinate, and track volunteer mapping and stewardship events
3. Recruit and train individuals and community groups for volunteer stewardship events at restored and existing wetlands throughout the city
4. Participate in additional wetland stewardship events, which may include hedge-trimming, mechanical weed/invasives removal, debris clean-ups, and planting
5. Assist with wetland-related field work, e.g. monitoring, vegetation and soil sampling, stream and wetland assessment
6. Assist with data projects and quality control

Preferred Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities of Member:
1. Valid NYS driver’s license
2. Outgoing with a positive attitude and experience engaging volunteers
3. Able to work independently and in a team
4. Ability to work in challenging outdoor environments and weather conditions
5. Has analytic, organizational, and writing skills
6. Some knowledge of or interest in wetland and riparian ecology
7. Interest in Biology, Environmental Science, Ecology, or related fields preferred

*Please note: The duties and responsibilities in this service position description may be subject to change. In the rare event that there are any changes, members will be notified prior to beginning the service year.