

Seasonal Urban Farmer

Horticulture Department
Randall's Island Park



About Us:

The **Randall's Island Sports Foundation, Inc. (RISF)** is a nonprofit organization that, in conjunction with City leadership, works to realize the island's unique potential by developing sports and recreational facilities, restoring its vast natural environment, reclaiming and maintaining parkland, and sponsoring programs for the children of New York City. For more information about RISF, its mission, and its programs, please visit www.randallsisland.org.

The Learning Garden is a 12,500 square foot organic vegetable garden composed of 55 raised beds. The garden includes 11 fruiting shrubs and a rice paddy. We grow a diverse variety of crops including but not limited to corn, asparagus, tomatillos, herbs, and Asian eggplants. In 2011 over 1,000 public school students visited the garden. The Learning Garden is a farm-to-table program that focuses on edible education.

Job Description:

Season: March 1 – November 30, 2012

Hours of work: 7:00 am – 3:30 pm (some weekends and overtime may be required)

Salary: According to experience and qualifications

Reports to: Director of Horticulture and Horticulture Manager

Responsibilities include:

- In the Learning Garden: soil cultivation, digging, mulching, watering, raking, weeding, edging, pruning, seed sowing, bed preparation, planting, and composting
- Works with a liaison from GrowNYC, the co-sponsoring organization of The Learning Garden, to coordinate and implement all activities in The Learning Garden. Tasks include preparation of the garden for student visits, lesson planning, creation of educational materials, and scheduling volunteer and student visits.
- Assists and/or leads educational activities in the Learning Garden
- Record keeping of harvest yields, disease and pest control efforts, volunteer events, donation, and other information as required
- Write weekly blog entries about The Learning Garden.
- Researching and ordering seeds from vendors
- Planting, preparation and maintenance of the gardens on Randall's Island including, but not limited to The White Garden, The Waterfront Garden, The Wildflower Meadows, The Learning Garden, The Rock Garden and small traffic islands

- Use small hand tools and basic light machinery such as a leaf blower
- Ensures all equipment is secure and well maintained
- Act as a liaison with outside schools and community groups
- Performs duties in a manner consistent with a public garden serving multi-generational families and in accordance with directed practices and procedures
- Familiar with organic pest control
- Assess the effectiveness of gardening programs through evaluations

Requirements:

- Strong gardening skills, including familiarity with organic seeds and seed propagation
- Demonstrated ability of hardy plant care appropriate to the region
- Excellent communication skills
- Ability to lift 50 lbs.
- Willing to work in all types of weather, under strenuous conditions
- Team player, creative and organized
- Self-motivated with the ability to work both alone and in groups
- Enthusiastic, work to high standards and ability to take direction
- Strong work ethic

Preferred Skills/Qualifications:

- BA in Public Horticulture, Agriculture or related fields or equivalent horticulture certificate/course work or 3 years hands-on experience in horticulture, preferable at an organic or chemical-free farm
- Experience with educational children's programming
- Knowledgeable about hand tools and small machinery a plus
- Drivers license preferred
- Pesticide license a plus
- Knowledge of composting a plus
- Knowledge of propagation a plus
- Basic carpentry skills a plus

Please email resume and cover letter to: phyllis.odessey@parks.nyc.gov

No phone calls *please*.

Randall's Island Sports Foundation, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. All qualified candidates will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, age, gender, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, US Veteran status, or any other factor protected by law. Applicants must successfully complete a drug screen and background check prior to hire.