

FreshkillsPark

Winter/Spring 2011 Internship: Joint Freshkills Park/NYU Oral History Project intern

Project Description:

The Freshkills Park project 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 City of New York has conducted a master planning process for Fresh Kills Landfill that resulted in an illustrative park plan, also known as the Draft Master Plan. While nearly 45% of the site was used for landfill operations, the remainder of the site is composed of wetlands, open waterways, and unfilled lowland areas. New York's new parkland at Fresh Kills will be one of the most ambitious public works projects in the world, combining state of the art ecological restoration techniques with extraordinary settings for recreation, public art, and environmental education programming.

The Oral History Intern will be working jointly with a graduate course in NYU's Draper and Public History Programs and the Department of Parks and Recreation's (DPR) Freshkills Park team to shepherd the digital recording and collection of oral history from current and former members of the New York City Department of Sanitation, with the specific aim of establishing an audio archive of these interviews that may grow over time. A selection of these interviews, focused on Fresh Kills, will be used to start an Oral History Archive specifically about the site, to be shared through the park project's own channels. The intern would be responsible for outlining protocols and standards for the further growth of the Fresh Kills-specific Archive, using the semester's work as a guide.

Responsibilities:

- Assisting with scheduling and tracking of interviewees and permissions
- Verifying consistency of transcription methods across interviews
- Managing and maintaining digital sound and text files
- Assisting with equipment technical challenges
- Troubleshooting file uploads and other glitches
- Attending all class meetings for the semester, every Wednesday from 6:00-8:30pm starting January 19 at NYU
- Reporting regularly to the DPR team on collection practices
- Producing a guide to Oral History collection and production for the DPR team.

Preferred Skills/Qualifications:

- Experience in audio recording and digital production
- Experience structuring media content for the web
- Strong organizational skills
- Strong editorial skills
- An ability to work in a team environment as well as independently

Expected Start Date: mid- to late January, 2011

Hours: 10 hours per week plus in-class time, working with the class's schedule; in-office hours flexible

Salary: Unpaid and/or school credit depending on school requirements.

Send resume and cover letter to: Raj Kottamasu, raj.kottamasu@parks.nyc.gov