



**NORTH  
BROOKLYN  
PARKS  
ALLIANCE**

**POSITION DESCRIPTION:** UNDER THE K BRIDGE PARK – LEAD GARDENER (1 JOB OPENING)

**POSTED:** FEBRUARY 2, 2023

**APPLICATIONS DUE:** MARCH 2, 2023

### **OVERVIEW**

North Brooklyn Parks Alliance (NBK Parks)—the non-profit conservancy for parks and open spaces in Greenpoint & Williamsburg—is currently seeking motivated and energetic individuals to join a dedicated team working together to ensure that Under the K Bridge Park (UTK) and other local green spaces are thriving for the community.

### **POSITION SUMMARY**

The Lead Gardener will be responsible for maintaining UTK under the direction and vision of NBK Parks' Director of Horticulture & Stewardship.

This role comprises the overall stewardship, maintenance, and health of the gardens, all planted areas including trees, shrubs, and flowers, in all garden beds, retaining walls, artificial hills, rain gardens, stairways, paths, surrounding plazas, nursery, and any related future projects to be developed in the coming season—like those related to soil health, nursery production and expansion, seed collection, and volunteer events at UTK.

The Lead Gardener will oversee NBK Parks' Seasonal Gardeners and collaborate with our Grounds Crew Members to keep the gardens and soils watered and healthy and the park free from litter, debris, pet waste, and weeds.

The Lead Gardener may also support NBK Parks' Mobile Garden Crews and local volunteer groups across Brooklyn's Community Board 1 (CB1), which comprises the neighborhoods of Greenpoint and Williamsburg, as needed.

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## **JOB DESCRIPTION**

The UTK Lead Gardener reports directly to the NBK Parks Director of Horticulture & Stewardship and collaborates with other team members focused on UTK site operations, horticultural activities, and events and programs. The UTK Lead Gardener is responsible for two main areas of work: 1. Horticulture and 2. Programs & Partnerships.

### **1. HORTICULTURE**

- Ability to read detailed planting plans, update them, and execute them, as well as provide oversight on the landscaping and irrigation plans
- General gardening and garden maintenance work. Tasks include, but are not limited to: soil health and cultivation, native plant care, deadheading, thinning, raking, edging, care of nursery plantings, irrigation functionality, seed sowing, pruning, planting, staking, weeding, and the sustained work of ecological restoration
- Contribute to the ongoing documentation of horticultural practices, plant performance, management of the space, and phenological observations
- Contribute to the ongoing development of horticultural management strategies to serve the aesthetic and ecological needs of the space
- Implement and carry out spring cutbacks
- Manage day to day activities of NBK Parks' part-time Seasonal Gardeners
- Light support for horticultural work in other parks and open spaces of CB1 as needed
- Report damage to signage, hardscape, planted areas, lighting, drains, and issues in the surrounding streetscape
- Monitor and report activities of neighboring properties as needed to ensure gardens and plants remain undamaged and that visitors are safe at all times
- Use hand tools and basic power machinery, including string trimmers, hedge trimmers, and leaf blowers
- Maintain tools, equipment, and supplies in good working order

### **2. PROGRAMS & PARTNERSHIPS**

- Support NBK Parks' Horticultural and Outreach staff members in crafting and facilitating program offerings
- Contribute social media content in the form of photos and/or informative blurbs
- Work with volunteers and/or interns as scheduled
- Assist with special events
- Perform program introductions and brief overviews or tours of the landscape
- Represent and promote NBK Parks and its broader vision and mission to UTK visitors



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- Support Ground Crews as needed around UTK events

**POSITION REQUIREMENTS:**

- **Horticulture-Related:**

- Minimum 2 years of experience in horticulture/gardening
- Strong plant identification skills, with a focus on NYC natives and invasives
- Interest in outdoor environments, cultural and ecological landscapes, native plants, and pollinators
- Demonstrated understanding of ecological practices
- Able to plants garden beds and propagates new plants; may work in greenhouse operations, as applicable
- Degree/certification in ecological/landscape management or horticulture a plus

- **Maintenance-Related**

- Able/willing to pick up and disposes of litter
- Integrated pest management experience a plus

- **Equipment-Related**

- Must ensure proper care in the use and maintenance of equipment and supplies; promote continuous improvement of workplace safety and environmental practices.
- Able to operate power edgers and movers, trucks, tractors, and attachments, sweepers, skip loaders, forklifts, and other assigned equipment
- Must maintain irrigations systems: water wagon, rain barrels, sprinkler heads, hoses system, drip hoses, trenches system, pillar
- Ability to use hand tools and light power equipment
- Must possess a valid New York State Driver's license and the ability to operate vehicles within a single site and from site-to-site in order to transport materials and equipment or conduct work as appropriate to the position.

- **Physical-Fitness-Related**
  - Ability to work outdoors in all weather conditions
  - Ability to lift and carry up to 50 lbs
- **Scheduling-Related**
  - Availability to work regular weekend shifts; potential for additional shifts may arise for special programs and events
  - Willing to perform custodial or maintenance duties on a relief basis as assigned
- **Personal/Interpersonal/Management-Related**
  - Must have demonstrated record of reliability; ability to work independently, be a motivated self-starter
  - Must be an enthusiastic team player, willing to collaborate on tasks, and demonstrate commitment to shared goals
  - Able to assist in the work direction and on-the-job training of other personnel
- **Administration-related**
  - Must possess basic computer skills and ability to use Google cloud services and task management software
  - Illustration, drafting, and/or mapping capabilities is a plus
- **Event-related**
  - Must assist in setting up special events
  - Experience with visitor services, preferably in an outdoor public setting is a plus

## **COMPENSATION AND HOURS**

This is a Full Time position beginning March 1, 2023. The position will typically maintain a regular schedule but requires a certain degree of flexibility necessitating some evenings, and weekends (Saturday and Sunday). The salary range is \$45,000-\$55,000.

## **TO APPLY:**

Qualified candidates should submit a cover letter, 2 professional references, and a resume by March 1, 2023 (as one PDF document) with "LEAD GARDENER" in the subject line to Lisa Bloodgood, Director of Horticulture and Stewardship at [lisa@nbkparcs.org](mailto:lisa@nbkparcs.org). We will contact only those individuals whose applications are being considered.

## **ABOUT NBK PARKS**

North Brooklyn Parks Alliance (NBK Parks), formerly known as Open Space Alliance, was founded twenty years ago in 2003. The organization is dedicated to fostering a vibrant and equitable network of parks and open spaces in Greenpoint and Williamsburg that serves over 200,000 North Brooklynites. [nbkparcs.org](http://nbkparcs.org) / [@nbkparcs](https://www.instagram.com/nbkparcs)



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## **ABOUT UNDER THE K**

Under the K Bridge Park is located under the Kosciuszko Bridge in Greenpoint, Brooklyn. Opened in 2021, it transformed seven acres of formerly underutilized land in Greenpoint's Industrial Business Zone into a space where culture and nature can thrive together. The park is programmed and maintained by the North Brooklyn Parks Alliance through an agreement with the New York State Department of Transportation. @underthek

*North Brooklyn Parks Alliance is an equal opportunity employer and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law. NBKParks is committed to building a culturally diverse community and strongly encourages applications from candidates from underrepresented communities.*

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