

## **Public Garden Management**

11:550:240, 3 credits,

*Prerequisites:* none

*Instructor:* Bruce Crawford

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### **Course Description**

This course is offered as the accompanying colloquium to the Rutgers Gardens/Central Park summer internship program. It will provide an understanding of the planning and maintenance objectives of public gardens and parks. This will include an analysis of organizational structures and economic issues along with addressing management of plant materials in respect to safety and proper visitor experience.

Public Gardens and Parks both focus upon creating green oasis for social interaction for the local and regional community. However, they have unique and different approaches for fulfilling their mission. This course will focus upon:

- How Public Gardens and Parks overlap and differ in their respective mission.
- How these facilities focus on the management of plant materials in respect to safety and a proper visitor experience.
- Developing an understanding of the organizational structure of Public Gardens and Parks, and the necessity of master planning for future growth and financial sustainability.
- Developing an appreciation of the personal skills required for management level positions in a public institution.

### **Learning Goals:**

1. Understanding of the range of public garden operations and career opportunities available.
2. Ability to manage plants in public gardens according to the original design intend and to the management goals of aesthetic visitor experience and plant habitat quality.
3. Ability to work in a public setting and to engage with the public.
4. A general knowledge of tree production at a nursery, proper training and maintenance of trees for safety, and proper management techniques for urban forests.

### **Text Book:**

Public Garden Management, by Donald Rakow and Sharon Lee, published by John Wiley and Sons, 2011  
An Illustrated Guide to Pruning (third edition), by Edward Gilman, published by Delmar Cengage Learning

### **Course Requirements and Assignments:**

Attendance and active participation in the internship is essential. Assigned papers will require students to reflect on the internship experience and to place Central Park and Rutgers Gardens in the overall context of public gardens management.

## **Grading**

10% Participation and attendance

Papers

20% Comparison of Central Park to a public garden (preferably one other than Rutgers Gardens)

30% Addressing the impact of trees on outdoor spaces, the use of those Spaces and how trees can enhance the 'visitation experience'.

40% Final Exam – Take Home Exam

## **Schedule**

Week 1

Definition, History and Comparison of Public Gardens, Parks and Community Gardens.

Week 2

Plant Breeding/Pruning – The basics of creating new plants for the Garden and proper pruning techniques for shrubs and small trees.

Week 3

Public Garden Management – Evaluation of the administrative and financial structure of Public Gardens.

Week 4

Nursery Crop Production – Procedures and processes of growing trees.  
(First Paper is due)

Week 5

Urban Forest Management – Evaluating the importance of preservation vs. management of an urban forest.

Week 6

Tree Botany – Basic Botany from shoots to roots and an evaluation of potentially hazardous trees in the landscape.

Week 7

The Visitor Experience' at a public garden; trip to Longwood Gardens – '  
Distribution of Final Exam.

Week 8

Professional Development – The writing of a resume and proper business etiquette.  
(Second Paper and Final Exam is due)