

Randall's Island



Wetlands Stewardship Program

The Randall's Island Wetlands Stewardship Program teaches children about wetland ecology and enables children to experience nature through hands-on learning. During the field trip, students will have the chance to explore a restored salt marsh or freshwater wetland on Randall's Island. Students will gain a greater respect for the environment and a greater understanding of what it means to be an environmental steward.

Program Description

The Randall's Island Wetlands Stewardship Program consists of a Pre-Visit and a Field Trip.

Pre-Visit

During the pre-visit, the Natural Areas Manager and Natural Areas Crew will visit your classroom prior to the field trip to provide a short (45-60 minute) introductory lesson to your students. During the classroom session students will be shown a PowerPoint presentation that will provide them with an introduction to wetlands (answering questions like: What is a wetland? What are different types of wetlands? Why are wetlands important?). The classroom session will also introduce students to their Wetlands Stewardship Activities Booklets (grades 3-6). During this session students will complete activities in the booklets that will help them practice their scientific observational skills and learn the new vocabulary associated with wetland ecology.*

**We highly recommend the pre-visit lesson because it provides students with enough background so that they are prepared for their field trips. Please notify the Natural Areas Manager if you are unable to take part in the pre-visit portion of our program.*

Field Trip

The Randall's Island Wetlands Stewardship Program consists of three field trips:

1. Salt Marsh
2. Freshwater Wetlands
3. In-depth Wetlands Exploration*

** This visit will be a more focused visit on a specific topic chosen by the teacher. Potential topics include trees, soil, flowers, or insects.*

Teachers are encouraged to can take part in one, two, or all three field trips. However, all participants must begin with the salt marsh field trip before they can complete the other trips.

All field trip sessions last for approximately 90 minutes. All field trips will begin and end at a classroom located in Icahn Stadium. Students will be taught in the classroom and guided on the field trip by the Natural Areas Manager and/or a member of her crew. Students in grades 3-6 will be able to use their Wetlands Stewardship Activities Booklets in the field as nature journals, recording the various plants and animals they see along the way. Younger students in grades K-2 conduct observational and inferential learning while in the field and complete writing and drawing activities back in the classroom. As part of the hands-on learning experience, students will use binoculars, magnifying glasses, fish nets, and traps to find animals in the wetlands. Students will have the chance to get up close and personal with fish, crabs, snails, insects, and plants!

Cancellations

Field trips are held rain or shine unless there is inclement weather. In the event of severe weather, outdoors portions of the field trip will be cancelled and the entire program will be replaced with indoor activities. If this is not preferred, the teacher may choose to reschedule the field trip if there are dates available. Please call the Natural Areas Manager on the morning of the day of the trip to confirm whether the outdoor portion of the field trip is still scheduled. If you are unable to attend your scheduled field trip you must notify the Manager as soon as possible.

Scheduling

For further information on the program or to schedule a visit to the wetlands, please contact:

Victoria Ruzicka, Natural Areas Manager

Phone: 212-860-1899 ext. 309

Email: victoria.ruzicka@parks.nyc.gov

When scheduling your visit, please provide the following information:

1. Name of the teacher responsible for the group with their phone number (preferably cell phone number) and email address;
2. School/Program name, address, and phone number;
3. Grade level for your group;
4. Number of students in your group;
5. Dates you would like to schedule for the Pre-Visit and Field Trip;
6. Preferred arrival and departure times;
7. Names of other teachers/assistants that will be attending the field trip;
8. Any special educational or physical needs of students in your group;
9. Whether your students will be eating lunch on the Island.

Once you have scheduled your trip you will receive a copy of the Wetlands Stewardship Activities Booklet, Randall's Island Liability & Photo Release Form, Directions to Randall's Island, and Program Description & Welcome Letters for Parents & Teachers.

Post-Visit

After you finish the field trip we will ask you and your students to complete questionnaires regarding the program. We particularly welcome constructive criticism from teachers.

Thank you and we look forward to seeing you at the Randall's Island Wetlands!

Want to learn more about the Randall's Island Wetlands? Visit www.randallsisland.org

