

Randall's Island



Waterfront Stewardship Program

The Randall's Island Waterfront Stewardship Program teaches children about coastal and estuarine 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 Waterfront Stewardship Program consists of a Pre-Visit and a Field Trip.

Pre-Visit

During the pre-visit, our experienced educators from the 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 slide show 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 Waterfront Stewardship Program consists of three types of field trips:

1. Salt Marsh Exploration
2. Freshwater Wetlands Exploration
3. In-Depth Waterfront Exploration*
 - a. The World is your Oyster: Oyster Gardening Program
 - b. Plant Power: The Importance of Plants & Plant Communities to Humans & the Environment
 - c. It's Buzz Worthy: The Secret Life of Insects
 - d. Water is What Matters: NYC Watersheds and Water Quality
 - e. Feathered Friends: Birds of the Wetlands & Woodlands

**All participants are recommended to begin with either the Salt Marsh or Freshwater Wetlands field trip before scheduling an In-depth Waterfront Exploration course.*

Field trips last for approximately 90 minutes (based on bus schedule, between the hours of 10:00am-1:00pm daily). 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 our experienced educators. As part of the hands-on learning experience, students will use binoculars, magnifying glasses, fish nets, and traps to examine animals and plants in the wetlands. Students will have the chance to get up close and personal with fish, crabs, snails, insects, oysters and plants!

Cancellations

Field trips are held rain or shine unless there is dangerous 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: Christopher Girgenti, Natural Areas Manager
Phone: 212-860-1899 ext. 309, Email: Christopher.Girgenti@parks.nyc.gov

When scheduling your visit, please provide the following information:

1. Name of the teacher responsible for the group with their cell phone number & 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. Please note, Randall's Island Liability & Photo Release Forms **MUST** be signed by parents/guardians of every student attending a field trip.

Post-Visit

After you finish the field trip we may 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 waterfront!
Want to learn more about the Randall's Island waterfront? Visit www.randallsisland.org