

# FreshkillsPark

## Example comprehension questions for *Introduction to Freshkills Park*

*Introduction to Freshkills* is a series of three short videos: “Welcome to Freshkills Park”, “Freshkills Park Science and Research Program”, and “Landfill Infrastructure at Freshkills Park”. The videos on the whole discuss the transformation of Freshkills from a landfill into a park and describe the ways in which the project is a model for sustainability. Below are sample discussion questions to encourage students to think about the planning and development of Freshkills Park.

### After watching the “Welcome to Freshkills Park” video:

- What is the tone of this video? How does the filmmaker establish this tone?
- What is your reaction to this video? What information did you find surprising?
- Each of the three videos in this series is meant to provide a brief introduction to the landfill-to-park transformation. What questions do you have after this first video about the project?

### After watching the “Freshkills Park Science and Research Program” video:

- How many different types of animals did you spot in the video? Were any of them familiar to you?
- The video mentions that researchers are studying “biodiversity changes over time”. What is biodiversity and why is it important?
- Why do you think people are choosing to conduct scientific research in Freshkills Park? What are some things that researchers could learn at a site that was once a landfill that they could not learn elsewhere?
- Over time, researchers at Freshkills and from affiliated universities have studied the water quality, trees, reptiles, fish, and bird populations in the park. What are some potential uses for these studies that you can think of? Are there any other topics that could be studied?

### After watching the “Landfill Infrastructure at Freshkills Park” video:

- The video mentions that “native grasses are planted on the capped landfill mounds to prevent erosion”. What is erosion and how do think native grasses help prevent it?
- The video introduces the topic of the treatment of landfill byproducts by way of wells and underground piping. One of these byproducts – landfill gas – is



NYC Parks



# FreshkillsPark

purified into pipeline-grade natural gas, sold to the National Grid, and eventually sold to National Grid customers, many of whom live in Staten Island. How this process a model of sustainability for other parks?

## Activity:

In groups or on their own, have students pretend that they work for Freshkills Park. Imagine that they have been assigned to create an informational welcome flyer or pamphlet to hand out to future visitors of the park or those who currently visit the park when it is open for special events. Have them keep the following questions in mind while creating their flyer:

- What are the three most important facts for people to know about Freshkills Park?
- What do you think is the most interesting thing about Freshkills Park?
- How is Freshkills Park a model for sustainability?

Optional: If limited on time, instead of designing a flyer, have students pretend they are tour guides and develop a short speech to introduce Freshkills Park to visitors, keeping the same questions in mind.

*Note: Three park projects are currently open to the public: Owl Hollow Soccer Fields, Schmul Park, and the New Springville Greenway. For more information on open and closed park projects, please see our [design and construction updates](#).*