

# FreshkillsPark

## Grassland Ecosystems Virtual Program

**Description:** What is a grassland? It's more than the short, green plant that grows in lawns and parks. Grasslands are one of the most endangered ecosystems on Earth. In this field trip, students will learn about how grasslands prevent erosion, build strong soils, and provide habitat for amazing animals and insects through a short experiment and observations.

### Aligned with Next Generation Science Standards

K-ESS3-1	3-LS3-2	5-ESS3-1
1-LS1-1	3-LS4-3	MS-LS2-3
2-LS4-1	4-LS1-1	MS-LS1-4

**Essential Question:** How do grassland ecosystems benefit humans and animals?

### Field Trip Vocabulary

*Landfill:* A place where trash goes after it is thrown away

*Landfill Cap:* A structure that covers a landfill, made of layers of soil and plastic that are impermeable and protect the air, water, and soil from the trash.

*Grassland:* An ecosystem that primarily contains many different kinds of grasses

*Adaptation:* A behavior or structure used by an animal or plant to survive in its habitat

*Soil Erosion:* The process by which soil is worn away and removed

### Prepare for the Program

*Science Experiment:* This program will involve a short science experiment. You may watch on the screen or follow along in the classroom. If you plan on participating, please set up materials before the trip.

- Tray or flowerpot with planting soil
- Tray or flowerpot filled with potted plants
- Watering can or pitcher of water
- Large plastic tub to catch water drips

*Tech Set-up:* To set up a virtual program, choose whether you'd like to log on individually using tablets, or log on as a class using a smartboard. If using a smartboard, make sure you have a connected device with a functional camera and microphone so I can hear and see the students. If using tablets, make sure that students are muted to prevent echoing.

### Pre-trip activities:

- Preview Freshkills Park with [this 3-minute video](#) or another resource from the [Freshkills Park Resource Bank](#). Students may prepare questions to ask during the presentation.

### Post-trip activities:

- **Share Feedback:** Fill out the [Virtual Program Survey](#).
- **Learn More:** The Freshkills Park Alliance has published a 5- lesson series about grassland ecosystems in NYC. Learn more and [download it here](#).