

FreshkillsPark

Be a Park Planner Virtual Program

Description: Where do parks come from? Who builds and maintains parks? In this trip, students will be introduced to Freshkills Park, the world's largest landfill-to-park transformation project. As park planners, they will consider the diverse, and sometimes competing, needs of different park users, drawing on their own experiences in urban parks. The class will then participate in a mapping activity to design their dream park.

Aligned with Next Generation Science Standards

3-5-ETS1-2	MS-ESS3-3
5-ESS3-1	HS-ETS1-3

Essential Question: How are parks built, designed, and maintained?

Field Trip Vocabulary

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

Landfill Cap: Layers of soil and plastic that are impermeable and protect the air, water, and soil from the trash.

Park Planner: Someone who designs and maintains parks

Prepare for the Program:

- **Bring:** Print out the Freshkills Park Map (1 copy per student) and prepare pens, crayons, colored pencils, or markers.
- **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.
- Write or discuss: What parks are in my neighborhood? What do I like to do in parks? How do other people and animals use parks?

Post-trip activities:

- **Share Feedback:** Fill out the [Virtual Program Survey](#).
- **STEM Challenge:** Download the [Freshkills Park Grassland Ecosystem Curriculum](#) (3-8) for a design challenge balancing human and ecological needs. Or build a 3D version of your park design using blocks, recycled materials, or online resources like Minecraft.
- **Learn More:** Read the [Freshkills Park Master Plan](#) and [Design & Construction Updates](#).
- **Take Action:** Plan a volunteer day at [Freshkills Park](#) or a park in [your neighborhood](#).