

## Freshkills Park Alliance Virtual Education Programming Options

*Updated February 2022*

Thank you for your interest in virtual education at Freshkills Park!

**Cost:** Virtual programming is available free of charge except for those organizations that may be charging their members in which case a donation is encouraged. That being said, donations from all groups are encouraged and very much appreciated.

**Content:** Virtual education programming focuses on sustainability, waste management, grassland and wetland ecology, park development, and environmental restoration and is aligned with New York State science standards. Our virtual programming is flexible, and we are happy to work with you to adapt the content to your students. Pre- and post-field trip activities are available for some lessons and will be shared after registration. If you would like an education opportunity that is not on this list, please contact Rachel Aronson, Education Program Coordinator, at [aronson@freshkillspark.org](mailto:aronson@freshkillspark.org).

**Note:** Because of limited WiFi bandwidth at the park and the desire to prioritize interaction and discussion, ***these field trips are not conducted live from the park***, but do include highly interactive video, images, audio, and 360-degree imagery.

[Schedule a Virtual Field Trip](#)

Age Group	About Freshkills Park	Ecosystems & Restoration	Trash & Sustainability
<b>Elementary (K-5)</b> Trips last 30-45 minutes and include a game or interactive activity.	<i>Park Planner:</i> In this trip, students will consider the different people and animals who use parks and how to design a park that meets diverse needs. The class will participate in a mapping activity to design the park for everyone.	<p><i>Wonderful Wetlands:</i> In this field trip, students will learn about wetland superpowers and conduct a home-friendly science experiment. Students will observe wetland animals and explain how the animal's adaptations help them survive in their habitat.</p> <p><i>Into the Grasslands:</i> 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.</p>	<i>Trash and Sustainability:</i> What happens to my trash after I throw it away? Students will learn the story of trash, from sanitation truck to landfill, and explore the idea that there is no such place as "away". They will also brainstorm ways to reduce the amount of trash they throw away. Students are asked to bring a piece of trash or recycling for an interactive activity.

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<p><b>Middle School (6-8)</b> Trips last 30-45 minutes and include a game or interactive activity.</p>	<p><i>Welcome to Freshkills Park:</i> For 53 years, millions of tons of New Yorker's trash went to Fresh Kills Landfill. Since then, the landscape has been transformed into a healthy ecosystem and a center for scientific research, art, and urban planning. This presentation offers a behind-the-scenes look at Freshkills Park history, landfill engineering, plants and animals, and more.</p> <p><i>Park Planner:</i> In this trip, students will consider the different people who use parks and how to design a park that meets diverse needs. The class will participate in a mapping activity to design the park for everyone. Student ideas are brought back to Freshkills Park planners and designers and may be incorporated into the final design.</p>	<p><i>The Wetland Food Web:</i> How are the plants and animals that live in wetlands connected to one another? In this virtual trip, students will meet birds, fish, and plants of the Freshkills Wetlands and explore why and how each species is adapted to live in a wetland habitat. Students will participate in an interactive activity creating a "wetland food web" mapping the connections between species.</p> <p><i>Grasslands Biodiversity:</i> Grasslands are one of the most endangered ecosystems in the world, but many in New York are not aware of their importance. In this virtual field trip, students will explore biodiversity in the grasslands through a science experiment and guided observation.</p>	<p><i>Trash and Sustainability:</i> What happens to my trash after I throw it away? Students will learn the story of trash, from sanitation truck to landfill, and explore the idea that there is no such place as "away". They will also brainstorm ways to reduce the amount of trash they throw away. Students are asked to bring a piece of trash or recycling for an interactive activity.</p>

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<p><b>High School (9-12)</b> Classes last 45-60 minutes and are primarily lecture, with time for Q&amp;A. Sessions include an optional student research project as a follow-up activity.</p>	<p><i>Welcome to Freshkills Park:</i> Freshkills Park, the largest landfill-to-park transformation in the world, is a case study in environmental transformation. For 53 years, millions of tons of New Yorker's trash went to Fresh Kills Landfill. Since then, the landscape has been transformed into a healthy ecosystem and a center for scientific research, art, and urban planning. This presentation offers a behind-the-scenes look at Freshkills Park history, landfill engineering, plants and animals, and more.</p>	<p><i>Ecosystems and Restoration at Freshkills Park:</i> Freshkills Park is a human-created natural system. Since the closure of the Fresh Kills Landfill, the area has been restored as a healthy grassland, wetland, and woodland ecosystem. This presentation will share research about the regeneration of ecosystems at Freshkills, and consider the environmental implications of reclaiming a destroyed landscape. This presentation also highlights STEM careers at Freshkills Park.</p>	<p><i>What should we do with our trash?:</i> Managing solid waste is one of the most complex and important environmental challenges we face. This session introduces students to what happens to their trash after it is thrown away, and explores different approaches to handling trash.</p> <p><i>The Plastic Pollution Problem:</i> Single-use plastics are a persistent environmental problem, but there are very different ideas about how to reduce their use. In this session, students will learn the history of the Fresh Kills landfill and the role of single-use plastics in waste management and discuss potential solutions to the environmental and social impact of single-use plastics.</p>

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<p><b>Higher Education and Adult</b> Lectures are available for adult audiences. These typically last 45-75 minutes and include time for Q&amp;A.</p> <p>We can adjust the content to your interests, just ask.</p>	<p><i>Introduction to Freshkills Park:</i> Freshkills Park, the largest landfill-to-park transformation in the world, is a case study in environmental transformation. For 53 years, millions of tons of New Yorker's trash went to Fresh Kills Landfill. Since then, the landscape has been transformed into a healthy ecosystem and a center for scientific research, art, and urban planning. This presentation offers a behind-the-scenes look at Freshkills Park history, landfill engineering, plants and animals, and more.</p>	<p><i>Ecology and Restoration at Freshkills Park:</i> Freshkills Park is a human-created natural system. Since the closure of the Fresh Kills Landfill, the area has been restored as a healthy grassland, wetland, and woodland ecosystem. This presentation will share research about the regeneration of ecosystems at Freshkills, and consider the environmental implications of reclaiming a destroyed landscape.</p>	

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