FreshkillsPark

Welcome to Freshkills Park Virtual Program

Description: 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. Students will learn about Freshkills Park history, landfill engineering, ecosystems, and more.

Aligned with Next Generation Science Standards

K-LS1-1	2-LS4-1	5-ESS3-1	MS-ESS3-4
K-ESS3-3	3-LS3-2	MS-LS2-3	HS-ETS3-4
1-LS1-1	4-LS1-1	MS-LS1-4	HS-ETS1-3
2-LS2-2	3-5-ETS1-2	MS-ESS3-3	

Field Trip Vocabulary

Decompose: A process by which organic matter decays

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

Impermeable: Impossible to move in or out

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

Landfill engineer: A scientist who designs and builds systems to keep landfills safe

Landfill gas: A mixture of carbon dioxide and methane created when trash decomposes

Leachate: Wastewater created when water mixes with trash at a landfill

Park Planner: Someone who designs and maintains parks

Wetland: An ecosystem where soil is partially or completely covered by water

Prepare for the Program:

- **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.

Optional 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?

Optional 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 a virtual tour of the Fresh Kills Leachate Treatment Plant
    - The Freshkills Park Alliance has published a 5- lesson series about grassland ecosystems in NYC. Learn more and download it here.
    - Read about wetland ecosystems at Freshkills Park, or explore NYC's
    - waterways with this StoryMap Collection from NYC H20.
- **Take Action**: Plan a volunteer day at Freshkills Park or a park in your neighborhood.