

EDUCATION

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RECREATION  
PROGRAMS

NEW YORK RESTORATION PROJECT



TO HELP NEW YORK CITY KIDS LEARN ABOUT THEIR ENVIRONMENT AND EXPLORE THE OUTDOORS, the New York Restoration Project offers free education and recreation programs for public school students, their teachers, and community residents.

We partner with teachers, administrators, and youth development organizations to provide biweekly in-school and weekly after-school programs and field trips for over 1,000 urban youth annually.

Conducted by NYRP educators, who supply all materials and instruction, these interdisciplinary programs provide academic reinforcement by helping students meet New York City and State performance standards in science, while supporting learning in math and language arts. Our programs also incorporate art and literacy activities.



## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

NYRP educators lead school day, after-school, and summer programs in parks and gardens and on the water. They have developed innovative, easy-to-use instructional materials for students and teachers. These include lesson plans, background information and resources, and worksheets and activities. NYRP education curricula are organized into three distinct environmental science areas.

**FOREST SCIENCE** – While hiking through forested areas of NYRP-maintained parks, our students gain a holistic understanding of New York City woodlands by focusing on geology, soil and forest ecology, plant biology, and bird identification and behavior through hands-on science activities and community service projects, such as trail maintenance.

**AQUATIC SCIENCE** – Educators conduct science programs in estuarine and freshwater ecosystems at NYRP's Swindler Cove Park—featuring Jonathan's Pond and a newly restored native salt marsh—as well as nearby Sherman Creek and on the Harlem River. Activities include oyster gardening, water-quality testing, seining, dipnetting for macroinvertebrates, and studying a variety of aquatic plant and animal life. Classroom teachers are also invited to engage in guided or independent field trips with their students to Swindler Cove Park.

**GARDEN SCIENCE** – Educators guide students in raising their own vegetables, flowers, and herbs at NYRP's Riley-Levin Children's Garden, which features 18 large planting beds, teaching circle, and school gardens that NYRP staff and students build and maintain. Students learn to design and tend gardens that become classrooms for botany, soil and plant ecology, nutrition, and other garden lessons.

*NYRP also provides free monthly educational field walks for all ages on weekends throughout the year.*



## RECREATION PROGRAMS

NYRP's Boatbuilding Program gives students the rare opportunity to construct and launch traditional wooden watercraft and learn about the rich boating history of the Harlem River. This after-school program is conducted at NYRP's boatbuilding workshop in northern Manhattan. Nearby, at our Peter Jay Sharp Boathouse on the Harlem River, NYRP partner New York Rowing Association (NYRA) conducts competitive rowing programs for high school youth.

Other NYRP recreation programs include canoeing with the Bronx River Alliance, and parks stewardship activities. NYRP's recreation programs strengthen important life skills, including teamwork, leadership, and respect for others and the environment.

*For more information on how to:*

- schedule NYRP education programs for your school or classroom,
- plan a field trip to Swindler Cove Park with your class,
- develop a summer outdoor program for your youth organization,
- enroll in a teacher training workshop or one of our monthly educational field walks,
- intern with NYRP's Environmental Education staff (high-school and college students),
- volunteer with our education or community programs,

please contact Jane Jackson, Director of Programming, at (212) 333-2552, or by e-mail at [jjackson@nyrp.org](mailto:jjackson@nyrp.org).

*NYRP's educational and recreational programs are supported by a number of generous funders. For a complete list of supporters, please visit our website: [www.nyrp.org](http://www.nyrp.org).*





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## NEW YORK RESTORATION PROJECT

The New York Restoration Project (NYRP) carries out Founder Bette Midler's dream of a cleaner and greener New York. We work through unique public-private partnerships to reclaim, restore, and revitalize under-resourced parks, community gardens, and open space in New York City. NYRP aims to inspire in the local community appreciation, knowledge, and stewardship of the local environment through outdoor education and recreation programs that are physically, intellectually, and emotionally engaging.

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