Students engage in hands-on outdoor activities within the 40-acre urban park operated in partnership between The Elizabeth River Project and City of Portsmouth. The park showcases stunning examples of wildlife habitat featuring an 11-acre wetland restored by the Virginia Port Authority in 2012 and 29 acres of revitalized forest and wildflower meadows. Students will see first hand how wildlife can thrive in an urban setting while learning how they can play a role in the Elizabeth River’s restoration.

MISSION: Making restoration of the Elizabeth River a reality.

An Urban Oasis

2023-2024

Our Elizabeth River, Our Responsibility

INVESTIGATIVE QUESTION: To foster nature stewards and teach resilience, students perform scientific field investigations to answer, “How does Paradise Creek Nature Park demonstrate resilience to a changing climate and sea level rise and what can I do to help?”

MORE INFORMATION: Sarah McBride, Park & School Outreach Coordinator, smcbride@elizabethriver.org
Students will become junior ornithologists as they engage in a variety of scientific investigations to learn about the physical characteristics that classify birds. For example, students will get hands on with bird feathers and bones to answer the question, “What helps a bird to fly?” Additionally, junior ornithologists will gain an understanding of how to watch for birds and identify them by sight, sound and silhouette. Students will observe a variety of bird foods, collect insects and plant native wildflowers that will provide food for birds. They will also go on a bird-watching hike through the forest, meadow, and wetland habitats at Paradise Creek Nature Park.
IDEAL GROUPS
20-60, Prek-12th grade students
Public, Private, and Homeschools
Youth Organizations and Scouts

SAFETY
The park will remain open to the public during field trips. One chaperone or teacher per 10 students is recommended

PROGRAM TIMES
Fall 2023: September 18-December 8
Spring 2024: April 8-June 7
1.5 Hour programs, 10 am—11:30, option to stay for lunch at picnic pavilion

TO SCHEDULE
Sarah McBride smcbride@elizabethriver.org
757-377-7531
Helpful information to provide when scheduling:
   a. How many students
   b. Grade level of students
   c. Season or month interested in
   d. Name of school and your contact info.

TEACHER RESOURCES
Additional activities are available at www.elizabethriver.org

WHAT TO BRING
Sunscreen, water bottle, hat, jacket/raincoat, closed toed shoes that can get dirty, bug spray, allergy & other medication needs

PRICE
Sliding Scale-you choose. $10-$15 per student. Please contact Sarah McBride to discuss pricing questions. Financial assistance and Title 1 pricing may be available. We will do our best to work with your budget.

WEATHER
Programs will be rescheduled in the event of inclement weather. We will contact you a day before to discuss if inclement weather is forecasted.

LOCATION
1009 Victory Blvd
Portsmouth, VA 23702

SNAIL MAIL THE EDUCATORS
Students are encouraged to SNAIL MAIL the park staff by writing a letter and sharing what they will do to support a healthy park and river.

MORE INFORMATION: Sarah McBride, Park & School Outreach Coordinator, smcbride@elizabethriver.org
Students rotate through multidisciplinary learning stations that:

- are designed to excite youth about their home river;
- offer an opportunity to discover and explore;
- are research-based utilizing real-world restoration projects;
- utilize critical thinking and problem-solving to stimulate senses and spark curiosity;
- foster a generation of stewards empowered to care for the Elizabeth River.

Curriculum addresses Virginia Standards of Learning in science, language arts, math, history and art. Program begins with a research question and concludes with reflection.

THANK YOU FOR MAKING THIS PROGRAM POSSIBLE:
- Bank of America,
- Beazley Foundation, Inc.,
- Cox Foundation,
- Dollar Tree Foundation,
- Dominion Energy,
- Hampton Roads Community Foundation,
- NOAA BWET
- Virginia DCR

MORE INFORMATION: Sarah McBride, Park & School Outreach Coordinator, smcbride@elizabethriver.org
elizabethriver.org