

# WELCOME TO PARADISE CREEK NATURE PARK



2023-2024

## Our Elizabeth River, Our Responsibility

**MISSION:** Making restoration of the Elizabeth River a reality.

### An Urban Oasis

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.

### 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](mailto:smcbride@elizabethriver.org)

## OUR ELIZABETH RIVER, OUR RESPONSIBILITY

Students are divided into small groups and rotate through four learning stations performing hands-on activities including: testing water quality, using dichotomous keys, identifying native and invasive species and observing building design for resilience.

### Students will:

- Explore many of the park's resilient features
- Learn about native plants that will benefit the park's birds and wildlife and help remove invasive plants as a stewardship activity
- Test the river's water quality, record results and learn how climate change and sea level rise can impact the river's water quality
- Measure tree species to determine how much carbon is being captured and how trees help us to be resilient to sea level rise

## 3RD-12TH GRADES

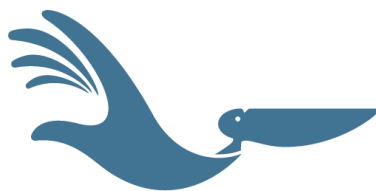
This hands-on, multi-disciplinary program complements Virginia SOLs and provides students the opportunity become river stewards as they learn about resilience.



## JUNIOR ORNITHOLOGISTS PREK-2ND GRADE

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.





## ELIZABETH RIVER PROJECT

### 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](mailto:smcbride@elizabethriver.org)

757-377-7531

**Helpful information** to provide when scheduling:

- How many students
- Grade level of students
- Season or month interested in
- Name of school and your contact info.

### TEACHER RESOURCES

Additional activities are available at [www.elizabethriver.org](http://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.



The Elizabeth River Project  
5205 Colley Ave.  
Norfolk, VA 23508

**MORE INFORMATION:** Sarah McBride, Park & School Outreach Coordinator, [smcbride@elizabethriver.org](mailto:smcbride@elizabethriver.org)

# VIRGINIA STANDARDS OF LEARNING

**SCIENCE:** **K:** 1, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10 **1:** 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 **2:** 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 **3:** 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11  
**4:** 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 **5:** 1, 4, 5, 6, 7 **6:** 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 **LS:** 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14.  
**PS:** 1, 2, 5, 6, 10, 11 **ES:** 1, 2, 3, 4, 11, 13 **BIOLOGY:** 1, 5, 8, 9

**MATH:****K:** 6, 8, 10, 13 **1:** 2, 5, 14 **2:** 1, 3, 5, 6, 14 **3:** 1, 3, 4, 13 **4:** 1, 4, 6, 7, 8, 13 **5:** 1, 2, 4, 5 **6:** 2, 6  
**7:** 3 **8:** 3

**HISTORY:** **K:** 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9 **1:** 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12 **2:** 3, 5, 6, 7, 10 **3:** 2, 4, 6, 7, 8 **VS:** 1, 2.  
**GEOGRAPHY:** 1, 2

**LANGUAGE ARTS:** **K:** 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 10 **1:** 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 11, 12 **2:** 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11 **3:** 1, 2, 5, 6  
**4:** 1, 2, 3 **5:** 1, 2 **6:** 1 **7:** 1 **8:** 7

**ART:****K:** 2, 3, 4, 7, 13, 15 **1:** 1, 4, 5, 9, 12, 13, 15, 17 **2:** 5, 6, 9, 15, 17 **3:** 1, 4, 5, 7, 12 **4:** 1, 3, 5, 11  
**5:** 1, 5, 7, 9, 11 **6:** 7, 9 **7:** 9, 10 **8:** 9

**PRESCHOOL:** Preschool activities reflect VA Foundation Blocks for Early Learning

## 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY SKILLS

**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.



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PROJECT

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NATURE PARK

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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

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