

# WELCOME TO PARADISE CREEK NATURE PARK



**MISSION:** To restore the Elizabeth River through equitable collaboration with diverse communities, businesses, and governments.

## 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 the 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 firsthand how wildlife can thrive in an urban setting while learning how they can play a role in the Elizabeth River's restoration.

2024-2025

## The Blocker Program for Excellence in Environmental Education

### 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 flooding and sea level rise and what can I do to help?”*



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

## The Blocker Program for Excellence in Environmental Education

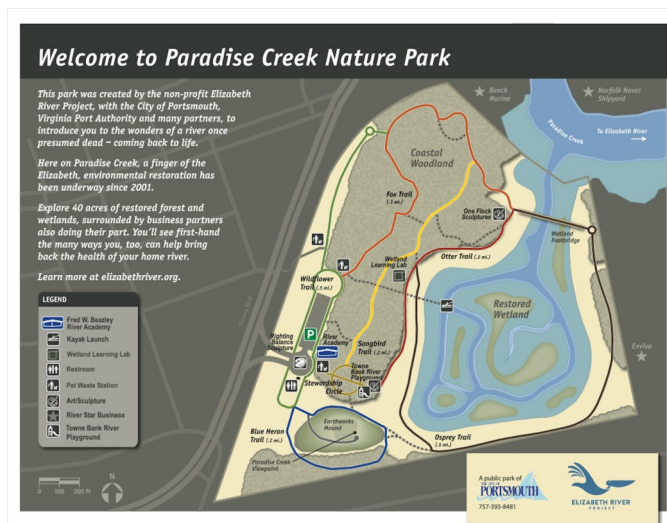
## 3<sup>RD</sup>—12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

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

### Students will:

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

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

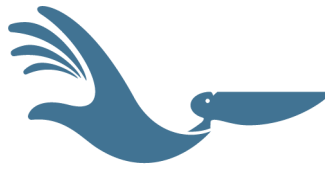


## JUNIOR ORNITHOLOGY

## PreK—2<sup>ND</sup> GRADE

Students will become junior ornithologists as they engage in various scientific investigations to learn about the physical characteristics that classify birds. Students will get hands-on with bird feathers, eggs, and nests to answer the question, "What makes a bird a bird?" Junior ornithologists will gain an understanding of how to watch for birds and identify them by sight, sound, and silhouette. They will observe a variety of bird foods, collect insects, and play games to practice their identification skills. They will also go on a bird-watching hike through Paradise Creek Nature Park's forest, meadow, and wetland habitats.





## 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 2024: September 9<sup>th</sup>—December 6<sup>th</sup>
- Spring 2025: March 31<sup>st</sup>—June 6<sup>th</sup>
- 1.5 Hour programs, 10:00-11:30, option to stay for lunch at picnic pavilion

## TO SCHEDULE

Sarah McBride  
smcbride@elizabethriver.org  
757-828-4932

**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-toe 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 rescheduling if inclement weather is forecasted.

## PARK LOCATION

1009 Victory Blvd  
Portsmouth, VA 23702

## SNAIL MAIL THE EDUCATORS

Students are encouraged to write a letter to park staff, sharing what they will do to support a healthy park and river.



The Elizabeth River Project  
4610 Colley Avenue  
Norfolk, VA 23508

# VIRGINIA STANDARDS OF LEARNING

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

**MATH:** **K:** NS.1, NS.2, MG.1, PS.1    **1:** NS.1, MG.1, PS.1    **2:** NS.1, MG.1    **3:** NS.1, MG.1, PS.1    **4:** NS.1, PS.1  
**5:** NS.1, PS.1    **6:** NS.2, PS.1    **7:** NS.2, PS.2    **8:** NS.1, PS.2

**HISTORY:** **K:** 1, 3, 5, 6, 7    **1:** 1, 3    **2:** 4, 11, 13    **3:** 3    **VA Studies:** 1, 13  
**US History I:** 2    **US History II:** 9    **Civics:** 7    **World Geography:** 1, 2, 15, 16,

**LANGUAGE ARTS:** **K:** 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 12    **1:** 1, 2, 4, 7, 14    **2:** 1, 2, 6, 12    **3:** 1, 2, 4, 8, 10  
**4:** 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9    **5:** 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9    **6:** 1, 2, 4, 6, 7    **7:** 1, 2, 6, 7    **8:** 1, 4, 6, 7    **9:** 1, 3, 5, 6  
**10:** 1, 3, 5, 6    **11:** 1, 3, 6    **12:** 1, 3, 5, 6

**ART:** **K:** 3, 8, 10, 13,    **1:** 3, 13    **2:** 3, 7    **3:** 3, 4, 7    **4:** 3, 5  
**5:** 3, 5    **6:** 3, 4, 5, 6, 11    **7:** 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 14    **8:** 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11

**PRESCHOOL:** Preschool activities reflect VA's Early Learning & Development Standards.

## 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 a reflection.



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PROJECT

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### THANK YOU FOR MAKING THIS PROGRAM POSSIBLE:

- ◆ The Blocker Foundation
  - ◆ Bank of America
  - ◆ Beazley Foundation
  - ◆ Cox Foundation
- ◆ Dollar Tree Foundation
  - ◆ Dominion Energy
- ◆ National Fish & Wildlife Foundation
- ◆ National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
  - ◆ TC Energy
- ◆ Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation

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