



CLAY PIT PONDS STATE PARK PRESERVE



NEW YORK
STATE OF
OPPORTUNITY

Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation

GROUP PROGRAMS 2021–2022



BOOK A PROGRAM

You are invited to bring your group on a field trip to **Clay Pit Ponds State Park Preserve!**

Who?

Any group leader can book a private program with us; including classroom and homeschool teachers, scout and club leaders. For most programs, we can host up to 60 participants. To ensure that all NYC residents have equal access to a guided forest experience, our programs are **FREE** of charge.

What?

We teach hands-on **environmental education** programming for NYC residents in order to connect people to nature and foster stewardship of our environment.

Where?

Clay Pit Ponds State Park Preserve is a 265-acre forest containing habitats unique to New York State and over 160 species of birds. Nestled amongst this urban greenspace is the **Nature Interpretive Center** which provides an indoor area for conducting a wide variety of programs and classes.

Transportation Grants

The Connect-Kids-to-Parks Field Trip Grant Program is designed to connect students in NYS with nature and history. Each grant provides reimbursement of up to \$40 per student (and \$80 for Special Education students) for field trips to state and federal parks, forests, historic sites, fish hatcheries, and outdoor recreation areas. Learn more by visiting: <https://parks.ny.gov/environment/connect-kids/grant-program.aspx>

When?

Programming is offered year-round. Our hours are **Tuesdays through Saturdays, 8:30 am—5:00 pm.**



PROGRAMS

Nature Explorers

Get outside and experience the forest!

- All ages, best for young students and those with special needs
- April—October
- Outdoor only, up to 1-mile hike



Maple Syrup Science

Learn about the entire process of creating maple syrup, from tap to table, and help us make some of our own!

- All ages
- January—February
- Indoor & outdoor activities, up to 1/2-mile hike



Tree Huggers

Learn about trees' needs and the different types of trees that grow in our Park. Make a leaf rubbing to take home!

- All ages
- May—early November
- Indoor OR outdoor, up to 1-mile hike



Farm Tour

Tour the historic Gericke Farm and learn what it takes to grow food. The farm includes a 1/2 acre vegetable patch, greenhouse, orchard, and chicken coop.

- All ages, limit 30 participants
- April—October 2022
- Outdoor only



Animal Detectives

Search for clues that wildlife leave behind. What do animals need to survive in the forest?

- Grades K–2, ages 7 & younger
- Year-round
- Outdoor only, up to 1-mile hike

Brave Birds

Appreciate the marvel of migration and learn about how humans affect global populations of birds.

- Grades 3–6, ages 8–13, limit 30 participants
- October, early November, late March, April, & May
- Indoor & outdoor activities, up to 1/2-mile hike

Adapt to Survive

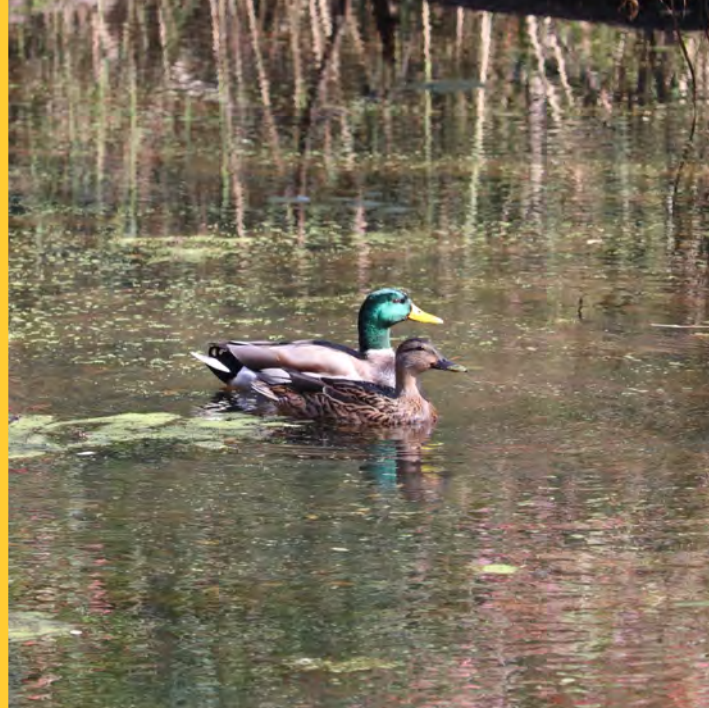
Why do roses have thorns? Why do ducks have webbed feet? Discover these answers and more in this adaptation-focused lesson.

- Grades 3–5, ages 8–10
- Year-round
- Indoor & outdoor activities, up to 1/2-mile hike

Navigating Naturalists

Hunt for treasure and learn to navigate our trails using various types of maps.

- Grades 3–8, ages 8–13
- March–November
- Indoor & outdoor activities, up to 1-mile hike



Invasive Species Solutions

Learn about the damage that invasive species do to our Preserve and solutions to this issue.

- Grades 6–12, ages 11 & up
- Year-round
- Outdoor only, up to 1 mile hike

Oh, Deer!

The deer on Staten Island love our Park! Observe the effects of overpopulation.

- Grades 6–12, ages 11 & up
- Year-round
- Outdoor only, 1 mile hike

Math Trails

Hike the Clay Pit math trail! Can you solve it all?

- Grades 6–12, ages 11 & up
- Year-round
- Outdoor only, 1 mile hike

History Hike

Learn about the history of Clay Pit Ponds State Park Preserve.

- Grades 6–12, ages 11 & up
- Year-round
- Indoor OR outdoor, up to 1-mile hike

Pond Investigators

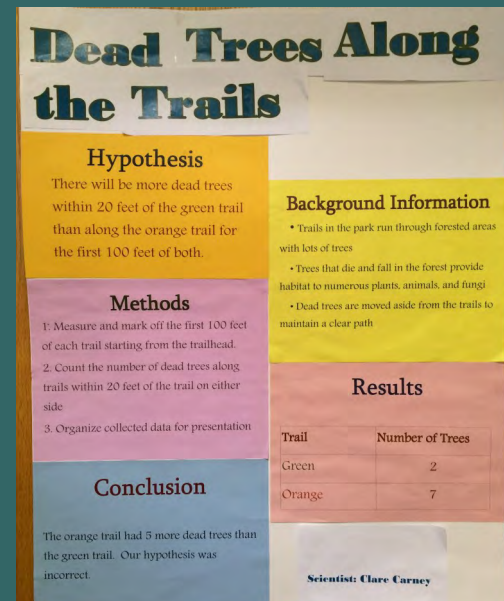
Become a community scientist! Conduct a field study to test the health of our ponds.

- Grades 8–12, ages 13 and up
- April–July
- Outdoor only, up to 1/2 mile hike



Explore Other Options...

- **An Inquiry into the Scientific Method:** complete the steps of the scientific method in this 4-part lesson. On day 1, make observations and ask a question. On day 2, gather more information, form a testable hypothesis, and design an experiment. On day 3, conduct the experiment and analyze results. On day 4, report your results to the class and audience in a mini-poster session.
- **Agents of Discovery hike:** combine technology with nature through an augmented reality nature quest through our trails.
- **Food web demonstration:** build a food web in an interactive game and then hike to observe the web of life at Clay Pit!
- **Art in the Park:** write poems, stories, sketch, or paint out on the trails.
- **Topic specific program:** do a deep dive into a specific environmental topic such as pollination, reduce/reuse/recycle, climate change, and more!



Clay Pit Volunteer Stewardship Workshops



Interested in stewardship? Want to learn more about taking care of your parks? Small groups or individual teens & adults can volunteer with us!

- Trail work
- Invasive plant removal
- Animal enrichment
- Maple sap collection
- Gardening
- Litter removal
- Building native bee hotels & bird feeders
- And more!

VIRTUAL CONTENT

Want more supplemental materials?

- Check out our interactive virtual field trips! Each trip is self-guided and includes a powerpoint, videos, activities, and more! Email us for more information.
- Check out our YouTube page!

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbpimYxdEbtstVdAPJce6vQ>

SAFETY INFO

COVID-19 INFORMATION



State Parks staff are required to wear masks while indoors and when social distancing is not possible outside, i.e. while leading a hike, regardless of our vaccination status. We strongly encourage all participants at our programs to do the same. We follow all current guidelines required by the New York State Department of Health, which are subject to change.



TICK SAFETY

These programs have an outdoor component. Please dress for tick safety by wearing long pants, tall socks, and sneakers or boots. Bug spray may be provided. Educators discuss tick awareness during the events.



CANCELLATION POLICY

We reserve the right to cancel a program in the event of an emergency, weather-related or otherwise. Outdoor programs will be cancelled for the following reasons: temperatures below 25°F, heavy rain, lightning, thunder, high winds, or other extreme weather emergencies. If your program must be cancelled due to inclement weather, you will be contacted no later than 9:00 am on the morning of the program. You will be given the option to run an indoor program. Otherwise, available dates may be suggested for rescheduling.

“...environmental education has led to a number of positive impacts, from improving academic performance, to enhancing critical thinking skills, to developing personal growth and life-building skills including confidence, autonomy, and leadership.”

—North American Association for Environmental Education

“Must we always teach our children with books? Let them look at the stars and the mountains above. Let them look at the waters and the trees and flowers on Earth. Then they will begin to think, and to think is the beginning of a real education.”

—David Polis

CONTACT US!

CLAY PIT PONDS STATE PARK PRESERVE

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 <https://parks.ny.gov/parks/claypitponds/details.aspx>



Follow us on social media! @ClayPitPonds

TEACHER OPPORTUNITIES

- We offer teacher development workshops every Election Day and Anniversary Day
- If you would like to know which NYS learning standards your program meets, ASK US!

SCOUT OPPORTUNITIES

- Looking to earn a specific nature or outdoor scouts badge? Send us the requirements and we will work with your troop to create a unique program for you!
- We offer a Leave No Trace program for scouts! Learn more at <https://Int.org/>

