

Exciting New Teacher Resource!



Environmental Programs



Offered by the TOWN of BROOKHAVEN at

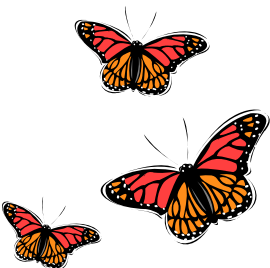
West Meadow Beach

Located in Old Field/Stony Brook, this Town Park is a local environmental treasure and the perfect outdoor classroom. With a mile stretch of LI Sound beach and acres of salt marsh, it is home to a diverse array of invertebrate, fish, and bird species, and is a protective sanctuary where horseshoe crabs, diamondback terrapins, and NYS endangered piping plovers breed.

For Grades 1- 12

**BEACH ECOLOGY
SALT MARSH ECOLOGY
ANIMAL ADAPTATIONS
CONSERVATION
NATURAL HISTORY**

All programs are age appropriate, include hands-on activities, and comply with NYS Learning Standards.



Programs are **FREE** for schools located in the Town of Brookhaven



See back for detailed descriptions of classes

Contact Eileen Gerle for more information or to book a class
631 751-7863 or egerle@brookhaven.org

TOWN of BROOKHAVEN

School Programs Offered at West Meadow Beach

Grades 1-3

Beach Buddy Bingo – Students buddy up for a scavenger hunt to explore West Meadow Beach, then examine their finds to determine what plants and animals live in Smithtown Bay and on West Meadow Beach. Seining activity included, weather permitting. 75 minutes.

NYS Standards - MST: Standard 1 – Scientific Inquiry; Standard 4 – Science, The Living Environment

Grades 4-12

Life Isn't Just Another Day at the Beach - Sun, wind, sand, and waves make for a great vacation, but for plants and animals living by the shore, they are no picnic. Discover what organisms inhabit the beach and intertidal zone, the challenges they face, and the adaptations that help them survive in this harsh environment. Seining and classification activities (older students) included. 90–120 minutes.

NYS Standards - MST: Standard 1 – Scientific Inquiry; Standard 4 – Science, Physical Setting, The Living Environment

Salt Marsh Ecology - Students use their five senses to experience a salt marsh, and discern why they are able to provide essential ecosystem services as habitat, nursery areas, pollution filters, and storm buffers. Includes a seining activity. Older students will classify specimens. 90-120 minutes.

NYS Standards - MST: Standard 1 – Scientific Analysis and Inquiry; Standard 4 – Science, Physical Setting, The Living Environment

Lovely Limulus – Ok, so horseshoe crabs (*Limulus polyphemus*) aren't lovely, but they are loveable! Students learn about these fascinating arthropods - adaptations that have helped them survive for over 300 million years; their importance in marine ecosystems (the shorebird connection); threats to their survival; and why our lives could depend on them. Older students will also analyze census data. 90-120 minutes.

NYS Standards - MST: Standard 1 – Mathematical and Scientific Inquiry; Standard 4 – Science, Physical Setting, The Living Environment

Monarch Motel (fall only) - Each fall, millions of monarch butterflies (*Danaus plexippus*) from North America and Canada, migrate up to 3000 miles to reach their winter roosts high in the mountain forests of central Mexico. Like any long distance traveler, they must stop along the way to rest and refuel. West Meadow Beach is a “monarch motel”, where many butterflies stop to feed before continuing their journey south. Students may witness this amazing phenomenon, as they learn about the threats faced by migrating animals, and the conservation efforts in place to help these intrepid insects. 75 minutes.

NYS Standards - MST: Standard 1 – Mathematical Analysis and Scientific Inquiry; Standard 2 – Information Systems; Standard 4 – Science, Physical Setting, The Living Environment; Standard 7 – Interdisciplinary Problem Solving, Connections

Grades 6-12

Oh Baby! (spring only) - Every spring and summer, West Meadow Beach becomes a nursery area for marine species, such as ospreys, piping plovers, diamondback terrapins, and horseshoe crabs. Students will hike along the beach to view nesting areas (from a discreet distance), as they learn about the breeding strategies employed by these animals, as well as threats to their survival and the conservation efforts used to help restore their numbers. Older students will also analyze recent census data. 90-120 minutes.

NYS Standards - MST: Standard 1 – Mathematical Analysis and Scientific Inquiry; Standard 4 – Science, Physical Setting, The Living Environment; Standard 6 – Interconnectedness: Common Themes, Patterns of Change; Standard 7 – Interdisciplinary Problem Solving, Connections

Programs are FREE for districts located in Town of Brookhaven – All other districts \$1 per student

Contact Eileen Gerle for more information or to book a class

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Mark J. Lesko, Supervisor
Steve Fiore-Rosenfeld, Council District 1 Jane Bonner, Council District 2 Kathleen Walsh, Council District 3
Constance M. Kepert, Council District 4 Timothy P. Mazzei, Council District 5 Daniel Panico, Council District 6
John Rouse, Superintendent of Highways Patricia A. Eddington, Town Clerk Louis J. Marcoccia, Receiver of Taxes