



National Parks of New York Harbor Education Center



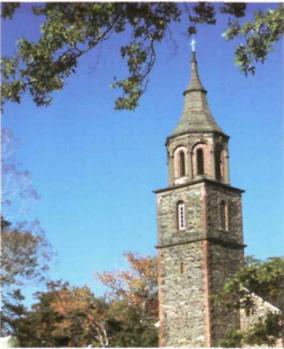
A Plan for the Future

Our Commitment

Society will only begin to discover, value, and protect the treasures found within the National Park System when it fully appreciates the relevance of these places to their lives.

Since first-hand knowledge can help promote a high level of commitment, the National Parks of New York Harbor (NPNH) has placed education among its top priorities. At a time when

communities are seeking opportunities for life-long learning, and school systems are challenged to provide teachers and students with essential skills, the National Park Service has pledged to create relevant and powerful experiences that educate, enrich and enlighten.



Our Challenge

The results of national scholastic testing can be sobering. Recent findings indicate that nearly 70% of inner city fourth graders are unable to read at a grade-appropriate level. Across the country, high school seniors trail behind students in Cyprus and South Africa on international math tests. And nearly a third of our nation's secondary school graduates require remedial support before they can begin standard college level courses.



With the need to recruit and train thousands of new teachers in the New York harbor region, school systems have redoubled their efforts to provide opportunities for training. This commitment to professional development is mirrored at schools nationwide.





National Park System Adventures Room—students explore their national treasures.

Our Vision

Engaging students of all ages with hands-on experiences is a primary goal of this model program. Some will work in the field collecting data and researching current environmental issues. Others will piece together the history of their communities through primary documents. To prepare for their roles as decision-makers and active citizens, many program participants will work side by side with National Park Service professionals, gaining new skills and insights through internships. To promote healthy lifestyles, students will be encouraged to take part in physical activities - from simulated archeological digs to seining in Jamaica Bay.

Through the NPNH Education Center and related programming, the National Park Service is investing in education and in the future of its parks in ways that are real and measurable.

Our Resources

Located in the heart of the nation's largest urban area, this consortium of National Park Sites surround one of the busiest harbors in the world. Much more than vibrant natural habitats or bricks and mortar, these sites are touchstones that can inspire, motivate and foster life-long learning in people of all ages and backgrounds. Like the patches on a quilt, each site recounts its own unique story that, when woven together, help illustrate our nation's rich heritage.

Our Goals

Through this dynamic initiative, the National Park Service will make a significant investment in both people and parks. As a result, the public will benefit from new educational programming, develop an appreciation for natural and cultural resources, learn to make informed decisions, take positive steps toward solving resource problems, and move towards a conservation ethic.



Our Mission

The establishment of the National Parks of New York Harbor Education Center at Fort Wadsworth, in

concert with a system of companion facilities throughout the area, will position the Harbor Parks as both a key provider of educational programming and a dynamic community partner.

Through the development of innovative programs and alliances, the NPNH Education Center will:

- Integrate local and national resources within a comprehensive educational delivery system
- Enhance the quality of public education for all students
- Provide life-long learning to the broadest possible audience
- Foster stewardship of the land and its natural and historic resources

*In the end, we will conserve
only what we love.*

*We will only love
what we understand.*

*We will understand
only what we are taught.*

— BABA DIOUM
SENEGALESE POET



Our Response

NPNH has the potential to engage teachers, children, families, conservation professionals, and others in learning about the Harbor Parks, the National Park System, and the importance of stewardship. These resources — which include almost 27,000 acres of parkland — can also enhance the quality of education and bolster national efforts to raise levels of student achievement, particularly in mathematics and the sciences. To support experienced educators, as well as those new to the profession, NPS provides access to experts in a variety of disciplines including science, history, archaeology, and anthropology.

Taking on the fundamental roles of educator and community resource, NPNH will build on existing collaborations with schools and other not-for-profit organizations by creating new alliances, and by establishing the NPNH Education Center at Fort Wadsworth, on Staten Island. The Center has the capacity to serve a wide range of audiences through on-site programming and distance learning at NPS and other sites. This expanded “campus” includes 17 field locations throughout the NPNH, and will offer National Park experiences to millions of urban residents who otherwise might miss this enriching opportunity.



Students uncover the rich history of the area using oral histories, artifacts, and engaging in role-play scenarios.

National Parks of New York Harbor

- CASTLE CLINTON NATIONAL MONUMENT at Battery Park, an 1811 harbor fortification
- ELLIS ISLAND IMMIGRATION MUSEUM documents immigrants' experience at Ellis as well as the history of immigration in the United States.
- FEDERAL HALL NATIONAL MEMORIAL at 26 Wall Street, the site of George Washington's first inauguration
- GATEWAY NATIONAL RECREATION AREA, 26,000 acres of open beaches, scenic bays, lush marshes, wooded uplands, and historic sites
- GENERAL GRANT NATIONAL MEMORIAL, the final resting place of Ulysses and Julia Grant is located on the upper West Side.
- GOVERNORS ISLAND NATIONAL MONUMENT, featuring historic Fort Jay and Castle Williams, has only recently been designated as a National Park Service site. Though not currently open to the public, NPS plans to present and interpret these forts, which were originally part of the harbor defense system.
- HAMILTON GRANGE NATIONAL MEMORIAL, Alexander Hamilton's country home
- LOWER EAST SIDE TENEMENT NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE, an NPS affiliate, interprets immigrant and migrant experiences in this quintessential New York neighborhood
- ST. PAUL'S CHURCH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE, 18th century church, once a military hospital and a burying ground for soldiers following the Revolutionary War battle at Pell's Point
- STATUE OF LIBERTY NATIONAL MONUMENT, on Liberty Island, a universal symbol of freedom
- THEODORE ROOSEVELT BIRTHPLACE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE, the reconstructed boyhood home of our 26th president





National Parks of New York Harbor Education Center

Our Plan

The **National Parks of New York Harbor Education Center** is designed to stimulate inquiry and challenge participants to become involved in the protection and preservation of the Harbor Parks. The Education Center, in conjunction with other Harbor Parks components, will serve a wide-range of audiences --educators, students of all ages, preservation, conservation and education professionals, National Park Service staff, families and local residents.

Programs and facilities will:

- Emphasize applied research and its relevance to visitors' daily lives
- Focus on student-centered learning, with teachers serving as facilitators
- Recognize and respect a variety of learning styles
- Promote opportunities for life-long learning with special emphasis on professional development
- Utilize new and emerging technologies and employ sustainable practices

The Center will provide a prologue to the educational programming presented throughout the Harbor Parks system. Partnerships - such as the Gateway Environmental Study Center with the New York City Board of Education -- will serve as models for future collaborations with schools, museums and other organizations, and will play a key role in Center activities.

Guiding Principles

The Harbor Parks Education Center at Fort Wadsworth will serve the American public as:

- An "idea factory" where NPS staff and educators design, develop, evaluate and implement innovative education programs
- A "living laboratory" where professionals study and promote environmental, historic and cultural education
- A community center where the public learns how to best protect and conserve natural systems and cultural resources
- A model educational facility, reaching out to diverse and under-represented groups by tailoring programs to their interests and needs
- A training center for Service and non-service personnel



As an “idea factory” and demonstration center, the Education Center at Fort Wadsworth will collaborate with other NPS/community model facilities including:

- Massachusetts’ Tsongas Industrial History Center, Lowell National Historical Park
- Cuyahoga Valley National Park Environmental Center, Ohio
- Pennsylvania’s Pocono Environmental Education Center, Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area
- Crissy Field Center, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, San Francisco

The Center will initiate programs with area museums such as the American Museum of Natural History, the Museum of Modern Art, the National Museum of the American Indian, and the Cooper-Hewitt Design Museum. The Snug Harbor Cultural Center, the Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences, and the soon to be developed National Light House Museum will also become valuable partners in education.

Life-long Learning: The public's growing interest in life-long learning presents many challenges for the National Park Service. The Education Center and the Harbor Parks can respond by offering a broad range of programs, events, workshops, elderhostels and activities throughout the metropolitan area. By opening the door to life-long learning, the Center will serve as a valuable resource for the local community, broadening experiences for adult students at every stage in their lives.

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National Parks of New York Harbor Education Center

Harbor Parks Education Center Development

The Education Center is designed to inspire a more involved, active, and aware citizenry by encouraging visitors to make discoveries about their environment. Participants will investigate concepts and issues through first-hand experiences, and incorporate new knowledge into their lives -- a crucial step in the learning process for people of every age, interest, ability, background, and learning style.

The best education programs merge hands-on experiences with timely resource information and interactive teaching methods. The Center will enhance public education by offering authentic park experiences and providing links to the entire NPS System. By investing in this program, the Service can convey its mission to a significant segment of the American public.

Special emphasis will be placed on serving schools and building community participation in the protection of park and community resources. Partnerships with educational groups, special interest organizations and academic institutions will expand program offerings and staff expertise.

Having access to an array of materials and technology will give staff the tools necessary for developing solid, creative programs. The Center will also offer training for NPS staff, with a strong focus on managing and evaluating programs targeted for urban audiences and other under-served populations. The many NPS locations in and around cities will benefit from the programs developed at the National Parks of New York Harbor.

By utilizing visual, auditory, and kinesthetic/tactile elements, Center programs will stimulate inquiry and tap into the particular learning style of each participant. The overall atmosphere of the facility will be fun and inviting, and will encourage repeat visitation.

Programs and exhibits will immerse participants in sensory-rich experiences that bolster active interdisciplinary and cooperative learning. Programs will be designed for children K-12, as well as for college students, with an initial emphasis on grades 4-6. Every aspect of the experience -- from the "Wonders of Water" orientation to the "Learning Lunchroom" -- will reinforce the concept of sustainability. Participants will understand how humans impact their surroundings, learn to measure these impacts over time, and recognize how choices affect the environment.



Professional Development. The Center will work with universities, offices of education, and school districts to aid in the training of teachers in the areas of science, math and social studies. Direct collaboration with the New York City, New Jersey, Connecticut and Long Island Boards of Education will greatly expand opportunities for professional development.

The Center will reach teachers through institutes, workshops, in-service training, and orientations. A variation on this training will be available for those teachers who cannot bring their classes to the Center, but plan to integrate methods and materials into their lessons. Courses will complement school curriculum, translating abstract concepts into "real life" applications. Further, opportunities for interns and docents will offer in-depth experience, expand career horizons, and provide additional staffing for Center programs.

By expanding partnerships with area educational institutions, and training teachers and NPS staff to utilize all available resources, NPNH can double the current number of teachers and students served to as many as 140,000 participants. Clearly, preservation and conservation awareness will grow as educators return to school to share their knowledge and experiences with students.

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National Parks of New York Harbor Education Center

The National Parks of New York Harbor: A Portal to the National Park System

The National Park System includes more than 80 million acres of the country's most exquisite landscapes, expansive recreation areas, and important cultural sites. From Redwood National Park's majestic Sequoias to the hallowed grounds of Gettysburg National Battlefield, from Acadia's noble Mt. Cadillac to the breathtaking beauty of the Grand Canyon, each National Park represents a significant part of our country's heritage.

The National Park System embodies a diverse assemblage of more than 380 natural and historic areas, each with a unique story to share. Yet many urban residents are unaware of or simply do not take advantage of the programs and services offered by the National Park Service.

Through aggressive outreach and compelling programming, the NPNH will introduce area residents to those National Parks located right in their backyards, as well as link these sites to other parks around the country.

National Parks of New York Harbor: Parks as Classrooms

The Statue of Liberty National Monument has been standing guard in New York Harbor since the French presented her to the American people in 1886. A universal symbol of freedom, the Statue of Liberty National Monument is sometimes regarded as little more than a tourist destination offering magnificent views of the harbor. Yet those who delve into her history receive lessons about an enduring friendship between nations, the complexity of her construction and installation by the Franco-American Union, and the restoration completed in 1986, her centennial year. "Lady Liberty" has inspired countless individuals including poet Emma Lazarus whose words, "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to be free." grace this spectacular monument.

Exhibits housed within the statue's base present the details of her design, construction and restoration. A special area displays the effects of patination (oxidation or coloration) of the copper "skin." Students at any grade level can discuss the universal themes of liberty, independence, and human rights.



The Ellis Island Immigration Museum, devoted to the immigrant experience, is also located on a harbor island. Abandoned as an immigration center in 1954, the National Park Service carefully restored the site, converting it to a museum in 1990. The Ellis Island National Monument serves as a reminder of the many millions who passed through its halls to begin their lives as part of America's great melting pot.

The Museum presents many themes, including the causes and effects of world migration patterns; the impact of cultural immigration waves on the settling of America; and the resulting diversity of our states, regions, cities and communities. Here, visitors have the opportunity to delve into local history, explore neighborhoods and conduct genealogical research. By retracing their ancestors' steps, museum-goers can better understand America as it is today.

Located at the tip of Manhattan in Battery Park, the 1811 **Castle Clinton National Monument** was originally constructed as part of the harbor fortification. Later, this structure served as Castle Gardens -- a popular theater -- and prior to the completion of Ellis Island, as an immigration center. From 1896–1941, Castle Clinton served as home to the renowned New York Aquarium.

Today, visitors can view nearby Governor's Island, also part of the harbor defense, from this newly restored fortification. Castle Clinton National Monument invites discussion of the War of 1812, early commerce, industry, and shipping and transportation.

The 1842 Subtreasury Building, known as the **Federal Hall National Memorial**, is located at 26 Wall Street in lower Manhattan. George Washington was sworn in as America's first president at this site, and the first United States Congress met and passed the Bill of Rights there. Federal Hall is the third edifice built at this historic location. A statue of Washington by John Quincy Adams Ward -- erected in 1883 at the site of the original inauguration ceremony -- stands prominently at the entrance.

Federal Hall is a catalyst for conversations about the evolution of the federal government, the passage of the Bill of Rights, and of course, Washington, his military career and his role as the fledgling nation's first president. The Subtreasury building and its proximity to the New York Stock Exchange can inspire a discussion about the stock market and its influence on the world economy and the development of the American monetary system.

Situated at 97 Orchard Street, the **Lower East Side Tenement National Historic Site**, an affiliate of the National Park Service, tells the stories of the immigrant experience after Ellis Island. Issues that have profoundly affected immigrants past and present -- including acculturation, urban housing, labor and welfare -- are explored here.

Living-quarters appear much as they would have more than eighty years ago, while diaries and correspondence chronicle the lives of some of the building's former residents. Museum programs include living history--where students may encounter interpreters portraying immigrant families who lived in the building in 1916 -- and walking tours of this multi-ethnic neighborhood.

The Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace National Historic Site is located at 28 East 20th Street. "Teedie" as Roosevelt was known as a child, lived here until his early teen years. This 1923 reconstruction contains five period rooms largely furnished with original family furniture, as well as exhibit galleries that trace TR's remarkable story from his earliest years, through careers in ranching and the military, to his presidency.

Roosevelt signed into law The Antiquities Act of 1906, an important milestone in historic preservation and a precursor to the National Park Service. This pivotal moment in American history can lead to an excellent exchange on conservation, preservation and the development of the National Park Service. Our 26th President's rich and varied life as a writer, conservationist, politician and outdoorsman provides much substance for discussion and debate.

Located on the upper West Side, **The General Grant National Memorial**, is the final resting place of our 18th president, Ulysses S. Grant, and his wife, Julia Dent Grant. It was as Union Commander that Grant, considered the first modern general, brought the Civil War to its end. Allowing the defeated Confederate Soldiers to keep their horses and possessions was one of Grant's many benevolent gestures.

During his presidency, Grant began the reparation of the South and created Yellowstone -- our country's first National Park. These bold acts of compassion and insight not only help visitors examine the Civil War and its aftermath in a different light, but set in motion our nation's systematic preservation of public lands.

The Alexander Hamilton National Historic Site, Hamilton's country residence, was named "the Grange" after his family's ancestral home. The 1801 frame structure survived a move almost eighty years later to its present site at 141st Street and Convent Avenue. This gracious house contains some of its original furnishings.

Hamilton, as the first Secretary of the Treasury, is credited with many of the ideas used to develop the modern American economic system. Visitor discussions may focus on economics, banking and trading, the evolution of the federal government, Hamilton's infamous duel with Aaron Burr and the development of the Federalist ideal.

St. Paul's Church National Historic Site, located in Mt. Vernon, New York, was utilized as both a military hospital and a burying ground for Revolutionary War soldiers. The war ravaged this Westchester community, with Patriots and Loyalists fighting in what amounted to a local "civil war."

Visitors will be encouraged to probe this bitter conflict between the Patriots and Loyalists and examine the Revolutionary War from the perspective of the Continental Army - a battered battalion forced to use any means available to gain independence for the American colonists.

Looking much like a string of emeralds adorning the outer harbor, the **Gateway National Recreation Area** spans the coastal zone of one of the most dense and highly developed commercial and industrial areas in the world. Gateway's shoreline -- the grassy fields, uplands and wooded habitats of Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island and New Jersey -- create wonderful outdoor "classrooms" for people to enjoy, year-round. At Gateway, urban students have the chance to feel the salt spray, hear the wind blowing through the tall grasses, discover the natural world around them, explore historic structures, and see the Atlantic horizon, perhaps for the first time. Gateway's habitats also provide an excellent example of restoration ecology. They serve as the ideal backdrop for studying the interrelationships between natural systems and intense urban development.

Teachers can use the park's underlying themes as the foundation of an interdisciplinary program. Students can observe, analyze, research and interpret the complex interrelationships within the natural and built environments. Through science, mathematics, communications, the visual arts, music, and social studies, students will better understand how responses vary among people. This living laboratory will provide opportunities for people from all backgrounds to become involved in research, restoration and preservation of a very diverse set of cultural and natural resources.

New York Harbor has been protected since the 17th century. Newly created as a National Park site, **Governor's Island National Monument** includes Fort Jay and Castle William, both originally part of the system of harbor fortification. Castle William, for example, was developed for the War of 1812.

As time and technology advanced, the system of fortification became more elaborate, moving from line-of-site warfare to air and even missile defense, and eventually resulting in the establishment of the Floyd Bennett and Miller airfields. By tracing the development of harbor fortification and the growth of international trade, students will recognize the changes that technology has introduced.

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National Parks of New York Harbor Education Center

The NPNH Education Network

The NPNH Education Center at Fort Wadsworth occupies a former army barracks at the anchorage of the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge on Staten Island. Newly renovated at a cost of \$2.5 million, the 20,000 square-foot facility offers spectacular views of the Bridge and Fort Wadsworth. The Center, climate-controlled for year-round use, houses:

- The Wonder of Water orientation area
- Four interactive learning spaces
- A professional resource room and library
- A National Park Adventures Room equipped with a multi-media/video conferencing area
- A Learning Lunchroom
- Administrative offices

These flowing open spaces permit multiple workshops to take place simultaneously.

Satellite Field Stations

In addition to the Education Center, several satellite Field Stations will be designed as indoor/outdoor laboratory spaces for students and scientists:

Located on Staten Island, **The Education Field Station at Great Kills Park** offers students and teachers the chance to explore the coastal environment and participate in activities that will reinforce concepts learned in the school setting. The natural outdoor classroom surrounding the field station provides the perfect setting for interaction with the area's abundant resources.

What could be more exciting for kids than a fully equipped laboratory nestled within an ecosystem? Collecting samples of fresh and salt water, and investigating the dunes and uplands, students will compare and contrast findings and learn first-hand how ecosystems work. A remote data collection system at the freshwater pond permits four season monitoring of vital signs such as temperature and dissolved oxygen. This data will enable the Park -- and the youngsters themselves -- to observe and manage the area and to predict changes.



The Field Station's full-length windows provide a constant visual connection to its natural surroundings. For the casual visitor or passerby, the windows afford a glimpse of education in action -- one of the most important offerings of the National Park Service.

Generating awareness about natural and cultural resources can have a positive and long-term impact on the health and sustainability of the National Park System. The **Sandy Hook Learning Center** based in Fort Hancock, New Jersey, will focus on four primary themes -- the formation of the barrier peninsula by natural forces, its role in coastal navigation, the story of the first US Army Proving Ground, and the history of harbor defense. An impressive variety of programs will be offered here, including oceanography, geology, and marine and environmental studies.

Jamaica Bay Learning Center (JBLC) for Applied Research in Urban Ecology, now under development, JBLC is part of the National Park Service's nation-wide effort to bridge education and research. By providing more opportunities for scientists to study the many resources found in our national parks, JBLC can increase the understanding of these incredible living laboratories. Making the findings from this research readily available will help the public better understand key conservation and preservation issues. JBLC will focus on ecosystem restoration, sustainability and the improvement of urban life. The New York metropolitan area in general, and Jamaica Bay in particular, are ideal "workshops" through which to address these issues.

The National Park Service Center for Environmental Innovation will be located at Gateway, with its primary focus on Jamaica Bay. This center will offer practical demonstrations of alternative energy, transportation, and sustainable design and development. As a model 'center for excellence in sustainability,' NPS will highlight operations that integrate sustainable practices such as the use of green products in maintenance and construction, the utilization of electric and energy efficient park vehicles, experimentation with wind turbines, and the removal of all above and below ground petroleum storage tanks on Gateway lands.

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National Parks of New York Harbor Education Center

NPNH Education Center Learning Environments

A topographical model of the New York Harbor will orient learners to the area. This 1,600 square foot entryway also introduces visitors to water -- the primary element linking the Harbor Parks. Here, carpeted seating platforms representing the Harbor and Harbor Islands will feature markers denoting the contours of the land and their position in the water.

Marine Ecology Workshop.

Watching waves as they form, flow, crash, then recede, is one of the most puzzling and intriguing aspects of shoreline dynamics. Working as scientists, participants in the Marine Ecology Workshop will dive into the mechanics of waves, hypothesize about their origins and paths, and examine research findings collected throughout the park. This data will allow students to apply the principles and concepts learned in school to real-life situations. For example, using models of jetties and piers, participants can analyze shoreline dynamics at Sandy Hook and create models for the future. A Geographic Information System (GIS) station will enable students to use current technologies to understand the integration of natural systems.

Coastal Defense Workshop

Protecting one of the world's busiest ports has challenged American military leaders for centuries.

The 1,565 square foot Coastal Defense Workshop will house durable, custom-made interactive teaching aids, such as models of forts, bridges, piers and an 1812 replica cannon. Students will learn how the effects of fortification and the commercial use of New York Harbor have evolved over the centuries.

Participants will recreate the defense systems and technology of the past and explore the broader issues of national defense in the 21st century. Computers and software will allow students to examine these defense systems in a more dynamic way. Video conferencing and Internet hookups will help visitors communicate with groups studying other harbors, across America and around the globe.

In order to understand their significance, students will compare, contrast and analyze the effects that fortification and commercialism has had on our harbors. After testing their results, participants will be able to predict future changes and impacts on the Harbor. Visitors will also study key landmarks such as the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge, a dominant architectural feature of the region.



Metropolitan Communities Workshop.

The NPNH provide some of the best spots from which to observe the geography of the harbor and the spectacular growth around the metropolitan area.

Through the Metropolitan Communities Workshop, participants will focus on communities past and present, with special attention paid to Harbor Parks and the surrounding boroughs. Programs will uncover the area's rich history including the Dutch and Native American influences that are still evident today.

The stories of the Harbor Parks invite in-depth explorations of distinct cultures and patterns of settlement. In the Metropolitan Communities Workshop Space, participants will gather in small groups to study communities of people who settled the New York area. Participants will explore the intimate artifacts that reflect the lives of the immigrants who entered this country. By examining clothing, books, personal papers, newspaper clippings, letters, tools, and toys, visitors can conceive and present "personal histories" for other members of the group. Platforms featuring photographic backdrops of neighborhood scenes will help create a sense of place. Students may film, photograph, record or document their presentations to extend the experience.

Art and Science Workshop. Here, the emphasis will be placed on the links between living things -- including humans -- and their environments. Students will demonstrate their knowledge of ecological concepts through a variety of means, including animation, photography, videography, and role-playing.

Acting as amateur sleuths, students will investigate coastal environments, and explore and examine the ways in which plants and animals adapt to the changing coastal environment. Through observation and experimentation, participants will study and record the interactions and behaviors of organisms and develop a profile for each habitat.

Participants will then assemble a "unique organism" and -- through film and animation -- test their theories regarding its development, life span and ecological relationships. Each "unique organism" will then be presented with a challenging scenario, allowing students to develop an action plan for its survival within the ecosystem. Students will draw on critical thinking and communication skills as they assume various roles to present findings to their peers and teachers. Through these presentations, students will confirm their understanding of critical resource issues and the role individuals and communities play in protecting resources.

NPS Adventures Room. A variety of media/presentation techniques -- including video, computer projection, 35mm slides and video-conferencing with multiple internet links -- will immerse students and educators in the diverse habitats that form the National Park System. Live performances, lectures, multi-media presentations, exhibitry, interactives and distance learning will originate in this spacious room, which will accommodate groups of up to 125.

Using available technologies, participants will be able to:

- Experience live, real-time interaction with rangers from parks throughout the country.
- Observe varied environments from glaciers to deserts, mountains to wetlands.
- Exchange data and ideas with peers across town and across the country.
- Explore exhibits and artifacts representative of different parks.
- Learn about careers in conservation, preservation and the work of the National Park Service.

Professional Resource Room. The Education Center will contain a reference library and resource center -- a multimedia station where teachers and other professionals can view a variety of video, audio, and printed materials as well as access the Internet. Available materials will include publications, journals, curriculum guides, activity cards, kits, posters, traveling trunks, slide shows, videodiscs and CD-ROM's.

The National Parks of New York Harbor will use this facility as a repository for educational resources. Within this expansive 1,134 square-foot space, teachers, Education Center Staff and partners, and professionals representing a variety of fields, will conduct research and develop programs, teaching materials, and activities using the newest and most innovative educational materials available.

Learning Lunchroom. Through design, activities and exhibits, the Learning Lunchroom will stimulate visitors to think about their own choices in our consumer-oriented world. For example, using their lunches as a database, students can compare by weight the quantity of materials they have brought, the amount consumed, and the proportion of solid waste to be disposed of, reused or recycled. Students can then calculate the impact each person has on the environment, and explore alternatives for solid waste reduction. The results will, over time, be charted and compared with other classes to determine if any trends emerge.

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