

What is Watershed Forestry Education?



The New York City Watershed supplies over 1 billion gallons of fresh water to 9.5 million New Yorkers each day. As water flows downhill through the 2,000 square mile watershed, the forest canopy, roots and soils slow down, filter and clean the water. Forests are the best type of environment to have in a watershed for protecting water quality. These ecosystems also provide wildlife habitat, sequester carbon, and support recreation and economic vitality.

WAC's Watershed Forestry Education programs teach educators and students about the critical role forests play in protecting water quality and highlight how individuals and communities can be active stewards of their watershed environments.

Key learning objectives are to understand:

1. **Watershed form and function;**
2. **The parts of the New York City water supply system;**
3. **How healthy forests filter and protect water quality; and**
4. **The past, present and future human dimensions of the NYC Watershed.**

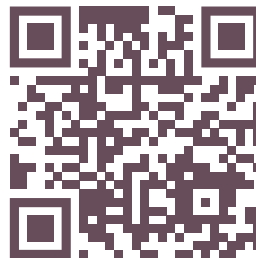


How To Apply

Eligibility: Participation in Field Trips and Green Connections requires that educators work in school districts that are wholly or partially within the NYC Watershed regions or the 5 boroughs of New York City.

Educators outside the NYC Watershed and NYC may participate in WFIT if space allows and are welcome to participate in the Community of Practice (workshops, e-news, teacher resources website, etc.).

To sign up for our e-newsletter and for detailed information and applications for all Watershed Forestry Education programs please visit:



nycwatershed.org/urei



If you have additional questions, contact WAC Education staff at (914) 962-6355 or email education@nycwatershed.org

Watershed Agricultural Council
Forestry Program
nycwatershed.org



My
Woodlot
MyWoodlot.com

The Watershed Agricultural Council is funded by the NYC DEP, US Forest Service and other sources.
EOE/EOP. ©2024



Watershed Forestry Education

OPPORTUNITIES FOR EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS



Over half of New York state's population gets their drinking water from the New York City Watershed and most of this water never goes through a filtration plant. Instead, forests in upstate NY filter the water and help make it some of the cleanest, safest municipal drinking water in the world. So, how do the forests do it?

The Watershed Agricultural Council (WAC) offers a suite of educational programs for classroom teachers, non-formal educators, and students in NYC and the NYC Watershed regions that explore the connections between land, water and people, with a special focus on how healthy forests protect water quality.

Watershed Agricultural Council
Forestry Program
nycwatershed.org



Watershed Forestry Education Programs

WAC's Forestry Program – in partnership with the New York City Department of Environmental Protection and the USDA Forest Service – offers four core programs for teachers and students in New York City and the upstate NYC Watershed.

1. Watershed Forestry Institute for Teachers (WFIT)

This FREE five-day, four-night summer professional learning program for 4-12th grade teachers and non-formal educators is held annually in the NYC Watershed region and explores how people and forests work together to provide clean drinking water. Key topics include watershed science and stewardship, sustainable forestry, and the human dimensions of the NYC Watershed and water supply system. Teachers earn CTLE credits and experience field trips, curricula training, dozens of hands-on activities, peer and expert collaboration, campfires and more!



"WFIT was one of the best experiences of my life. I definitely recommend it to anyone interested in science and nature. It's a chance to dive in and learn all about forests while meeting great people, getting inspired, and connecting to nature."

- 2022 WFIT Participant

2. Watershed Forestry Field Trips



This competitive grant program helps plan and pay for field trips to the NYC Watershed. All trips include a guided visit to a NYC drinking water reservoir. Funding rounds are held twice per year with applications due in January and August. Funds are primarily for transportation costs associated with the following 4 trip options:

1. Environmental Education Center
2. Trout in the Classroom Trout Release
3. Trees for Tribes Tree Planting
4. Adult Professional Learning

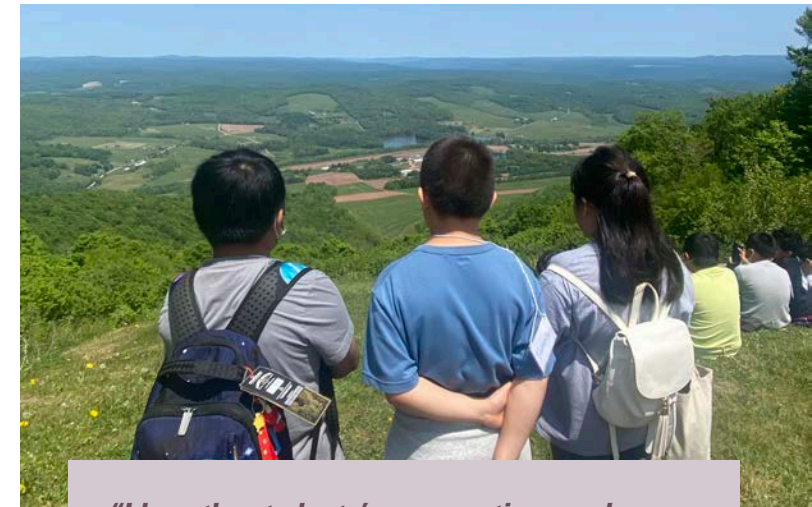
WAC also offers FREE Virtual Field Trips in which WAC staff join classes live via video conference from the forests, streams and reservoirs of the NYC Watershed to lead students in hands-on science activities.



3. Green Connections

From forest to faucet through friendship! This competitive grant program supports classroom partnerships that meaningfully connect students from NYC and the upstate NYC Watershed through personal communications and shared experiences. Two program options help students grow academically, social-emotionally, and civically by learning about each other, each other's ways of life, and the two contrasting, yet interconnected environments in which they live:

1. **Green Connections LITE** - 4-12th grade students connect REMOTELY through mail and video conference.
2. **Green Connections FULL** – 4-8th grade students connect through pen pal letters, shared field trips (one upstate, one downstate), a 7-lesson curriculum, and local watershed stewardship projects.



"I love the students' conversations and excitement on field trip days. Seeing their faces when they reach the top of the mountain and look out over their drinking water watershed is priceless."

- 2018 Green Connections Teacher

4. Educator Community of Practice

WAC celebrates and supports an active network of watershed forestry educators through a Teacher Resources webpage, e-newsletter and ongoing professional learning opportunities.