

## Bioswales

*PS 75, Brooklyn, NYC*

INTERDISCIPLINARY PROJECT OVERVIEW		
Sustainability Club (Gr. 3 -5) and Grade 3 Classroom		Literacy, Science, Social Studies, Art, History
STUDENT OUTCOMES		
<b>Big Ideas of Sustainability:</b> <i>Cycles, Change Over Time, Place, Community, Systems, Ability to Make a Difference</i>		
<p><b>Essential Questions:</b></p> <p>How can bioswales help our community?</p> <p>How are bioswales part of the NYC sewer system and the water cycle?</p> <p>What is the impact of bioswales on local water bodies over time?</p> <p>How is the location of bioswales determined?</p> <p>How will the growing population of NYC impact the water system?</p>	<p><b>Students will:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen their connection to nature</li> <li>• Deepen their sense of place</li> <li>• Develop a sense of intergenerational responsibility</li> <li>• Build an understanding of natural cycles in their local context</li> <li>• Begin to develop a natural intelligence</li> <li>• Use different media to communicate their learning</li> <li>• Take an active role in their community to affect positive change</li> <li>• Will use collective action to set goals cooperatively with and within their community</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Performance or Products: Climate and Earth’s Energy Balance</b></p> <p>The students will become the stewards of the four ROW Bioswales (Right-of-Way) located within the immediate area surrounding the school. These are planted areas in the sidewalk that help manage the stormwater system by collecting rainwater runoff, inhibiting the long term effects of stormwater in the sewer system, which in turn helps protect our local waterways. Our students will first learn about Bioswales, then will communicate and explain what Bioswales are and how they work to other students in our school at the school June Sustainability Fair. Additionally, the sustainability team will create a video summary of their project work. They will learn from DEP representatives and then collaborate and created alliances with neighborhood organizations to help maintain the Bioswales functioning appropriately.</p>		
P3		
<p><b>Problem:</b> <i>How can we help our community?</i></p> <p>What is a bioswale, and why did the City install them in our community?</p>	<p><b>Place:</b></p> <p>School neighborhood, community garden, Ridgewood Reservoir, Newtown Creek</p>	<p><b>Project:</b> <i>How will students actively explore the problem?</i></p> <p>Community walks, interviews with DEP, building model bioswale</p>

**CONNECTING TO COMMUNITY**

Local Artists, Community Workers (DEP), DEP Officials