



Sarah Lawrence College
Center for the Urban River at Beczak

2016 Highlights & Accomplishments



Research

Water Quality Research: Continued to expand our sewage-tracking study of 15 sites in the Saw Mill River, with support from Westchester Community Foundation and utilizing a dozen citizen-scientist volunteers; launched an EPA Urban Waters-funded program to support CURB as a research hub for the Lower Hudson region, expanding our reach to the Bronx River, Pocantico River, and Sparkill Creek.

Green Infrastructure: Launched a planning and design project with support from the NYS DEC Hudson River Estuary Program to reimagine CURB's surrounding park with new innovative, fun, and educational green infrastructure demonstration practices, complete with signage and a long-term research and monitoring plan.

Eel Monitoring: Tracked migrating glass eels in our tidal marsh with the help of 10 volunteers including high school students who have entered science competitions based on our research as well as a graduate student who used the study as her capstone project.

River Biodiversity: Through our Catch of the Day Seining Program and special events like Day in the Life of the Hudson River, a total of 5,617 animals representing 23 species were caught and released.

Education

Three Rivers of Yonkers: Published and hosted teacher training for the Three Rivers of Yonkers curriculum: an interdisciplinary approach to urban environmental education in the classroom focusing on the Hudson River, Bronx River, and Saw Mill River.

Climate Resiliency: Finalized and piloted a new NOAA-funded climate change environmental literacy program focused on community impacts and resiliency to storm surge and sea level rise, with lead partner Groundwork Hudson Valley.

School Groups: Served over 5,000 local youth in over 200 programs including a special 10-week summer STEM program for Yonkers Public Schools middle schoolers, featuring Sarah Lawrence faculty-led workshops and trips to campus.

Program Evaluation: Completed a thorough two-year evaluation of our programs, "The Importance of Field Trips and Cultural Awareness in Education," with the help of the Sarah Lawrence Art of Teaching Program and support from the NYS Water Resources Institute.

Community

Hudson River Through the Arts: Hosted a special four-part weekend children's arts series with support from the National Endowment for the Arts and numerous Sarah Lawrence arts faculty that included drawing, music, theatre, and dance.

Special Programs: Hosted 32 free "River Explorers" weekend programs serving 300 local residents, 20 local youth in our "Summer Adventures" day camp, 11 Yonkers community groups for free summer programs, and six afterschool sessions for CLUSTER with support from Con Edison; launched a 10-week community garden afterschool program with Lanza Learning Center.

Special Events: Hosted dozens of community events including RiverTalks lectures, Riverkeeper Sweep, Tour de Yonkers, Yonkers Triyakathon, Yonkers Riverfest, The Mayor's Cup, and a special theatre production from Arm of the Sea Theater with the Yonkers Downtown Business Improvement District.

Volunteers and Interns: Mentored over 160 volunteers and interns from Sarah Lawrence, local high schools, the City of Yonkers Summer Youth Employment Program, Fordham University, and an Eagle Scout, working a combined 3,000+ hours on education programs, eel monitoring, water testing, aquaria and garden maintenance, and special events.