



# Engaging Youth in the Environment: Successful Summer City Programs for Youth

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# Engaging Youth in the Environment: Successful Summer City Programs for Youth



- Background
- Area Programs
- Program Outline
- Field Trips
- Next Steps



# Youth and the Environment Program



2019 YEP Coordinators and Students – Lowell and Lawrence, MA



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# Youth and the Environment Program

- Also known as YEP, started in 1990
- EPA HQ initiative – national focus
- Lowell, MA was one of the original sites
- EPA HQ funded the program initially
- National Funding has disappeared
- Region 1 and 2 have kept funding thru various means
  - RA discretionary funds
  - Drinking Water
  - Wetlands
  - Toxics



# Youth and the Environment Program

## Program Goals:

- Introduce under-privileged high school students to career opportunities in the environmental field
- Combine summer employment with environmental education and hands-on experience
- Increase the environmental awareness base of students
- Potentially help meet the future regional workforce needs in the water and wastewater fields.



# Youth and the Environment Program

- Lowell, Mass. – 27 years of YEP
  - Lowell Regional Wastewater Utility
  - City of Lowell
  - Career Center of Lowell
  - US EPA Region 1
  - Years: 1990 – 2019 (except 2008 & 2009)



# Youth and the Environment Program

- Lawrence, Mass – New for 2019
  - Greater Lawrence Sanitary District
  - City of Lawrence, Career Center, EPA Region 1
  - Combined DW and WW
- NYC Bronx Community College
  - Support thru EPA Region 2
  - NYC DEP
  - PETE
  - 20 plus years



# Youth and the Environment Program



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## Typical Program:

- Four to five high school students working at WWTF
- Six-week program, funded by city thru summer jobs program
- Students must meet certain financial eligibility requirements
- City pays for students and insurance for the summer
- NEIWPC hires summer YEP coordinator – usually undergrad/grad college environmental major



# Youth and the Environment Program

## Typical Program:

- YEP coordinator sets up schedule and curriculum
- Career Center provides the students
- Students work approx. 25 hours/week
- Students and coordinator work at plant in the AM and have environmental lesson plans in the PM
- Field trips to learn about other aspects of the environment
- Start the program with a tour of the WWTF



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## Typical Program:

- Students lead tour by the end of the summer
- Conclude with graduation ceremony w/EPA recognition

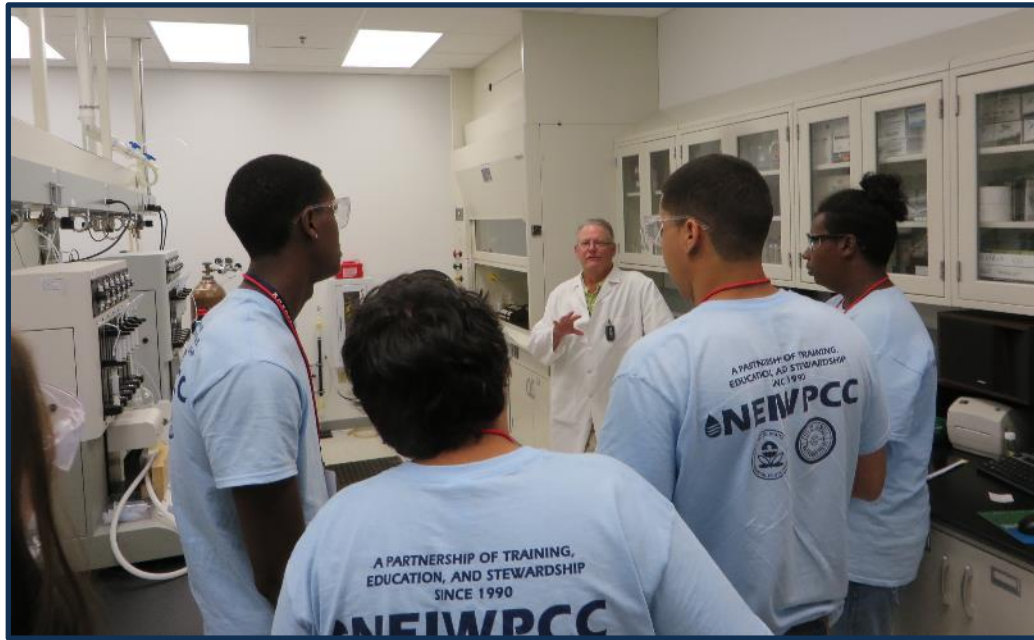


# Youth and the Environment Program

Utilize a work-based Learning Plan that includes:

- Training in routine lab analysis
- Plant operations
- Maintenance
- Engineering
- Industrial inspections





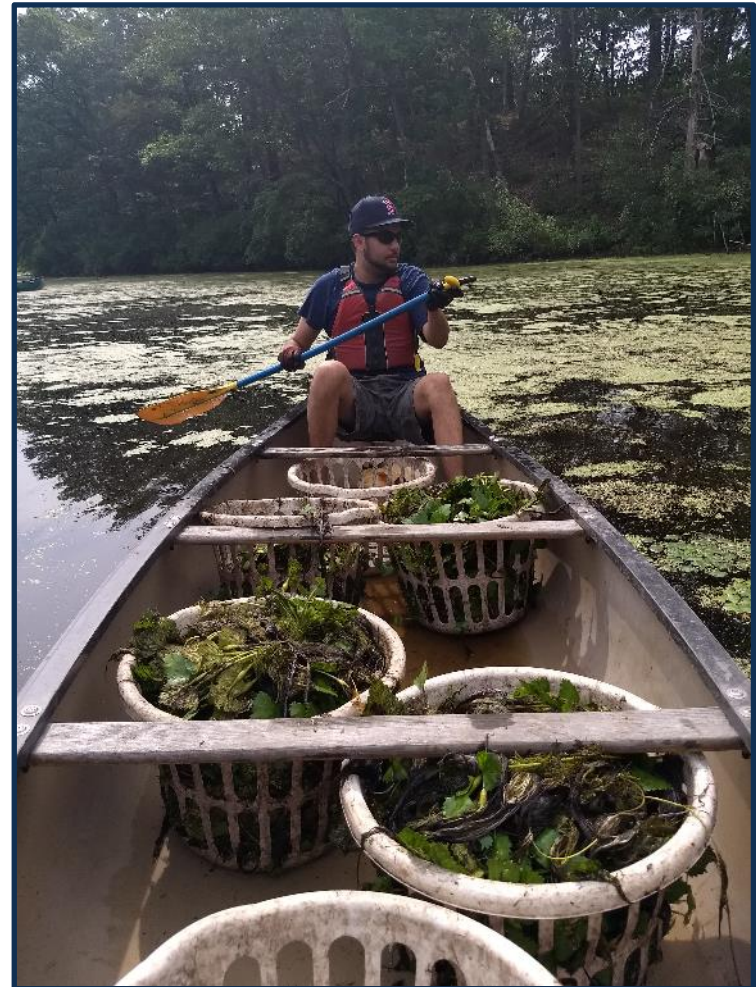
# Youth and the Environment Program

## Field Trip Activities:

- New England Aquarium (oceanography/marine life)
- Deer Island WWTP, Boston, Mass. (wastewater)
- Squam Lake Science Center, Holderness, NH (lake ecology)
- Dunlap Sanctuary/East Richardson Preserve, Dracut, MA (wetlands and aquatic resource protection)
- US EPA Regional Laboratory, Chelmsford, MA (lab)
- Lowell Regional Water Utility (drinking water treatment)
- Seacoast Science Center, Portsmouth, NH (marine life)
- Charles River Watershed (water chestnut harvesting)



# YEP Field Trips



# YEP Field Trips



Deer Island, Boston



# YEP for 2020 and Beyond:

- Continue in all locations, look to expand to other NE states
- Coordinate with past YEP coordinators
- Combine field trip and learning activities
- Expand Lowell to include Drinking Water
- **2020 will mark 30 years!**
- [EPA R1 video](#)



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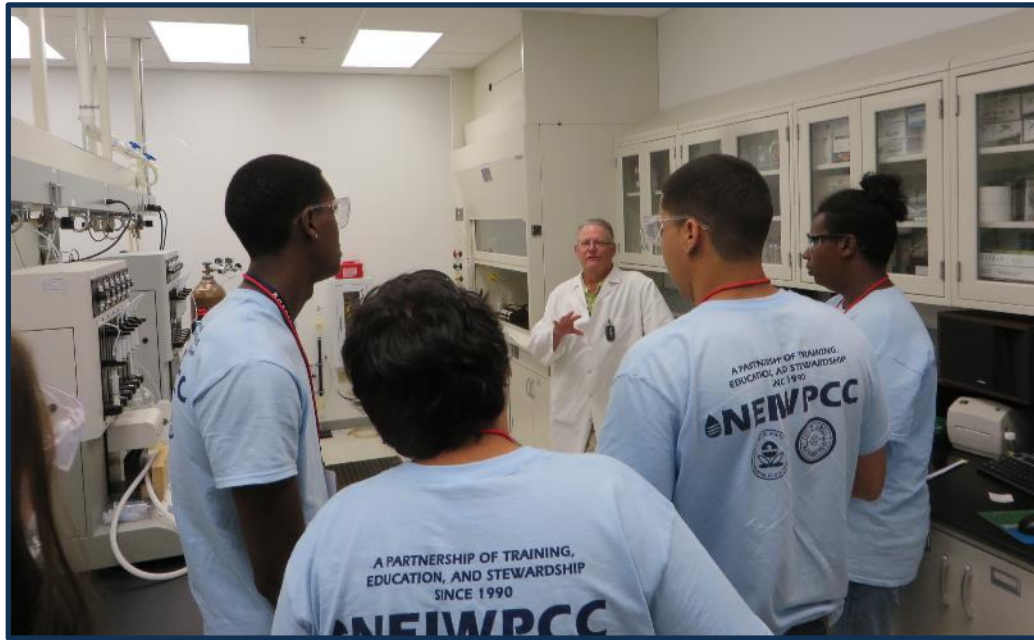


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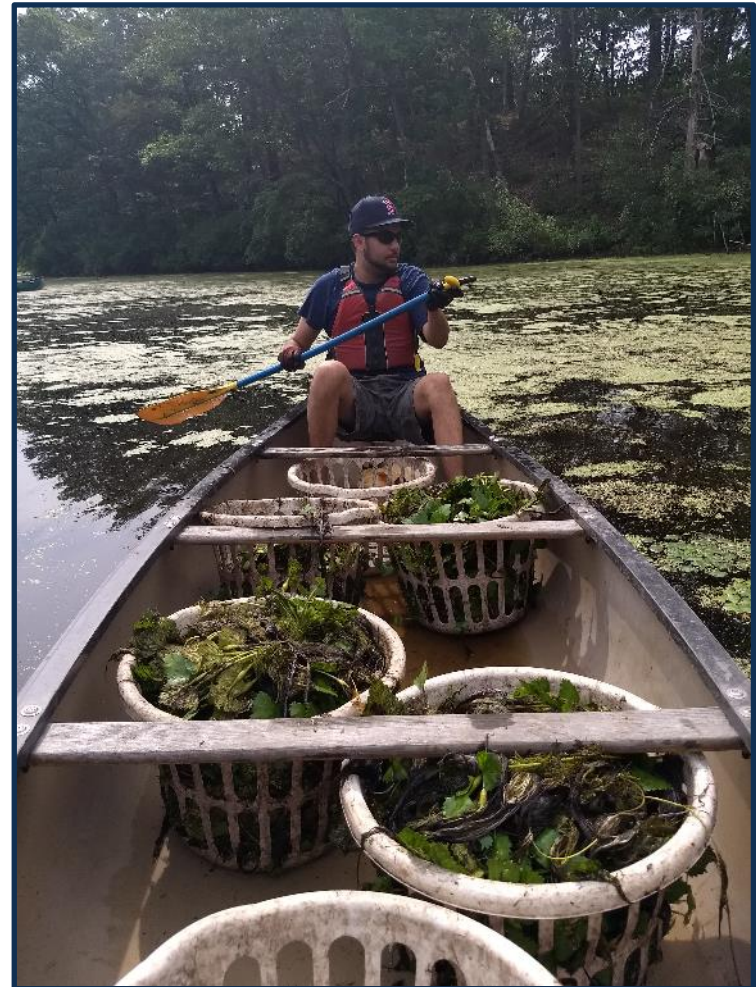
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