



## Join NY/NJ Baykeeper's Eco-Volunteerism Program!

In 2012, Baykeeper established the EcoVolunteer program, designed to introduce adult volunteers to the Hudson Raritan Estuary through education and hands-on research and restoration experience. Currently our EcoVolunteers assist with the monitoring of the Soundview Park Oyster Reef, Bronx NY.

Beginning in 2010, The NY/NJ Baykeeper, along with the Hudson River Foundation, NYC Parks, Bronx River Alliance, New York Harbor School and other partners, placed 125 cubic yards of shell at the site in order to create the largest expanse of sub-tidal habitat in the lower Hudson River Estuary. The reef provides substrate for new oysters to attach to, and helps to propagate a self-sustaining reef to improve water quality and increase habitat in the area. The oyster reef restoration site at Soundview is approximately 1 acre, and is currently the largest sub-tidal oyster restoration in NYC.



Baykeeper's Soundview Park oyster reef offers volunteer opportunities for adults to participate in the construction and monitoring of an active oyster restoration project. EcoVolunteers assist in all aspects of the reef, and are instrumental in the success of the project. EcoVolunteers work side by side with Baykeeper researchers and other members of the scientific community, learning about the ecosystem and restoration while having fun.



Volunteers have an opportunity to:

- Get in the water and observe oyster biology and ecology up close
- See how the oysters interact with their environment and with other biota that inhabit the reef
- Measure oysters for growth and survivorship.
- Interact with staff and scientists

Volunteers can join the eco-volunteerism mailing list by emailing Dr. Allison Fitzgerald at [Allison@nynjbaykeeper.org](mailto:Allison@nynjbaykeeper.org)