

Gateway National Recreational Area General Management Plan (GMP)

GMP Preliminary Alternative Concepts Public Review - 2010/2011

In the fall 2010, the Gateway planning team presented three preliminary alternative concepts. Over 9,000 copies of the second GMP newsletter were sent to the park's mailing list and distributed at visitor contact stations or by staff throughout the park. In order to reach as much of the metropolitan audiences as possible, the newsletter was posted on the park's website and translated and printed in Chinese, Russian and Spanish. The newsletter provided a summary of the three alternative concepts, as well as an update on the planning process, the foundation for planning, a summary of your ideas from the 2009 scoping meetings, and the planning challenges.

The planning team hosted eleven open houses in communities surrounding Gateway. The purpose of the open houses was to gather ideas on the preliminary alternative concepts for Gateway. Poster-size maps and text boards were used to present project background information, the foundation for planning, and the alternative concepts. GMP team members were present during the open house workshops to answer questions. The public comment period for the alternative concepts was from November 20, 2010 through March 15, 2011.

The planning team received comments via comment cards and the Planning, Environment and Public Comment website in response to the following questions:

- Do you think each concept helps Gateway carry out its purpose?
- Will the park's natural and cultural resources that are important to you be adequately preserved under each concept?
- What types of educational and recreational activities do you think are appropriate under each concept?
- Do the concepts provide ways for people to reach Gateway and move around the different sites?
- How could partnerships support the ideas in each concept?
- Are there other ideas important to you that are missing from the concepts?

What follows is a listing of the comments that were shared.

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Question 1 - Do you think each concept helps Gateway carry out its purpose?

- All three are very good concepts. I would participate most in these first, discovering gateway; because I love to use the recreational resources of the park, but conservation and ecological education are also very important goals. I would also like to see the history of the park as an additional concept. The history is very rich.
- Although the entire Gateway is important I must focus on Sandy Hook for I know it best As the 3 areas do differ, I feel they should be looked at separately. I feel that the concept are too broad to consider each area with the focus it deserves.
- An active, organized recreation must be the primary use of the eastern section of Ft. Tilden. We do not object to sharing the park with the environmental advocates, but we object to efforts to exclude Rockaway homeowners, residents are our children.
- An urban recreation area needs to place a much greater emphasis on recreation than more traditional national parks.
- As a birder and mother and grandmother of birders, my comments pertain to the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge part of this plan. In terms of providing a sanctuary for migrating birds after their long semiannual flights over water, the Wildlife Refuge is just that. I have seen birds (indigo buntings) lying on the grass exhausted from their trip, recover and move along. It is also a refuge for all ages of people to see an amazing consolidation of bird life (we saw 106 species there one May). The Refuge is a wonder in an urban environment, with the skyline in the background: viewing exotic shorebirds you never seen anywhere else in the NY area.
- As a citizen I demand to know the amount of these new fees, what the old fees were, why it's been deemed necessary to increase the fees to these organizations, and what alternate plans have already been drawn up for repurposing the locations currently being utilized by these organizations.
- A 9 hole golf course can be environmentally friendly, leaving open space and left open to the public. Educational, non profits, individual long term inexpensive leases for some of the homes might encourage them to be fixed up and a "village" might built.
- A lot of people do not know of all the different parks in Gateway. For example, if there was signage/maps in place that would inform people that Fort Wadsworth/Miller Field, Great Kills Park or connectivity and are in park of Gateway
- Active, organized recreation must be the primary use of the eastern section of Ft. Tilden. I do not object to sharing the park with the environmental advocates, but I object to efforts to exclude recreational users of the park and our children.
- Active, organized recreation MUST be the primary use of the eastern section of Ft. Tilden, if this is taken away then Gateway's purpose is moot.
- All groups have been co-existing for quite some time.
- All of the concepts are good
- All of the proposed plans rely too heavily on commercializing Sandy Hook and do not prioritize the natural ecosystem and public access for recreation and enjoyment of the barrier island
- All the concepts seem to be geared to the same purpose. They are in some ways redundant.
- As long as access is not restricted. This is an Urban Park and should be part of the community.
- Basically there is not a great deal of difference in the proposals at least not enough to identify them as distinct concepts. The most important concept is to protect what is there. This might even be at cross purposes with enlarging its audience.
- Beautiful seashore (even in winter) Needs more BATHROOMS! Near the beach.
- Broadly each concept addresses a portion of the purpose. Together all three fulfill the purpose.

- Concept #1 is too much like making G.N.P. like Central Park. The idea is not to attract large crowds for concepts or picnics as that will lead to much garbage, and land degradation. Concept #2 I feel overall is the best idea. People who like parks enjoy more the green forested area's then the more coastline which is available outside the park.
- Concept #2 offers the best alternative by balancing visitors' experience while maintaining and preserving the fragile ecosystem.
- Concept 1
- Concept 1 - Yes - incorporates many different concepts and is inclusive.
- Concept 1 states limited organized recreation. I'm concerned that this could eliminate existing organized recreation, specifically the Little League, which has enhanced the land and made it useful. I remember watching a softball game by the parking lot and a player stepped in a hole and broke his ankle, because proper maintenance was rarely done. Also in concept 1 you list partnerships aimed at strengthening community connections. Well, we are a beach community, which has very limited access to the bay. Kayaking, boating, stand up paddling (SUP) are all healthy activities and are mostly practiced by people who respect the environment. A storage place and launching area would go a long way at strengthening community connections as people will utilize the park and become more aware of the needs of the park administrators. Under transportation you list "affordable" and "convenient" ways to reach the park. Ferries would be the most practical and environmentally friendly. I realize subsidies would be needed, but if you are serious about expanding the use of the park it's going to take proper funding.
- Concept 2
- Concept 2 - No. I do not see where diverse populations are being engaged.
- Concept 2 comment change coording regarding cultural resources from "as feasible" to "greatest degree possible" to be equal to natural resources
- Concept 2 provides an adequate holistic approach to natural resource protection and preservation but falls short in providing resource based recreational opportunities.
- Concept 3
- Concept 3 - No. Limited to certain interest groups.
- Concept Definition = # 1 seems to best because of diversity being served.
- Concept no. 1 like natural area woodlands beaches and marshes are restore to provide more beauty to park shuttle bus to guide people in park.
- Concepts 1 and 3 do not adequately protect and restore the impaired natural resources.
- Concepts are great but carrying them out is something else. Park use is down drastically because of closing of ball fields and model plane fields.
- Concepts must include concessions to restore recreational facilities (i.e. bathhouses) and ancillary visitor services (i.e. food sales).
- Due to relative isolation as the only elements of Gateway Nat. Rec. Area located in NJ. I believe the Sandy Hook Unit should be made separate, stand alone national park, & be allowed to determine its own destiny and best use of its resources and locations
- each concept can be worthwhile depending on individuals interests
- Each concept clearly and capably helps Gateway carry out its purpose. Concept 1 puts much needed emphasis on the "recreation" is Gateway National Recreation Area. Concept 2 focuses on the state of parks many historic structures. Many of these sites are in dire need of repair and rehabilitation. Concept 3 focuses on natural resources, many of which are under threat due to climate change, human interaction, etc.
- Each concept contains elements critical to the future of Gateway. However, they should not be mutually exclusive categories without the option of combining elements across categories. This is especially significant if the NPS anticipates developing approximate costs associated with the

category components as currently proposed, and then selecting a category based primarily on overall category cost.

- Each concept does help Gateway's purpose, but with existing historic resources in place, concept 2 best protects those existing resources before expanding money on expanded infrastructure and costly programs. The element of beach/dune ecosystem preservation in concept 3 is also a critical goal.
- Each concept has its merits. We should keep in mind that Gateway has been assembled from independent parts. A policy that applies well in one area may be less effective in another. For example, I agree with development of buildings at Sandy Hook for recreational & educational experiences, but Fort Wadsworth's historical significance should be recognized and it must be more of a place for viewing than using. Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge must be recognized & respected as a resource for migrating birds more than as recreational area for people. It must be maintained to support wildlife and to help people appreciate the natural world.
- Each concept has obviously been considered with care. As such each does address ways Gateway can further carry out its mission. However I believe that Concept 1 best serves Gateway. It builds on relationships with the existing and expanding park audience, and it makes best use of already established park partners and resources. It preserves and enhances the natural and historical treasures here >and< recognizes the unique recreational and cultural centers the parks, especially Fort Tilden, have become.
- Each concept helps to carry out its purpose.
- Each concept is fine, except they are too general. It would be nice to explain or illustrate how the different park within Gateway will be linked by water-borne transportation or exactly what natural areas are planned to be restored for outdoor learning.
- Each concept is very broad, not detailed enough. Conservation and preservation should be the primary goal for the park.
- Each of the concepts is a bit vague and appear to be quite anthropocentric, revolving around human needs, and does not give adequate weight to the protection of flora, fauna and ecosystems explicitly for the preservation of flora and fauna. For example concept 2 Experiencing Preserved Places should be simply preserving places.
- Emphasize more how Gateway plans to reach the community. Ex, not just through the onsite activities but how will gateway intertwine with other parks in the city?
- Experiencing Preserved Places as the most appropriate for protecting New York City's natural heritage
- First one has to agree on what purpose is the most important. Each seems to emphasize different aspects.
- For Sandy Hook, concept 2 is the only one that puts appropriate emphasis on conservation of natural ecosystem.
- For the most part
- Gateway was originally part of the city of NY. It was not intended to be used for a national park like Yosemite. Come to Rockaway and see how little space we have for parks and recreation. This is where our children can play and run in grass and next wild flowers but get the healthful benefits of organized sports, camp and the arts.
- Gateway exists as it does because of the military presence in the NY Harbor area; it is the responsibility of the National Park Service to protect the remaining resources to honor our veterans and preserve a unique and incredible part of our history for future generations of people who will visit these locations long after these proceedings are closed, and we are long gone. The NPS MUST produce an executable plan to carry out the mission of enjoyment and

recreation within these former defensive areas, but ensure protection for natural and cultural resources that remain within them.

- Gateway is large enough to serve many purposes. There is no reason to stamp out the arts. The space can and should be shared.
- Gateway Recreation Area approximately a decade ago, started a "Partners in the Park Program" that permitted Ft. Tilden to be utilized for organized recreation and the arts. Specifically, the Rockaway Theatre Group and Little League, CYO soccer, Rugby, etc. have been co-existing equally with the various environmental programs set up for the Park. This new concept puts emphasis on the environmental aspects and diminishes the recreational, cultural and artistic mandates of the Program.
- Gateway's original purpose was as an urban national recreation area as distinct from a national park. While the titles of the concepts would help Gateway carry out its current stated purpose, the specifics are limiting and targeted toward very specific ways to advance the "discovery of Gateway" and "coastal connections" that are not in line with local and community members' definition of these terms. For Gateway to be "discovered" in an urban community, people have to go there! Doing away with events, concerts, and recreational activities sponsored by local community groups has already decreased attendance at the park, thus precluding people from discovering Gateway and making coastal connections. Further imposition of fees and restrictions will further decrease attendance and use.
- Gateways purpose provides for more then just protecting the natural resources that it encompasses.
- Gateway's purposes are three fold, most importantly #1 is preservation of an extremely fragile and important ecosystem. #2 is Recreation which to me means not only going to the beach, but hiking and bike trails and HISTORIC TOURISM. To negate the fact that all over the world millions of tourists flock to preserved historic sites and that Ft. Hancock has that potential is foolish. #3 is education, thousands of school children visit the park each year to learn about nature, and history.
- Generally, yes. While each concept includes pieces that highlight the Park's myriad activities and ecological missions, none of the proposals seem to reflect some of the current community uses. For instance, thousands of local families use the park regularly for soccer, little league baseball, and other organized activities, yet these groups are completely ignored in all three concepts (all favor "limited organized recreation). I don't think the park can truly move forward while ignoring the needs of the thousands of people who already use the park and have supported it for many years.
- Generally, yes. Concept 1, addresses public access and visitation more than the others. The GNRA Mission states that it's "responsibilities and attendant activities are inescapably shaped by the intense urban culture and value systems of the region".
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- Hanger 1 - 4 could fix for a filming. Campgrounds need improvement, Shore roads need repair that would help. The fishing people & wildlife.
- I am not really interested in any of these plans. The park should be left in a natural state. We don't need to spend more tax \$ to create more traffic, pollution, and urbanization. We just want a wild unspoiled, undeveloped, natural place.
- I am not sure I understand the purpose after reading the newsletter. It speaks a lot about ideas without any concrete information.
- I am displeased with all the research that has gone into this preservation of the various Preliminary Alternative Concepts. I like the concepts which focus on the renewal and restoration of the Historic Resources combined with the renewal of the natural resources. The educational experiences will hopefully be expanded as the Sandy Hook Park also is revitalized. I worry that the inclusion of other Gateway Parks will detract.
- I believe that all public parkland must remain open and easily accessible to all of the people. No public parkland should be surrendered to private commercialization, as is implied by each of the three Concepts shown on page 11 of the Fall 2010 Newsletter relating to the NPS's General Management Plan (GMP) for the Gateway National Recreation Area (Gateway). Rather, the prime NPS focus should be on the "Transportation" elements to provide affordable and convenient public access to Gateway's natural resources for passive recreation – Concept 1 states this best.
- I believe that the word RECREATION in Gateways name is being overlooked. I am a very strong advocate of environmental issues. In this case, however, it seems that the agenda is to have this park become, primarily, a habitat with the least impact by humans possible. I don't believe that this is appropriate. As indicated by the word recreation in the name. This park should be used for as many organized recreation activities as possible. This would include baseball to cricket. The cultural uses that exist such as RAA should be encouraged. I attended many planning sessions @ one the slogan of "Gateway-it's not just for the birds" was voiced I agree wholeheartedly!
- I believe the most important "concept" is to remember that Rockaway presently make much use of the Park. The current cultural activities based there--meaning the theater, RAA and little league--make Rockaway a better place for people who live here.
- I can speak only to the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge part of this plan. Please see my comments below.
- I do not object to sharing the park with the environmental advocates, but I do object to efforts to exclude us and our children.
- I do not think Concept 3 works. There is very little in common between the New York Parks and Sandy Hook. I feel they are very separate entities that appeal to different geographic groups. Sandy Hook should be treated separately. Also, concept 3 is less of a master plan and more of a secondary goal.
- I do not wish to comment on every concept. It seems that the average resident looking to save a small part of Fort Tilden for our family's recreation is being pushed aside by the (proposed) inordinately expensive leasing fees.
- I do. I think Sandy Hook could be the crown jewel on the Gateway system, encompassing educational, environmental, and recreational opportunities. It is a thrilling resource waiting to be used by generations of people.

- I don't think this would serve the park well. I don't think we have the money it takes to save everything and in the meantime we will lose the support of our visitors/supporters because they would not be well taken care of. Their needs would not be met.
- I feel certain that if the new management plan is instituted in its present format the partner groups offering theatre, art and sports activities will inevitably be forced to vacate Fort Tilden completely.
- I feel that Concept #1 is the most appropriate and expresses the purpose of Gateway throughout the 30 years I have lived in the Rockaways.
- I feel that each concept is well balanced and directed in a specific direction. For me the most important aspect of the parks restoration and rehab would be the historic and natural resources that exist on sandy hook and in each of the parts of the park.
- I feel that Gateway currently has a lot to offer all ages in this community. We finally have ball fields for our children. There is the wonderful Post Theatre offering dance, vocal and theatre classes for children and adults as well as putting on professional productions. The Silver Gull Club enables families and particularly disabled people to enjoy the pool and facilities.
- I feel these are problems need to be taken care of before there are plans to bring more people in by means of ferry or bus.
- I find the concepts somewhat vague and not differentiated enough. My major concern regards preservation of natural habitats and management for wildlife - mentioned to some extent in all 3 concepts. I would like to see as much as possible of Gateway left as natural as possible, with some accessibility such as trails for walking, some mowing such as clearing areas at Jamaica Bay West Pond for views of birds on the pond, lowering the East Pond for shorebirds, and managing/mowing areas of Floyd Bennett Field at appropriate times for grassland habitat. Marsh restoration and removal of invasive may be necessary. Historic structures should be preserved. Gateway should remain an area where city dwellers can get into the 'wild'.
- I had trouble discerning the subtle differences between the plans but vote for the one that balances tourism with preservation. That restores the buildings but does not do so at risk of over developing a very fragile and beautiful ecosystem.
- I like concept #1 overall because it allows for more access to the park. More people will utilize the park areas. I also like the Idea of teaching ecology and the preservation of the coastal areas. This is just as important. Yet, under the current plan, there does not seem to be enough information available to surrounding communities regarding the current activities
- I like concept 2: Experience preserved space. I go to Silver Gull Club Breezy Point - I go through Fort Tilden bike paths - too much poison ivy around. More public toilets would help.
- I like this concept. I think if we focus our time and money on protecting a few resources we can do that better. Also, I think the public would get to know us better - improve our identity as a NP w/more ranger interaction. That ranger interaction would give people an NP experience. I think this concept does a better job of helping the park reach a more diverse audience.
- I prefer Concept #2
- I think concept #1 comes closest because it focuses more on strengthening community connections.
- I think Concept 2 best preserves the purpose of Gateway. Natural systems, historic sites and landscapes receive the highest levels of preservation and restoration in this concept. Opportunities for independent exploration of the park's fundamental resources and values, and participation in environmental education and preservation programs provide for an outstanding national park experience.

- I think each concept explains the vision the park wants to go with although different focuses as where and what is more important to preserve. The same intent to keep the public involved especially educationally.
- I think each concept is narrowly crafted to carry out the purpose of the organization(s) who are imposing a system onto an existing community resource of arts and recreation in the Rockaways. These concepts do not take into consideration the people who live in the community who rely on the services, presentations, recreation and art that takes place in Fort Tilden. Active, organized recreation, not limited, must be the primary use of the eastern section of Ft. Tilden that includes current community organizations.
- I think each has good purpose. However I lean towards the first concept, probably some residual Boy Scout bias, as a way of attracting the broader residential areas to visit and interact with the environment and scenery/attractions. Concept 2 seems more museum-like, which is great but I think such a dynamic waterfront should be more vibrant and progressive. I'm uncertain about #3 mainly because, as a Brooklyn native, I tend to think of Jamaica, Wadsworth, Tilden and Sandy Hook as fundamentally different locations.
- I think keeping things simple is the way to preserve what really works at Sandy Hook. I am totally unfamiliar with the other sites. I bike, enjoy the beaches and really enjoy the historical aspects of Sandy Hook. It is accessible, affordable and simple. It is clean and safe. It feels used but not abused. I think partnerships with nonprofits like Audubon and educational groups doing maritime and educational endeavors is perfect. I would recommend NOT having any commercial aspects as buying stuff just would create more trash and less experiential values for this site. I would recommend improving the historical interpretation of the area. Just select a few buildings to preserve and renovate for real historical presentations. A diorama that showed the buildings in use by different periods would be fascinating. Having programs that illustrated how and why different fortifications were built would illuminate the history of New York Harbor's defenses.
- I think that Concepts 1 and 3 depart from the essential mission of Gateway by encouraging the expansion of active recreational uses and boating and boating facilities
- I think that something needs to be done with the area. This Gateway National park is a mish mosh of areas. There does not seem to be any connection among them. I have lived near and grew up using Floyd Bennett Field and Fort Tilden for various activities and never knew about the many historical areas.
- I think the 3 concepts are very general at this point and need to be refined. I have been visiting Sandy Hook for 15 years and have found lots of visitors from every ethnic background. I have seen many improvements such as interconnecting bike paths, and information signs. Sadly, I find many people coming into the park and not respecting the "carry in carry out policy". I have seen hundreds of workers hired (our tax dollars at work) on a Monday morning to clean up the mess left behind from a full summer weekend of "visitors" who have no respect for keeping the park clean. Why is this not addressed in the document?
- I think the concept of maintaining the natural passive recreation area I have always known Sandy Hook to be is first priority. I was raised at the Jersey Shore and come to know of Sandy Hook about 30 years ago; since then I have always taken my children and my friends children there to learn and understand history of the culture in that area of our state. My children have attended high school there in a pristine educational environment. My vision for Sandy Hook is one with the idea in mind of nurturing our nation's history and education for our children.
- I think the concepts are very vague.
- I think they're helpful... and a good foundation.
- I think this is a great way to focus our time and money. To me this is what makes Gateway a special place. Prioritizing coastal resources I think gets us the "most bang for the buck". It will

help us to focus and serve the majority of our visitors/supporters. This concept may not drive the NP message home as much as concept 1 but if we really make transportation easy and affordable we may at least promote better access to a diverse group.

- I think this plan does not take into account how vital the organized activities are to the youth in the community. Almost every concept says limit organized activities. My son has been involved in the Rockaway Theatre Company for the past 5 years. Over 62 kids were kept off the street and out of trouble participating in the Children's Theatre Workshop which just this past week sold out every show in the Post Theatre. This theatre is a treasure to the community, kids and adults. In addition to the kids workshop it brings quality Broadway type performance at prices residents can afford. My son has also been involved with Kidsmart, Rockaway Little League and the Rockaway Artist Alliance. If these organizations could not afford to operate at Gateway there will be literally nothing for the kids of Rockaway to do. I implore you not to take away the little Rockaway has to offer. These organizations are vital to the community and the kids would be devastated to lose them.
- I think we're trying to reinvent things that doesn't work within Gateway. We don't have a full understanding of Gateway as a whole. We're a National Park Service that has a variety of resources to offer the public. Natural, cultural and recreation. It is the visitor full course meal. Gateway doesn't mention recreation as sports but with obesity playing a huge part of society we should begin to look deeper of what recreation is and how we can apply it to the mission. Right now people don't like to walk 3 ft. from the visitor center to their car.
- I think you should let the community use the facilities as they are the primary users and have been for the last 30 years.
- I think youth sports helps Gateway to fulfill its mission. It brings thousands of visitors to Gateway every year. Baseball and softball creates an opportunity for Gateway to get children involved in its other programs. Rockaway Little League was an obligation Gateway inherited when they took over Riis Park. This program is an asset to the national recreation area. Baseball and softball "fit" in Ft. Tilden.
- I want Gateway to be used as a national recreation area by allowing local residents to enjoy the beaches, sponsored art and music events and use of fields for sports, without being charged a fee for sponsored events and parking when free parking, nature trails, and use of Gateway facilities at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Center are free.
- I would favor concept # 3 or # 2
- I'm in the Park (Fort Tilden) daily. I go to almost every function the RAA has. If it wasn't for Gateway there would be absolute nothing to do in the Rockaways. There are no Movies, bowling alleys, Malls, amusement parks etc in the Rockaways
- I've read parts of the fall newsletter, and quite frankly am in no way impressed. One comment in particular, the lamenting that "the Gateway National Recreation area doesn't have a strong identity as a unit of the National Park system" is right on because it is a vast area of land that is in no way cared for, except when the rangers may rope off part of the beach for piping plovers. There is absolutely no evidence of any other caretaking, such as planting flowers, cutting back underbrush, even something as simple as planting grass seed. I can go on and on about the neglect. There is nothing attractive about the area to draw others outside of the residents of Rockaway. The crumbling sea wall and promenade area along Beach Channel drive is an utter DISGRACE littered with cement debris and broken garbage cans. (or overflowing cans)
- If the concept is for Gateway to be used, then yes, the concept is being carried out. Although we have beaches here in Rockaway, the area offers little else for organized activities and Rockaway Little League incorporates the entire peninsula. It is imperative that our children be offered something in the area. The number of children who participate is great, and it would

have an extremely negative impact on the entire community if they are not offered this opportunity.

- If you make a commitment you should be prepared to deliver the bath house at Jacob Riis Park hasn't been open for at least 20 years. That is not public access. There has not been an attempt to fix the bath house even though there is a parking fee to defray the cost to repair and a fee could be charged for daily use of this bath house
- I'm glad the NPS has an underlying conceptual, philosophical framework guiding its plans for Gateway Nat Recreational Area, but my primary concern is the renovation and subsequent utilization of the physical plant at Fort Hancock. I believe it is the most promising development site on the entire east coast since Walter Reinecke restored 155 buildings on Nantucket between 1965 and 1980. The opportunity to create a tasteful hospitality mecca against the background of unparalleled recreation facilities is just not available anywhere else. That the physical plant at Ft. Hancock has been allowed to deteriorate to the extent it has is inexcusable. Something really needs to be done, and sooner rather than later. I would love to work on the restoration of this property. The reward would be overwhelming.
- In addition to recreation, Gateway is responsible for protect the natural environment and historical assets within in the park. The GMP's challenge is to find a balance so that all these important goals are satisfied.
- In general the concepts, even if tangential, do help Gateway carry out its purpose, but the concepts should be more centered on preservation of resources rather than how they are envisioned by humans.
- In the general sense yes
- It is very important to ensure all historical areas including all military architecture and history are highlighted. Public access and usage and education should be primary considering its location
- It provides open recreational space that is dearly needed here in New York City addressing the needs of many recreational organizations. These uses must continue to be supported by a park system that includes the development of several urban-edge parks that balanced natural and cultural resources with appropriate recreational opportunities.
- Limited organized recreation appears as the last sentence under Recreation in all 3 Concepts. Why isn't there more of a choice here? When issues are framed so narrowly it severely limits the scope and quality of the feedback.
- Looking at the area of Recreation in each of the three Concepts, one is asked to choose between recreation promoting the natural and historic sites or the Park's fundamental values and exploration and connection to the natural world or coastal recreational activities. They are all valuable and Gateway NRA has the potential to offer all of them so why not all three?
- Looks that concept one carries out the broadest needs of the community.
- Many people visit GK Park - bicycling, boarding, walking, jogging as well as fishing, etc.
- Most city people especially the young have no idea as to what information and activities that go on in a Federal sponsored park.
- My personal experience is that most people I talk with are unfamiliar with the parks. The Discovering Gateway idea seems to make sense from the point that funding of the other concepts has got to be tied to the number of visitors willing to support the "politics" of funding the parks.
- My two boys play at Fort Tilden in the rockaway little league... to do away with this program would hurt my children as well as many others who might not play other sports... the program promotes sportmanship, team work and most important meeting other boys and girls that live in the area

- Nat & Cultural = #1 Best - select cultural & nat resources are preserved/rehabbed some resources away have to be allowed to deteriorate in order to save others.
- No because I think it is important for people to have a community place for any sport event.
- No I don't. Active, organized recreation must be the primary use of the eastern section of Ft. Tilden
- No I think all three completely misses the mark on what Fort Tilden is. The fact that organized recreation is to be limited is frankly appalling and I would encourage that a plan be put forth that would include expanding that aspect of the parks usage
- No, the introductory paragraphs, in an attempt to be broadly inclusive are so wide as to be meaningless. There are elements of concepts 1& 3 that, depending on the methods of realization, seem cost prohibitive in relation to value achievable. (see below)
- No. I can only respond about Fort Tilden, which to me has been neglected for years.
- No. It is called Gateway National Recreation Area. You are trying to make it a National Park. It is not.
- No. Neither Concepts 1, 2 or 3 adequately provide for the restoration and reuse of the Fort Hancock complex.
- NO. The concepts are limited by the idea that each of Gateway's areas are somehow the same and should thus be lumped together. Each diverse portion of Gateway offers different things for the public. Each area of Gateway should have its own unique "voice" and concept. Fort Tilden and Sandy Hook may share some traits but are entirely unique. They aren't the same and shouldn't be treated the same.
- No. All National Park System areas are held to the same high standard of cultural resource preservation. Fort Hancock has been deemed a National Historic District, and all of its structures are considered to have historic value. Concept 1 does not provide adequate provisions for the preservation of all Fort Hancock buildings. Concept 2 does a slightly better job than Concept 1. Concept 3 does a much better job of preserving Fort Hancock as the hugely important and historic military site that it is, while emphasizing interpretation and education and maintaining the all-important historic character and charm of the site. In my opinion, Concept 3 is the best of these three choices.
- No. Gateway should be used for organized recreation in the eastern section of Ft. Tilden.
- No. I am disturbed to learn that local grass roots art programs that keep my children stimulated and provide cultural services to our community will be detrimentally affected. These cultural programs include art and theatre which are so lacking in today's schools due to tough economic times.
- No. None of them do. The proposals are all one sided. Tilted towards preservation and against recreation. Organized, active recreation is treated as the unwanted step-child. Active organized recreation and cultural activities are the most important uses of Ft. Tilden and Riis Park.
- No. The fundamental problem is the desire to expand the usage of the parks in the Transportation elements of each concept. Part of the reason the GWNRA is a treasure is its limited usage. By expanding the number of visitors to too great a number of people, you will inevitably damage the Park.
- No. They do not keep to the idea of an Urban National Park.
- No...Riis Park and Jones Beach State Park were built by Robert Moses to offer outdoor and seaside recreation to New Yorkers. Riis Park is failing the Robert Moses Mission to provide New Yorkers a day at the beach to swim, to shoot hooks, to kick the football, to surf and maybe have lunch and dinner in an outdoor setting. Certainly conservation and environmental protection should be the mission for the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, but Riis Park was and still should be a Seaside Refuge for People... as was intended by Robert Moses. Riis Park has been abandoned

by the NPS... restorations and restoration dollars have been generously expended for Sandy Hook & the Wildlife Refuge, but NOT Riis! When the Riis Park Boathouse was re-opened, guess what NPS did with the ocean-front building...can you believe they closed it off to people, put in 5-ton air conditioners and moved their staff offices into the newly-restored building. Adding insult to injury, NPS staff confiscated the adjacent parking lot (just behind the boardwalk) for NPS staff parking...what kind of people-centric management is that?

- None of the three concepts, as proposed, express a sufficient sense of loyalty to the mission of Gateway, as expressed in the “Park Purpose” statement on page 6 of the fall 2010 newsletter. Bearing that serious reservation in mind, Concept 2 does the most to carry out Gateway’s purpose. Under the rules and regulations of the Park Service, resource management is to receive the highest priority and Concept 2 is best designed to fulfill that priority. Habitat and natural systems require the utmost protection and restoration, a priority embodied in the park’s purpose. Habitat in many areas within the park continues to degrade and disappear; the prime example being the continuing loss of islands and marsh in Jamaica Bay. It is imperative that the Plan do everything possible to stabilize, preserve, and restore these natural habitats. New York City is unique in the variety and extent of “wilderness” areas in an urban setting.
- Not necessarily. Gateway is the first & largest urban National Park. It was specifically established to serve the urban population of NYC. Yet, we often find ourselves ignoring the recreational wishes of the people. Do we guide them or do they guide us?
- Not sure
- Of the concepts, the Experiencing Preserved Places is maybe the best. The main issue with these concepts is that they try to draw connections between parks that are very distinct in terms of their geography, their users, their history, and even their ecology. Trying to manage to the middle of these will fail to take advantage of the unique characteristics of each park.
- Only under Concept 2 will the natural and cultural resources be adequately preserved, and then only if resource management, habitat protection and restoration, and the conservation of wildlife, particular of the birds that frequent the Park, are stressed and rigorously pursued. These priorities must receive the highest attention, the most funding, and the greatest efforts of the park administration and staff. Concept 2 is most likely to achieve these results.
- Our most basic question must be - What is the Earth calling us to do and to beat this at this moment. Humans are not the only species to be considered. The entire web of life is needed to be looked at as a family. All are important. Inspiration is needed for the human species to come home to understanding. We are at a serious critical crossroad with mother earth. How do we bring together scientist's insights, spiritual insights, the creativity of artist, musicians, visionaries, educators, activists, and all the inspiration of the natural world to create a new way of being.
- Park should be more clearly defined as one park. Gateway - too much competition about individual units.
- Particularly at Sandy Hook, the NPS's attempt at a “Partnership” element has been a disaster with eradication of the once-annual Clearwater Festival to satisfy private commercial interests. The NPS's ill-conceived emphasis on preserving obsolescent structures in the “Partnership” elements (and particularly the “Experiencing Preserved Places” element of Concept 2) must be reversed. In particular, the decaying housing structures on Sandy Hook should be demolished instead of the NPS's continuing to hope for their “rescue” by commercialization pirates.
- Partnership #1= focus on community connections
- Partnerships, especially those among academic, education and nonprofit organizations, and other federal agencies with ongoing missions at Gateway components, are not adequately accommodated. Such partnerships have the potential to significantly enable NPS objectives at Gateway and they should be specifically recognized in the GMP.

- Playgrounds are great and porta potties always seem nice and clean - a plus.
- Please keep the Rockaway little league going, It is a wonderful program for the children. Sports is great for children, and keeps them out of trouble. So please keep the little league program going.
- Preservation + Access will always be nice
- Probably. All express limited organized sports events which is wrong. Organized sports can run themselves once set up. Ee in NPS/NCR they are organized sports @ ballfields. This is a recreational area not a battlefield/historical site.
- Public programs to help Gateway concepts getting the public involved in a positive way is important to the parks future
- PURPOSES: Of the 3 choices, concept 1 does the best job of broadly expressing Gateway's many purposes, but all 3 concepts fail to acknowledge the many long-time, existing community cultural, recreational and educational uses of the park that act as indirect magnets to enhance community appreciation, visitation and knowledge about the history and ecology of the park. I am speaking of Rockaway Artists Alliance, Rockaway Theatre Company, Rockaway Little League and Rockaway Music and Arts Council. All 3 concepts should give the word "artistic experiences" appropriate weight. Concept 1's first sentence should be revised to add this, as should the last sentence of Concept 2 and Concept 3 needs a complete revision to reflect this.
- Recreation = #1 Interaction/education - cult & nat areas
- See new concept #4 under comments.
- So do I think that each concept helps Gateway carry out its purpose? Perhaps in a limited way. I feel that NPS could have gotten more accurate feedback on Natural & Cultural Resources, Recreation, Transportation and Partnerships if multiple choices were given in each area rather than bundled into three very similar, predefined Concepts. In the end, I think that the GMP will end up as a blend of all 3 Concepts.
- Some of the concepts stress efficient aspects of the multiple purposes of the Gateway. It is a matter of emphasis and priority. If we could do it all (achieve all its goals) we would but reality present it. Thus, one must have priorities.
- Somewhat yes.
- Somewhat, see comments below.
- Sorry, since life is hectic, my comments are mostly from what I heard from public meetings. I do know that the "goal" is to keep Gateway and all Nat'l Parks open to the public and appears in the mission statement for NPS and that is what is most important to me.
- Specifically about Fort Hancock A fully renovated campus for children and high school students to study all subjects with an emphasis on math & science - maybe leased by the Park Service
- Specifically, Sandy Hook on the New Jersey side should remain totally public. One example as to why: After the lease agreement the Chapel was available to the public at an increased fee, which was approx.150% higher than when it was offered by the NPS without any additional services and didn't even include chairs with came with an additional fee! Limiting the public's access just based on the amount required to a select few.
- That are available in these parks. Where is it posted?
- The concepts are nothing but fluff. Grandiose plans drawn up by overpaid consultants that will never see the light of day. One only need look at the Sandy Hook Partners to see what NPS is really made of. Years of doing nothing and no one held accountable.
- The concepts are very good in their general way. I can only speak to Sandy Hook/Fort Hancock with any knowledge. The Sandy Hook unit is absolutely priceless as a resource, and I applaud what's been done with the summer ferries, the bike paths and the pedestrian walkway at the new Highlands bridge.

- The concepts help elucidate the issues.
- The concepts, as currently constructed do not accommodate the wide range of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education opportunities that are presented by the Gateway components either individually or taken together. This is especially critical given the unique national role of Gateway as an urban resource serving the country's largest metropolitan area. The concepts also seem to not include much beyond a vague "informal" education component.
- The concepts, as I read them, do not address the current usage by the Rockaway Little League, the Artists Alliance or the Rockaway Theatre Company. It is my understanding that NPS is planning to levy additional fees on these organizations, fees that at face value seem to be aimed at making it impossible for these organizations to continue utilizing the small portion of space they have been using in the past.
- The first one I think suits much better
- The following comments deal with your three proposed concepts only as they apply to Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge: Question 1. Purpose: The preservationist approach (Concept 2) is the most appropriate way to remain stewards of the wildlife refuge while attracting more visitors.
- The Gateway National Recreation Area encompasses a tremendous variety of natural areas, from the Great Kills Park on Staten Island to Breezy Point, Fort Tilden and Floyd Bennett Field in Brooklyn and Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge in Queens. The preparation of a new General Management Plan provides a tremendous opportunity to protect, preserve and restore these areas.
- The hopefully will expose the city dwellers to the beauty of nature as our forefathers saw it before we contaminated the area and polluted the water. The park should be "people friendly" above everything else.
- The ideas look good on paper. Is there or will there be a time frame on when the concepts can be implemented?
- The original agreement was a "big" mistake, finally ended let's try not to make the same error again.
- The other concepts are okay but they seem more passive. I want to see an actively used park.
- The park is also a disgrace, especially when compared to other national parks. The buildings have deteriorated and taken their charm & history with them. The few sidewalks and paths that are there are impassable due to cracks, broken areas & weeds.
- The plan is good esp. concept 3. We will help with shoreline cleanups, etc.
- The present plan would destroy the current recreational activities (which draw large crowds and fulfill the original plan when national parks were created). I do NOT support the plans. It doesn't help the majority of the population.
- The presentation was excellent. However, the question should have been put to the community first as to what they wanted.
- The sad thing is how & why the Park Service stayed with the ill conceived Wassel privatization plan. Unfortunately, most of the buildings left from Fort Hancock appear not to be worth restoration after this unconscionable delay. Demolition would be best for the most part. Any new additional buildings should come after the removal of some of the most dilapidated Army buildings. The place has far more many buildings than could ever be used, and judging by the frequency that the park closes in summer, more parking and some shuttle vans would be far more useful than a new "conference center" or some of the other half baked ideas associated with the last privatization scheme.

- The specificity of the plan is not conducive to identifying a strong NPS identity and overall park mission/purpose. More specific objectives, regarding each site individually, will be useful in moving forward with the GMP planning process.
- The Theater in Riis Park was one of the most amazing things for our neighborhood. Being in a small community there is not much for us to do. This has increased the quality of life for us. If they have to pay additional fees or go by standards, it would be impossible.
- The three concepts appear to help GW carry out its purpose. I personally favor concept two because of the emphasis on independent exploration and environmental education.
- The way they are written seems to be written with the theme of conserving GW's natural resources/culture. I'm just worried exactly how that would be enacted e.g. Roosevelt Island's new parks ripped up all the shoreline/ ripped put trees on the Southpoint.
- There are good points to all but/or certain points from each seem to best serve the purpose.
- There is no common thread with Gateway. Sandy Hook has nothing in common with other units of gateway.
- There is plenty of land for environmental use in GNRA. To grant recreational use to a couple of buildings in eastern Ft. Tilden (that hadn't been maintained properly since WWII) and a small amount of land around those for sports fields seems more than reasonable. I can't imagine any serious environmental impact from recreational use. Every national park allows for some form of recreation; an urban park (especially) should have this as a primary mission.
- There needs to be a combination of both nature-based recreation (e.g. kayaking) and organized sports such as baseball. Gateway is not only a recreation area for out of town visitors but is the only outdoor park available to some communities that adjoin it, especially the Rockaways.
- There needs to be some "guideline", however, now one addressed the concept could be subjective - from a direct & confining approach to a more "free - flowing" and imaginative approach. I favor a more open and free flowing approach.
- They all have basic commonalities - yes
- They seem to overlap in a most efficient way. I'm sure, each concept has its budget considerations. Personally, adapting to an alternative means of transportation, and educating the public in general, helps propel the "healing process" that is essential in the first place.
- This concept seems to focus on NPS actively protecting as many natural and cultural resources as it can. With limited time and money, this means we would have less rangers in the field. We would have more passive educational/interp. Less person services.
- This concept seems to focus on NPS leading activities. In this way I envision a park w/ lots more Rangers. Rangers leading activities - education, interp, sport/recreation (including baseball, soccer, hiking and kayaking), and cultural events. With limited resources if we focus our time/money on these activities then we will have less for active protection, preservation, and restoration of natural and cultural resources. This would push us to limit the number of buildings/environments that we actively preserve.
- This concepts seems to focus on protecting the coastal resources and coastal-type activities. With limited time and money on other types of recreation - sports field and cultural resources like housing @ MF.
- To a certain extent
- To some extent however with the large area of Gateway, it is vital that each section be looked at individually so as to best measure its current use as well as how any changes might affect the community and those who use them. For instance, limited organized recreation of the marshlands is necessary to preserve them. To limit the organized use of areas such as Fort Tilden fields would hurt the youth organizations that currently use them

- Too-narrow construction of the education component of the plan is especially significant for the future of the Sandy Hook component. Ongoing and anticipated education and research activities offer the potential for substantially stronger integration with other Gateway components and with regional education resources that cover all levels from K-12 as well as colleges and universities.
- Trans = #2 ALT Trans - best use of shuttle/bicycle/ferries
- Under the National Park Service Act, yes. Where will the money come from?
- Very important
- We need to "trim", "focus" eliminate some activities. Mothball whole quadrants of the parks effectively to present manage other... A few star: Expand, renew slowly. Methodically.
- While Gateway is looking for way to expand, Gateway is not taking care of the property, buildings, beaches that you already have.
- Will the concepts help Gateway carry out its purpose has yet to be seen. Fort Tilden has been in disrepair for years and has been slowly disintegrating for the past 40 years.
- Yes - but we need to follow through with the plan.
- Yes - Concept #1 appears to be more feasible. Maintaining historic structures are already accessible to the public helps tell the historic and military stories of the park. Increased recreational opportunities will allow visitors to discover the recreational and historical aspects of the park - Funding may not be realistic to implement concept # 2 & 3.
- Yes - Preservation and enjoyment are not easy to balance with the diverse population in the area. Environmental preservation and historic structures are also not the same vein. The nature and wildlife should be respected more by all the visitors
- Yes - Preservation awareness
- Yes - they are all fantastic for different reasons. Discovery is least attractive + I would think attract the least amount of funds.
- Yes and no. Concept # 1 (Discovering Gateway) is in the direction to attract more visitors, at the convenience of the visitor. I definitely see this concept connecting with the people but not in its natural environment. When I think the National Park Service, I think of a natural, fresh environment, walking, hiking, sack lunches, and NOT convenience! Yes convenience is a plus, but not means of enjoying natural environments.
- Yes and no. There are some aspects in each concept that would foster Gateway's purpose; others should be reconsidered.
- Yes and no. While "recreation" is a core value to Gateway's mission, the Park Service has an obligation to preserve and protect natural and cultural resources within the units. Everyone can go sit on the beach, fly kites, wander down trails, go swimming and look at flora and fauna throughout the units in magnificently maintained natural resource environments. However, they usually do so within the shadow of critically vital, and extremely rare, cultural heritage areas, mainly the former harbor forts (Tilden, Hancock and Wadsworth). Tragically, nearly all of these resources - specifically, fort support buildings like barracks and mess halls, and tactical areas such as the coast artillery gun emplacements and missile sites - are suffering from years of neglect, vandalism and wear and tear. These resources need to be recognized, carefully studied, stabilized and opened and interpreted to the public. While each specific gun battery and building does not need a ground-up restoration to its original configuration, each Fort is the sum of its parts - losing ANY of the remaining structures, with so many having been lost already to age, arson, neglect or natural forces - is simply unthinkable.
- Yes but "Discovery Gateway" is the most appropriate, since it implies Gateway's original purpose, emphasizes the need to connect with and address diverse audiences especially through partnerships, while addressing the perennial problem of transportation.

- Yes but the phrase that keeps throwing me is "limited recreation" as if sometime in the future we will do these things. I think we need to work with what we have here now & expand on it. We seem to be shrinking as to the visitor experience and expanding as to the administrative part.
- yes I believe that educating the masses about these different ecosystems will allow ensure their survival for the future
- Yes I do. But I think each concept can be enhanced even more so. They can be enhanced by introducing other new sustainable concepts for more visibility and cultural enrichment and the Arts at Ft. Tilden
- Yes I do. In all honesty do you realize Gateway gets over 650 to 700 children that get to play in a safe and secure park each season with Rockaway Little League alone?? Not to mention the Artists Alliance or the Theater Group. These things do not happen everywhere in New York City. It should be an honor that people of all ages can come and watch a ballgame, see artist or go to a play and not worry about is the park safe. Kids play soccer and I am sure that brings in about 300 to 400 children. Is that not what a park is for?????
- Yes I do. Concept 1, addresses public access and visitation more than the others. The GNRA Mission states that it's "responsibilities and attendant activities are inescapably shaped by the intense urban culture and value systems of the region".
- Yes I like concept 2 but would disagree with any organized sports at Sandy Hook. Kayak rentals, sailfishes, row boats fine... but no soccer fields. Let kids figure out how to amuse themselves. When preserving buildings, be aware of global warming! It may all be gone in 50 years.
- Yes it does but I think the Discovering Gateway looks best.
- Yes with educational & more public awareness.
- Yes! We can if we have the budget
- Yes, all three are deserving of merit.
- Yes, but concept 1 seem to includes more potential for cultural activities such as the theater, music and dance.
- Yes, but I favor the discovering Gateway concept
- Yes, but the money to make these concepts reality don't seem to be readily available.
- Yes, depending upon what the organization decides to emphasize.
- Yes, each concept has a distinct and unique purpose I'm interested to see specific examples on how this can be carried out specifically the coastal connections concept.
- Yes, especially discovering Gateway and Coastal Connections. Jamaica Bay is a great natural resource that its underutilized and sometimes hard to get to. Even though I live here already, I like the idea of more water transportation. I like history but at least at the Jamaica Bay Unit, Preserved Places are not compelling.
- Yes, Gateway's concept to limit the park use has worked. Unfortunately there are more people in need of an outdoor space so the park is offered on a first come basis. The Rockaway Theatre has provided people with quality performances. The theatre uses the talent of children and adults to put on these performances. I would not like to see these shows cancelled or become so costly that you limit the use to the more wealthy. As a senior citizen I would not be able to go to Broadway shows because the cost would be too high.
- Yes, however, the focus of the three is different.
- Yes, I believe you have a firm preliminary basis with which to pursue long-term improvement.
- Yes, I think each concept is well thought out and keeps both the park goers and wildlife's best invest in mind.
- Yes, I think each concept is well thought out and keeps both the park goers and wildlife's best invest in mind.

- Yes, I think each concept will greatly carry out the purpose to maximize the total park experience.
- Yes, in one way or another
- Yes, though concept #2 seems to do a weaker job at this because the emphasis, while appropriate, feels a bit removed from the geographic context and nature of the region. The purpose of Gateway seems to be mostly connected to the urban/geographic content.
- Yes, to a degree.
- Yes, useful, but need to be modified
- Yes. Concept # 2 would carry out its purpose best.
- Yes. I do feel that each concept has aspects or parts that I have heard over & over again from visitors regarding either their "experience" in the park, or what they believe the park should be focusing on.
- Yes. I support Concept 1. while incorporating values Concepts 2. and 3.
- Yes. It appears to be thought out and focused
- Yes. They're all good. I lean toward preservation and nature areas. I understand that.
- Yes. But the best of each concept must be used to form a new more perfect concept which should be used as the new guide/concept.
- Yes. Gateway should be about preservation and recreation. Education should be mostly for the groups. For individuals, museums, exhibits, pamphlets, etc. Should be available
- Yes. I feel concept, would be better for S.I.
- Yes. I would love to see the park get some more notoriety & recognition from the public, while still remaining conscious of preservation and maintenance of all historical & natural attractions.
- Yes. If funding is available. Some areas may have to be developed by concession by the private sector, as has been done with Aviator, the Flatbush Golf Club and the boat yard, and Silver Gull and Buffett Point Beach Club.
- Yes. There is always room for improvement. Anywhere, as time goes on.
- You mention "independent exploration", I think the park would be better served by offering more frequent guided walking tours especially for 1st time visitors. The RAA does the best we can to offer visitors information about the gun batteries, ocean walk etc.
- You mention "independent exploration", I think the park would be better served by offering more frequent guided walking tours especially for 1st time visitors. The RAA does the best we can to offer visitors information about the gun batteries, ocean walk etc.

Question 2 - Will the park's natural and cultural resources that are important to you be adequately preserved under each concept?

- A school supported by a consortium of wealthy investors to make a state of art learning center. Ferries to NYC would attract an interesting & diverse community of teachers & students. The historical buildings could be refurbished as a functional part of the campus. Funding would attract lower income students as well as middle class & upper class students
- Absolutely - A lot can be done w/ for example Floyd Bennet Field to make it more user friendly. How will people who have used the park since the 60's be accommodated in their needs?
- Active, organized recreation must be the primary use of the eastern section of Ft. Tilden. I do not object to sharing the park with the environmental advocates, but I object to efforts to exclude recreational users of the park and our children.
- Adequately preserved, yes. Concept #2 seems like it might be overly inclusive and thus less focused than the other two. It strikes me as being a little bit status quo. Due to the wealth of resources at Gateway, focusing and prioritizing might be the most effective strategy. There might need to be an additional level of criteria added to concept #2.
- Again, Concept 1 and 2 might actually harm the preservation of natural resources. The ecosystem in Gateway is fragile and threatened and increased recreational uses will not help that situation. Concept 2 appears to provide the best vehicle for focusing on the preservation of natural areas in Gateway
- Again, I believe concept # 2 would preserve the resources important to me, provided GW can successfully enter into non-profit partnerships to achieve restoration and preservation.
- Again, while some of the most charismatic resources are identified as objects for preservation in this phase of the plan, there are more resources, both natural and cultural, that deserve revision in future versions of the GMP. There is also widespread concern regarding the ambiguous nature of the methods that will be used to evaluate what resources will be affected by potential sea level rise or climate change issues. What scientific protocol will be followed before making choices that will affect NPS cultural or natural resources? What disclosure will be made available to the public regarding this information and subsequent decision-making process? In the interest of full disclosure, this matter deserves more attention and further exploration in future GMP exhibitions regarding resource management.
- Also under Concept 3, Recreation, the concept allows for all types of coastal and recreational activities that emphasize connections to the ocean and shorelines. This concept goal must be caveated to give protection of natural resources a greater priority than over all sorts of recreation. For example beach closures may be necessary to protect endangered or threatened flora or fauna.
- Am primarily interested in birding at Jamaica Bay. Am very much a senior and would also be interested in coastal connections concept.
- An active, organized recreation must be the primary use of the eastern section of Ft. Tilden. We do not object to sharing the park with the environmental advocates, but we object to efforts to exclude Rockaway homeowners, residents are our children.
- As a member of the Rockaway Theater Company at Fort Tilden I believe that concept #1 best represents the cultural resources that are important to me. Over the past 10 years it has been our mission to rehabilitate and the shell of the bldg. T4 and turn it into a viable Theater which provides Broadway quality entertainment to the park goers as well as introducing theater audience to the beauty of the park.
- As long as preserved yes.
- As long as the park is preserved, yes.

- As long as the partnerships noted promote science, research & preservation as in concept 2, there should be programs developed to rehabilitate some of the Fort Hancock buildings. The not for profit organizations that promote conservation & understanding of coastal resources should be allowed to maintain offices on long term leases. They should also be allowed to host educational & fund raising activities that benefit their missions. (Bring back the Clearwater Festival!) The Littoral Society, Clean Ocean Action, Audubon Society and other groups are natural candidates for buildings on Officer's Row.
- B - Concept #1 is the only set of ideas that I feel will adequately and REALISTICALLY preserve the park's natural & cultural resources.
- B - I feel that the natural resources are well preserved in all three concepts. I would say that the current cultural resources could be better referenced and represented. Hopefully the thousands of visitors to the theatre, galleries and ball fields in Fort Tilden will respond in kind to this questionnaire, as will the countless students, parents, and families who have attended Park Partner's programs over the last ten years.
- B. All concepts make allowance for important cultural and natural resources. We can work with each, with Concept 1 being the best fit. Uniquely in our area (the Rockaway Peninsula) we have The Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, a world recognized nature center (in Broad Channel). We also have Floyd Bennett Field which offers everything from ice skating and hockey to community gardening to model car and airplane racing to historical aircraft reconstruction. And we have Fort Tilden, which has thriving attendance based on its numerous junior soccer leagues, cricket, rugby, biking, hiking and of course Little League. It is also become an important cultural center through the excellent productions and teaching programs of the Rockaway Theatre Company and the Rockaway Artists Alliance which provides adult and children's classes, afterschool programs and arts camp as well as fully embracing the visual arts, music and the literary arts. So you see, between these three 'sister sites' all aspects of GNRA's mission is carried through and each is respected. There is room for all with the exclusion of none.
- Beach and dune ecosystems are preserved. Transportation supports water borne options partnerships to the maritime and coastal stories.
- Being a citizen from Rockaway NY, I sometimes feel that the federal park service is more interested in just the park's natural resources than those of the community it serves.
- Certainly concepts one and three seem to be more inclined to do this, but I can't envision anyone advocating "not" preserving current wildlife areas. The maintenance of current wildlife should be among the highest priorities of the park's management plan.
- Concept #1 will make the parks too much a commercial development.
- Concept #2 has the strongest language to protect the natural resources.
- Concept #2 is the only one which stresses PROTECTED and restored
- Concept #2, in my opinion, far out weighs the others for preserving the area for the longest length of time (i.e. next 100-220 years)
- Concept 1 paragraph one makes no sense. How does one "restore" nature. As to the second paragraph, given current building methods and the requirements of modern usage, replacement if necessary, is significantly more cost efficient. If the idea is to preserve historical appearance, it seems unlikely that adaptive reuse would not deplete this effect in short order.
- Concept 1 seems to foster more opportunities for street theater - type interactions with performers in a serene central setting. In addition historic tours of Fort Tilden for example would be enhanced by costumed performers.
- Concept 1 suggests non-sustainable overexploitation.
- Concept 2 is the one that seems best to me, emphasizing preservation of habitat and regulating large group activities that benefit people but not wildlife.

- Concept 2 offers the best preservation of resources.
- Concept 2 seems to carry the most support for protection of the former forts. However, the "if feasible" aspect cannot be used to white wash over any potential gray areas as a way to cut corners or "selectively" preserve one or a few of the resources. Simply put, ALL of the resources need to be carefully stabilized to hold off on the natural forces - and the actions of neglect and vandalism - that are currently threatening them. Granted, this is a massive undertaking to say the least. The clock, however, is ticking and time is running out. Universal stabilization of the non-tactical structures, especially at Fort Hancock, needs to be an immediate priority. Again, each Fort is the sum of its parts, and each unit cannot afford to lose any more of its historic structures. With the loss of structures and batteries, interpreting and preserving each site becomes harder and harder for the NPS to fulfill and execute upon. A well-preserved and maintained fort will make for an amazing educational and enriching visitor experience; holes in the historic fabric - i.e., big gaps and open areas where buildings and batteries used to be - make it very hard for the visitor to experience and understand WHY each location is historically significant.
- Concept 2 seems to favor preservation of the historic places. Concepts 1 and 3 favor the natural resources which are the greatest treasure of Sandy Hook.
- Concept 2: Experiencing preserved areas provides the highest level of preservation and restoration but I feel the Adoptive reuse of structures should not be discouraged
- Concept 3 best achieves this goal, but concept 2 is adequate. Concept 1 is deficient... too much emphasis on recreation.
- Concept 3 comment - remove the word "selectively" from the cultural resources section.
- Concept 3 neglects mentioning half the natural resources.
- Concepts 1 and 3 depart from the essential mission of Gateway by encouraging active recreational uses and boating and boating facilities. That emphasis would almost certainly harm the preservation of Gateway's fragile and threatened natural resources.
- Concepts 2 and 3 obviously place necessary emphasis upon natural and cultural resources. Concept 1 also emphasizes these resources but as a part of the user's experience. Participatory action as outlined in concept 1 will educate the public but also runs the risk of degrading those resources the park is meant to protect.
- Concepts 2 and 3 obviously place the necessary emphasis upon natural and cultural resources. Concept 1 also emphasizes these resources but as a part of the user's experience. Participatory action, as outlined in concept 1 will educate the public, but also runs the risk of degrading those resources the park is meant to protect.
- Difficult to tell right now. The beaches now have too much garbage on them. That should be a primary concern.
- For 10 years we have shared the park with the environmental advocates and have done our part in preservation, but we object to efforts to exclude us and our children.
- Habitats, natural processes and water quality are protected and restored to the greatest degree possible to strengthen ecosystem integrity and resiliency. The majority of the park's fundamental historic buildings, structures and landscapes are stabilized and preserved, as feasible.
- Hanger B at Fort Bennett & The Control Tower should be developed into a fulltime aviation museum.
- have them preserved
- Having these natural resources close enough for children in a city like NY is great so yes :)
- Here's my plug: I'm a member of a fellowship that utilizes bldg T-149 at Ft. Tilden. We have several groups with members that come from Breezy Pt., Brooklyn and southern Queens, and

for over a couple - or more - decades have established a presence and some tradition. It is my personal hope that any direction Gateway moves in can allow for our continued presence. The Parks In general and Ft Tilden in particular afford a serene, popular and treasured oasis in the midst of the metropolitan bustle.

- History house great.
- Honestly the concepts aren't all that clear to me but I think all the Sandy Hook parks natural cultural resources can and must be preserved and enhanced. All concepts have value combined.
- Hopefully
- Hopefully once the park is open to the public funding to keep operating at a high level will be appropriated each year in the budget. A park like this exposes the city youth to the benefits of nature that people in rural areas have enjoyed for years. Preservation of natural resources is a must so that future generations will have the same opportunities as the past and present.
- Hopefully, that's my thinking to preserve the natural beauty
- Huh? Kennedy's restaurant @ Breezy Pitt no -one knows it's there - other businesses having financial difficulties in this economy.
- I am a historian and anthropologist & work in museum collections so I naturally feel that cultural (natural) resources are paramount.
- I am unsure. The park is quite large and it has evolved into being a key area for recreation for the local community. Though recreation is included as a concept the community has been led to believe that this will be taken away. As an urban park the recreation aspect is hugely important and unless it remains the park will be not be adequate.
- I believe each concept provides for the natural resources, however, what about the buildings? Should they be preserved? Where will the money come from?
- I believe so. It seems that the park has not lost the central focus of the fact that this is a wildlife refuge & in its hopes of attracting more public attention
- I believe that under each of the three Concepts presented on page 11, public access to this publicly owned parkland is in substantial danger of being impaired for the NPS-defined "greater good" of letting public parkland become privately commercialized to preserve some obsolete housing structures at Sandy Hook. Rather, I would like to see those obsolete structures be demolished, and unrestricted public access to this public parkland be preserved.
- I can only speak about the Sandy Hook Unit since I have not had the opportunity to visit the other Gateway locales. Its unique location with beaches, dunes, marshes, forests, and military structures make it irreplaceable, the crown jewel of the Jersey coastal Commercialism of these wonderful assets merits not permitted.
- I do like that different habitat types will be preserved under each of the 3 concepts.
- I do not want Fort Hancock to become an industrial or commercial park. It should be an education campus devoted to environmental activities only. Seals also need to be protected during the winter at Skeleton Hill Island
- I doubt it
- I feel that the natural resources are well preserved in all three concepts. I would say that the current cultural resources could be better referenced and represented. Hopefully the thousands of visitors to the theatre, galleries and ball fields in Fort Tilden will respond in kind to this questionnaire, as will the countless students, parents, and families who have attended Park Partner's programs over the last ten years.
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- I have a question- if Gateway is so concerned about nature and preserving the beach, why is it that they can not seem to purchase decent garbage cans (the type the seagulls cannot get into to pull out the garbage we dispose of the way we should)?? Also, why is tearing across the beach in a truck to pick up the garbage permitted?
- I have been a member and volunteer for Rockaway Little League for over 20 years. The baseball fields which were put in helped to make for a beautiful park. Prior to RLL being there all that was there was a lot of weeds and derelict building, look at it now. All of the buildings that are being used for activities are a positive for Gateway Parks. There is plenty of area for birds migrating and wildlife. The problem is that most of the park is off limits to the environmentalist. Take a walk along fisherman's road and you see plenty of wildlife thus proving what is there now is not hurting any wildlife.
- I have visited the Gate National Park. It is beneficial very naturally preserved & very useful - open to the public. That is essential to Sandy Hook.
- I hope so. We're still at a high level. Will you get the funds you need to fight erosion and/or pollution?
- I prefer concept one & three & If I must make choice it would be concept one
- I prefer the third. However, I'm not a local. I work whether New Yorkers would not prefer an option. Which would allow greater public access. (#1). I would deter to those who live here and need the resource most.
- I see a continued decline in resources (buildings, boardwalks, beach areas and marsh islands) at Gateway without better funding and better management of the resources that exist.
- I sincerely hope all current offerings should be continued at Ft. Tilden and Breezy. I would like to see the Fall Festival and summer concert series return with the RMAC. How outrageous that they were taken away.
- I think Rockaway Player do a great job at Fort Tilden Post Theatre. With that visitor center that was reopened at Fort Tilden & summer concerts brought back to parade grounds
- I think the beaches and coastline will be protected but I don't think buildings will be protected. I think all buildings should be included not just some.
- I think the Coastal Connection & Discovery will be the best avenues.
- I think the coastal connections concept has the possibility of being potentially limiting to protecting certain resources in the park now and maybe even in the future

- I think the concept of interaction between the three park units needs to be developed. For instance, my wife and I feel somewhat confined by travel to get to Sandy Hook. Now, we do have a boat, and would love to explore the possibilities of an adventure where we can dock there and then explore that park. However, the idea of preserving is most important. I'm sure, each concept would want the continued and future success of this Park system. The very idea of gas powered boats might be a conflict of interest.
- I think the first concept is better
- I think there could be more done w/ some of cultural reserves. A site such as Floyd Bennet Field has tremendous opportunities. More should be done to involve younger generations in the parks development & plans. Ex, technologies
- I think there should be the most minimal development to support the concepts.
- I visit Sandy Hook almost daily year round, and I view the preservation of both the natural and cultural resources as critical to the continued viability and enjoyability of the park. I haven't yet seen a good plan to preserve Officers Row and some of the other surrounding buildings.
- I want Gateway to be used as a national recreation area by allowing local residents to enjoy the beaches, sponsored art and music events and use of fields for sports, without being charged a fee for sponsored events and parking when free parking, nature trails, and use of Gateway facilities at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Center are free.
- I was saddened last year when the Appalachian Mountain Club was not allowed to continue its program at one of the Officers Row houses. The program involved exploring the parks natural areas and staying in the officer's row house. This type of use by non-profits (or even for profit firms) is exactly the type of thing that should be encouraged.
- I would hope so, but they have been neglected and allowed to deteriorate for many years under the federal government's jurisdiction. Local nonprofit groups have improved sites and areas in the park for years in order to facilitate use.
- I would like to see more emphasis in the concepts by the National Park Service to facilitate water quality improvements in Jamaica Bay. For example the Park Service is monitoring water quality, but should do more to monitor the embayments of Jamaica Bay for both bacteria, dissolved Oxygen, floatables, and other pollutants etc. Such data can be used to promote additional controls of Combined Sewer Overflows and wastewater treatment plants. The NPS could use its own legal resources or work with EPA and NYSDEC and NYCDEP to facilitate the needed water quality improvements.
- I would like to see plans for ecological restoration, climate change adaptation
- I would like to see the baseball fields at Fort Tilden be preserved. They are used for close to 10 full months a year. They bring hundreds if not thousands of kids to the park and provides them a terrific oasis to enjoy their passion.
- I would not find organized, large scale entertainment and recreational endeavors appropriate in this Sandy Hook setting. I don't know about the other sites.
- I would say that being able to access Sandy Hook by ferry from NYC more often would alleviate the traffic coming over Rt36 and the parking challenges. I would not want lots of recreational boating docking and I really would not want lots of motorized jet skiing or motorized boating allowed. If people have to get around by foot, bike, swimming or kayak it establishes a very human-scale kind of place.
- If adequately preserved is the key, then yes. But if it were preserved to the fullest than concept no. 1 would not meet the requirements.
- If connected yes
- If there is going to be a cost to use the parks then no I don't think the cultural resources will be preserved. A park that has been used since I was a child will be reduced in use. If the park

wants to charge an annual fee for the use of the park the way National Parks do then that would be fine. Each user would be charged for an annual fee.

- If you say that cultural and natural resources will be protected to the greatest extent possible, then say the very same resources will be protected as feasible, you are saying two different things. Either they will be considered valuable enough to be protected or not protected at all.
- I'm more concerned about the historic structures at Fort Hancock. I'd like to see a real plan, with an innovative partnership and enthusiastically active 'friends of' group. The site is literally falling apart before our eyes, without anything more than simple band aids applied to what equates to a massive hemorrhage of damage through the elements and neglect.
- Important, however, however, we're not taking care of what we have. We have to look beyond our feelings and build it up for our future leaders. Many of you will not be here when this plan is generated so decisions should be made accordingly. We need more people who are knowledgeable in this area. We also need more training.
- In concept 3, you seem to be suggesting the we can hold back sea level rise and the delta growth effects of the Raritan at Sandy Hook (see Venice, assorted islands of Oceana, New Orleans) While preservation, where feasibly realistic is desirable, prudent consideration is called for lest costs become prohibitive. Sure, we hate to lose resources, but loosing the roof over ones head takes precedence.
- In the last few years I have seen more and more of the metro area's natural habitats destroyed or become degraded. There is clamoring for more and more ballfields and such for organized sports, such as privately run sports complex aviator at Floyd Bennett Field. NYC Audubon worked for many years to get grassland habitat preserved there, habitat that supported nesting grasshopper sparrows and upland sandpipers (now gone) American Kestrels (now almost gone), Bobolinks and Meadowwalkers (declining). A small minority of the population engaged in organized sports, and our children suffer from nature-deficit disorder. We should also not turn our public lands over to private interests.
- In this category, only the ideas set forth in 'concept 2' seem practical.
- It depends if all 3 concepts are incorporated. If so, then I would think that most concerns would be fulfilled. It is important for the natural resources and coastlines are preserved.
- It has to be, you make it
- It is difficult to say - the statements are general with no specifics of how each plan will be achieved
- It is imperative that the historic buildings at Fort Hancock are rehabbed and preserved. Actually it may be too late to save some of them. The Park Service needs to move quickly to save as much of Officers Row and other coastal defense installations as possible.
- It is so important that the Rockaway Theatre Company and the Rockaway Artists Alliance are able to continue their much needed and appreciated programs. Children in our area have very little access to the arts as it is. These programs provide a great needed service to the community.
- It looks like CRAP. The grass is yellow and the fields SUCK. But it is the only thing we have...so unless you are going to improve it at your cost, leave it alone.
- It seems to be. I am most concerned about Sandy hook. It is spectacular... the way it is. I think very selected buildings should be saved and what is left returned to its natural state... most distressing is all that beach and on hot sunny days. Limited access by the public. .. I like
- It seems to me that preservation is the only thing you care about. You may as well put a fence around the park and hang a sign that says, "If you can read this sign then keep out." This is supposed to be a "Recreation Area." You have played semantic games to equate a walk in the park as fulfilling your recreation mandate.

- It would be a tragedy to fail to preserve, or actively to destroy, this rare natural area in order to construct recreational or transportation facilities that duplicate those found outside the boundaries of the Park
- It's hard to say. I have been to the parks in NYC a couple times (when I lived in NYC), and I doubt I will ever go to the park on Staten Island. I know very little about these parks, and I am not that interested in visiting them.
- Likewise, some cultural resources such as Ft Tilden. Both Nike site and Battery Harris E &W, could be better utilized for pgms for the public
- Love all of Gateway and it is under utilized as is.
- Many areas of the City have been provided with cultural concerts, exhibitions and neighborhood celebrations. We have been denied these privileges and feel we are not receiving proper representation within the National Park Service's planning commission.
- More fluff. Great plans to preserve what is truly important, but no execution to follow. Never was, never will be.
- Most importantly, the deployment of Concept II will encourage and enable the ADDITIONAL deployments of Concepts I & III. With the usage and sustaining of resources, this allows for a greater park experience in the long run. Even though Concept II requires a great outlay of resources at the initial stages, it will firm up each unit's capabilities and the ability to offer unique programs, events and interpretation. Preserving resources across Gateway will ensure that each site's individual capabilities will offer a greater impact in the long run when Concepts I & III can be implemented later on. A park with more to offer will be a much better area to visitors on both the group and individual levels.
- Museum/artifact (excellence only) management original/cutting edge environment/biological experiments - projects only Word has found a locals/friends groups valance and comfort level. One of these is enough.
- My children have attended natural workshops that were offered by Ranger Julia at the Jamaica Bay Natural Wildlife Refuge for years. They learned about flora and fauna and the seasons. The same group of children usually attended these events. I live in the middle of Gateway on Broad Channel Island. Sadly, no matter what you do, some people neither care for nor appreciate the wonders of the park.
- NATURAL & CULTURAL RESOURCES: The park's natural and cultural resources are not being adequately preserved at the present time by Gateway, with the exception of the exhibits at Riis Park Bathhouse and Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. Instead, exhibits formerly available at the old visitor center at Ft. Tilden are no longer on display, and the exhibits at Floyd Bennett Field seem to be unavailable at present, as well. The most extensive rehabilitation, reuse, stabilization and preservation of the old military grounds and buildings over the past decade has been carried out by 3 community groups: RAA, RTC and RLL. The same comment I made above about inserting the language "artistic experiences" into each of the general concepts where "Natural & Cultural Resources" are referenced, should apply here.
- No -- there should be no limitation to the sports programs that are run from the site. What is the purpose? What would be gained? Isn't the purpose of the land to be for public use & enjoyment? If you limit the participation of the sports groups that so readily support the site -- where do you think you will get support from?
- No- By forcing users of Ft. Tilden to pay user fees will make it so expensive for active, organized recreation that we will not be able to afford to use the park anymore. RMAC has already been forced to end the Fall Festival and concert series because of these same cost issues.
- No comment. See below.

- No concept fits each sit perfectly. Riis Park is more of a recreational site, Jamaica Bay W.R. is suitable for naturalists. Ft. Wadsworth can support historic preservation & education. JBWR with recreational concepts (e.g. jogging or family picnics) would be disastrous.
- No need to limit use at Sandy Hook while preserving the buildings.
- No not if you're bringing in groups that don't have conservation as their reason to visit.
- No- see question 6 and comments
- NO- the Park needs so much help.
- No, not at all.
- No. NY City sewers discharge into lower NY harbor during storms. This must stop.
- No. Rugby is becoming more popular every year. You will soon see it in the next Summer Olympics. The Rockaway Rugby Fisheads have consistently been contributors to both the game and the neighborhood and have helped clean the fields as well as bring a great sport to the youths of the community. Non rugby players often enjoy the ability to come watch as spectators. This is a great organization that should deserve more consideration in any future plans.
- No. See Question 1.
- No. We need playing fields for the youth groups to remain in the park. These are vital resources that serve to provide valuable recreation opportunities to the area's youth.
- No. each concept has to be reconsidered every so often.
- No. I believe that the second concept is the most effective towards addressing the historic and natural resource preservation.
- No. only under concept # 2
- No. Only under concept 2.
- No...Rockaway's Fall Art Fair - traditionally held after Labor Day - has been unilaterally rejected by NPS staff because they hate to see people having a good time. Likewise the summer Sunday-evening concert series was closed down by NPS staff. Around the beach area, the ball fields are sloppily maintained, the boardwalk looks NOTHING LIKE Sandy Hook's boardwalk - it is crumbling, while Sandy Hook's has been gorgeously restored - and the basketball/handball courts and other recreation accouterments are abandoned. Believe it or not, there is not even a sign on the grounds to welcome people to Riis Park!!! And, I think there's good reason...NPS staff do not want to welcome the good people of Queens and Brooklyn (some 4 and a half million people) to the beach.
- Not certain, different aspects to the park
- Not if this particular area, the Refuge part, is included in an expansion of bike paths (frequented by many turtles and part of the habitat).
- Not quite. My Father was stationed at Sandy Hook during the war and I have been a visitor since the park service took it over. I have witnessed much destruction of historical sites just because they were not 'mothballed'. I believe the greatest effort should be to put the most funds into 'mothballing' these sites and buildings until the budget and/or donations allow a restoration. A classic example is the 'officers club' at Sandy Hook. My Father was never in it (he was a sergeant) until the park took it over. It is now almost totally destroyed because the park service just let it open and rot due to funding. All buildings and gun emplacements (like Kingman and Mills) should be preserved until we have the money to restore them.
- Not sure, leaning toward doubtful based on past decisions which include ignoring the public's wishes and partnering with a private investor (Wasser). I will find it hard to trust the NPS and cannot believe they will abide by the public's desire to leave the park as untouched as possible.
- Not sure. Concepts are too closely related to tell. They all seem to advance all of the goals, just with somewhat different emphasis. My priorities are to preserve the historic structures and to

provide the facilities needed to support the various recreational opportunities offered at Sandy Hook.

- Not sure. I feel confident that you'll continue to be good stewards toward keeping our beaches and natural areas in good shape, and that the piping plovers and other species are safe under your watch.
- Not sure. It looks like the natural resources under Concepts 1, 2, and 3 work to protect habitats, natural processes and water quality. But the Concepts must specifically mention protection of flora and fauna and protection of threatened and endangered species as well as reintroductions of species that are typically native to this area.
- Obviously, the cultural and children's recreational activities will suffer under this proposed concept. The imposition of exorbitant "user fees" will make it impossible for the Theatre Company and the organized recreational activities to survive. Case and Point: The Fall Festival and concert series has already been terminated due to the cost issues. The environmental aspect of the Gateway mission is not threatened by these other programs. In fact, middle class families are able to introduce their youth to the importance of natural surroundings by exposing them to the cultural and recreational activities held at Ft. Tilden.
- Once again the concepts are too broad to be applied as a blanket option. There must be a more detailed breakdown of the concepts so that an informed and well thought out plan can be implemented. However looking at the base concepts, there seems to be a desire to preserve what we have.
- Only if some was is found to fund the expansion of the Knapp Street Sewage Plant, to stop the pollution due to releases of overflow.
- Only if the fort Tilden area is maintained for recreational use. RAA, Ballfields, gardens, etc
- Only under concept 2. Individuals and organizations should be allowed to rent or even own some of the abandoned buildings - under regulation that preserve their appearance. Do what the Presidio did along these lines.
- Only with concept 2. This is the only concept that should be considered for Sandy hook.
- Particularly interested in the preservation of the historic buildings.
- Perhaps under Concept 1.
- Perhaps, but the devil is in the details.
- Perhaps, but with too many social/community repercussions
- Planning for more independent "groups" to use building facilities. This always brings more people to the park and can explain the identity crisis
- Please do not eliminate phragmites without careful consideration
- Plenty of places public can go in park even with more restrictive rules.
- Positive
- Preservation is not the prime concern when you have something called a recreation area.
- Preserve the theater, art gallery & little league along with summer concerts and community meetings.
- Preserving the natural & cultural resources is based on funding. Funding is based indirectly on getting people to enjoy the park experience
- Probably not. I think we need to recruit more volunteers that are from each local area and let them tell the story to visitors as tour guides about what these places are all about. Gateway is a collection of very different areas with histories of their own. Our own staff is busy with administrative things. People want to volunteer for something meaningful not just manning a desk.
- Probably not...need more preservation of the marshes
- Provide more ferry service and bike access, public transportation.

- Question 2. Preserving natural resources: Promoting variety and novelty (concept 1) or a theme park approach (concept 3).could mean a greater emphasis on "recreation" (however non-organized). Too much of the public, recreation implies sport, vigorous activity and/ or speed, which can destroy natural habitats. The path next to the Hudson River in upper Manhattan was paved, allowing bicyclists, skaters, and runners to use it at speeds previously not possible. The many red-tailed hawks who used to perch there in autumn are no longer seen. Even on the unpaved trails in Van Cortlandt Park, the Bronx, bicycles and runners disrupt birding. Nothing of this type should be allowed to happen to the Wildlife Refuge! Nor must JBWR become a venue for restaurants, boat launches, or other types of concessions. Concepts 1 and 3 might open up Gateway and possibly the Refuge as well, eventually, to such enterprises.
- Restore Officers Row houses. Sell or lease them to individuals or groups willing to restore them. Offer tax incentives
- Riis Park and Fort Tilden have been allowed to deteriorate since they were taken over by the Park Service. The NYC Parks Dept take much better care of the beaches, boardwalk etc then the Federal Gov't has done.
- Sand needs to brought in for the Riis Beach and Gap Beach due to erosion
- seems so
- Share the area divide in half.
- Somewhat in all, but esp. 'Preserved Places"
- Somewhat, see comments below.
- Sounds like anything other than nature will have a hard time justifying their existence. This is short sighted. People need a reason to visit the park (Ft. Tilden), it is a "destination" facility, so you want to give visitors various reasons to visit and support the park.
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- State and local library facilities could be located there; the Girl Scouts; the Boy Scouts; many, many volunteer organizations with a focus on environmental issues.
- State exactly how the natural resources are to be preserved. There is nothing addressing the vast amounts of trash being dumped in and around the area. There should be severe penalties for visitors who throw trash. The document paints a lovely picture of the park while hiding certain ugly facts that need to be addressed.
- That is the Million dollar question?
- That said, keep up the good work!
- That would depend on the proper partnerships in each community to hear the best solution and not just from one organization.
- The buildings at Floyd Bennett Field are a disgrace. The roofs & windows have giant holes in them. A concessionaire called Aviator Sports rehabbed a building & created a ballfield. Unless the Fed. Gov't is prepared to create a pleasant atmosphere for the park they should leases space to concessionaires. They should do responsible development.
- The coast is invaluable, please try to provide access at the cove of Ft. Wadsworth.
- The concept of the structures being revitalized for institutions of higher learning; in the area of science and technology. There are surrounding colleges and universities who could establish satellite locations at the hook.
- The concepts as proposed focus on too many antiquated structures that have no historical importance. The gun batteries are the only true historical structures at Fort Hancock.
- The concepts ideally will protect all that can be saved with the limited resources the NPS but not equally. The structures should be allowed to weather naturally. The water quality is very

important for all visitors and future patrons as well. Migratory birds need more protection as well as turtles and seals.

- The cultural resources that have been well established at Gateway are being destroyed for no good reason.
- The current bike trail is great!
- The excellent features are two: structures and the natural preservation is paramount if pressed to give percentages, I would give 75 to 80% for natural preservation and 20 to 25% for structural. I strongly support concept 2. Experiencing preserved places. This concept preserves the essence and the unique features of this densely populated area.
- the fact that Gateway ranks in lowest of all the park in the US tell me something is wrong but I don't think these proposals will even remotely help promote what the park concepts should or could be and will keep them all underutilized.
- The Forts historical structures; Fort Tompkins especially are in terrible state of disrepair. Much more of an effort needs to be made to an effort needs to be made to restore these pieces of American history.
- The full spectrum of several stages in needed to preserve natural resources in a changing environment.
- The historic aspects of the fort should be respected, and the contributions to the defense of the country celebrated at one central location at the fort.
- The information provided in your documents is sparse. You are big on generalities and extremely lacking in terms of specifics.
- The natural ones yes most definitely. The cultural ones seem harder to maintain with the cultural staff not really reaching out to the organizations for assistance or sharing resources. It seems like only a cultural resource employee can work on cultural resources. There does not seem to be any effort to for ANY partnerships
- The natural resources are the most important to be preserved. I am not in favor of the military emphasis. Military wars, training, preparation destroys life at every level and ought never to be glorified - Only mourned and never again to be repeated. Swords, missiles, weapons must be transferred into only instruments of healing, love, compassion, peace. No to all violence at every level. Yes to life.
- The natural resources will go unaffected if the children are allowed to play baseball and softball on the already established fields in Gateway.
- The park has a wildlife area that continues to thrive. It suits the purpose as is.
- The park's cultural resources will be decimated under the dictates of each concept which do not take into account the vibrant, vital art and recreation scene that thrives in the natural beauty of Fort Tilden as administered by the Rockaway Arts Alliance, Rockaway Theatre Company and the little leagues. The park's natural resources experience tremendous protection by the excellent enforcing of park rangers, the parking permits and restricted use already in place. Rockaway kids, their parents and seniors get a tremendous benefit from the active, organized recreation that is currently in place.
- The plan will drive away the average person who depends on the parks for low cost recreation. This has already begun with the loss of some cultural events in Rockaway.
- The preservation of the parks wildlife and bird resources are of primary importance to me. There are plenty of places for bike riding, picnicking and radio playing in the NYC area. There are fewer places for a quiet walk with friends enjoying nature. This requires places being left "natural" not developing areas which have limited use in the summer and become blights on the landscape in the winter when they are not used. Jones Beach would be a perfect example of giant parking lots that are empty many months of the year.

- The resources most important to me are at the Sandy Hook Unit. The natural resources seem to be at capacity as far as usage, especially during summer months. The cultural resources are underutilized primarily due their poor and ever-deteriorating condition. Concept 2 appears to provide the most protection for historic structures. I wouldn't want to see the beach areas used any more then they already are unless people arrive by a means other than automobiles.
- The theater must be preserved! It is a wonderful educational opportunity for our children, and it is a valuable culture experience for our community.
- The words "historic structures" are quite a bit as well as "rehabilitation". I would like to know at some point which structures will get rehabilitated. There are many in every unit. Fort Tilden's Building 1 specifically needs work and is needed for interp/education programs (desperately)
- There are many existing natural and cultural resources already implemented in this park. It will not be preserved if high fees are demanded. The RTC is a huge cultural resource offering local theater for a reasonable price. A children's workshop that 62 kids that were involved. RAA which has regular art exhibitions and classes for adults to utilize. Athletic programs for children to compete in.
- There is an area where more visitors could be encouraged to appreciate the unique values of this land.
- There is no mention of the current cultural activities taking place in Ft. Tilden that have been developed over the years by the community, or the fact that we may be forced to cease those activities because of proposed fees that will be onerous.
- There is the claim of preserving the historic sites on the beachfront of Fort Tilden. I think that no one can dispute that this would be beneficial to us all.
- There should be some kind of shuttle service in summer between Hyde Blvd and park. Not a big bus - no a/c or heat - open - its summer - horse or by wagon - the check point big to go. On parks houses? Invasive plants, honey suckle, should be removed
- They should be but does each area have the money. Again, each area needs to focus on its own fund raising and friends groups to supplement what can be provided by the US govt.
- This is questionable.
- Though some of the cultural aspects are addressed, none of the concepts
- To a degree, but there are so many more new sustainable and innovative approaches that can be utilized to enhance the historical significance of Ft. Tilden and the surrounding communities at large.
- UNCERTAIN
- Water quality and strengthening eco-system integrity should be added to natural and cultural resources section of "Discovering Gateway", which is included under "experiencing preserved places" concept
- We need the Fr Capadano entrance to the north Miller field parking lot to be open
- We need the water resources to be a greater priority
- We that live near here try to protect the natural resources, such as the endanger piping plovers, and some of the building have been refurbished for reuse with out losing its integrity & charm. If the other beautiful building could be rebuilt & maintained in the same way it would be beneficial to the area.
- What preservation and rehabilitation techniques are scheduled to be done? The concept does not seem to be very specific. Once done, I'd like to see regularly scheduled tours set up at some of the facilities such as Battery Weed in Ft. Wadsworth.
- Yes - but it seems unreasonable to believe the buildings @ SAITO will be restored. They are too far gone structurally to be helped at this point.

- Yes and no, there needs to be a compromise between restoration and nature. We need to know where we came from, before we change the future.
- Yes but ain some resources may have to be allowed to deteriorate /return to nature in order to preserve and protect others. It could be considered that while some cultural resources are deteriorating they could be creating and preserving natural habitat for species of concern.
- Yes most people that come to GKP are looking to use the beaches and fishing. FT Wadsworth most people say is one of the most beautiful parks on SI
- Yes the historic site and maritime and coastal areas.
- Yes very much so.
- Yes with manpower and equipment that is necessary to make this possible to keep it preserved.
- Yes! It seems as if they will.
- Yes! It will as long as we manage the concept daily.
- Yes, as Rockaway resident I was largely unaware of the military significance and history of Ft. Tilden. More interested exhibits would be welcome.
- Yes, but concept 1 is more in your face. You can see what's happening and what's being done. People want to see that.
- Yes, but it is not optimized in Concept 3
- Yes, it is important to keep the resources natural.
- Yes, the limited significance of most structures I s why they are maintained. Don't recommend tour but outside should be cleaned and maintained. Ft. Tompkins is one structure that would be interesting if had events. Currently the stuff exists for research on weekends, hardly any staff is on site to assist visitors. Most visitors jog, swim, sunbathe in GNRA. They are not interest in archeology, history, architecture, etc.
- Yes, with my preferences - Preserving the natural beauty, beaches lighthouse, winter activity, crow's nest - simple & good place to meet
- Yes. Although I do believe that improving water quality will prove to be a huge challenge, with all the other agencies needed to achieve our goal.
- Yes. Most important to me at this time is historic preservation of Ft. Hancock.
- Yes. I think your plans seem adequate for those purposes, however, please see my comments above.
- You should strive to keep the park a multipurpose facility that leverages the parks natural resources but preserves the community's connections to it.

Question 3 - What types of educational and recreational activities are appropriate in each concept?

- #1 I would allow kayak, bike, hike pgrms to both rec & educate
- #2 - Campgrounds would require more staffing but would provide a NPS experience for urban visitors. People are here to fish, not see bald eagles. Provide more waterfront activities.
- #2 would allow exploration (guided programs) to all of the parks assets
- #3 Coastal ecology in #3, Different recreations used
- 1. Expanding to a diverse audience.
- 1. Shooting range over a water should be good
- 1. Swimming, hiking, bird watching, kayaking, canoeing, and biking/hiking are great. They are quiet and non motorized.
- 2. Improve the historical interpretation as mentioned above.
- 2. Letting people to plant trees sound also good
- 2. More convenient and more affordable way to reach and move around the park by bike, bus, car, ferry led by a ranger.
- 3, Those mentioned are appropriate, however I think some are underrepresented. Again the GNRA Mission Statement references " recreational opportunities" and sites " inspiration and education" as important, as well as maintaining and improving "numerous sites of critical cultural importance". None of these concepts, in my opinion, demonstrate enough understanding of the music, theatre, art and sports that are created, demonstrated and taught by Park Partners to such a diverse population.
- A large sheltered picnic areas. There are so few areas out on the hook to seek shelter from a storm.
- A wide variety of educational and recreational activities, not a limited set of predetermined activities, would be appropriate. Fifty years ago I "discovered" Gateway by going to the beach and playing in the playgrounds; children today have done and currently do those same things, but also discover the beautiful outdoors through little league, and learn environmental and scientific concepts through events such as the former kite festivals. Cultural activities such as the former arts and music festivals also helped children and adults "discover" Gateway. Local community members appreciate bird watching, hikes, and nature trails, but also know that there are multiple and diverse ways to introduce people to the beauty of Gateway and the outdoors.
- Accessing more historic building is a catch 22. While it would be wonderful to have access to places like Fort Tilden, building 1 is closed. The missile areas are not accessible. If you make them accessible, you'd have to have only waysides. There is no central booth to obtain information or speak to NPS other than Riis Park which is only open seasonally.
- Active, organized recreation must be the primary use of the eastern section of Ft. Tilden
- Active, organized recreation must be the primary use of the eastern section of Ft. Tilden. I do not object to sharing the park with the environmental advocates, but I object to efforts to exclude recreational users of the park and our children.
- Activities - just want to sit on the beach, hear the gulls, smell the ocean & relax
- Activities that allow local and community organizations access to the area
- Activities that promote physical activity and an outdoorsman mentality are most appropriate for Sandy Hook. Also any activities such as tours and Informational sessions should continue to be implemented.
- Again, I can only speak to Sandy Hook. Bring back the non profits. Provide resources to the various groups to help them rehabilitate buildings for use as admin & organizational centers.

- Again, I reiterate; it would be a cultural crime to sacrifice the theater in the face of anything else that is being done.
- Again, only speaking of Fort Tilden, water activities, observing historic sites, observing the natural beauty are appropriate. Also important too, its current use, in an area away from the coast, are the ways in which the PARK is used for sports, the theatre and arts.
- Again, you have provided very few specifics.
- All
- All are gone - Feel for community use. Access for volunteer groups, non-profit use, - As facilities are utilized for aa, na,
- All GNRA education programs must include annual objective measures of air and water quality from 1972 to the present.
- All of them
- All organized recreation (CYO) should be allowed. We shouldn't be charged to pay for something our tax money already pays.
- All the physical activities
- All three concepts - maritime, scientific + natural need to combine their educational + recreational activities
- All types of educational programs regarding the ocean, environmental concerns, etc. Camps for kids, fishing kayaking NO MOTORIZED VEHICLES (boats) Groups should be able to rent out-door spaces w/ support services available. Schools should continue.
- An active, organized recreation must be the primary use of the eastern section of Ft. Tilden. We do not object to sharing the park with the environmental advocates, but we object to efforts to exclude Rockaway homeowners, residents are our children.
- An additional business use, should be incorporated team building events
- An outreach to local schools to have NPS trained educators teach at least one class session at the Jamaica Bay Visitor center each semester relating to JB history, and environmental concerns.
- Any & all.
- Any kind of hands on activities would be appropriate. Such as sailing canoeing, etc. And using these activities as opportunities to educate about other aspects of the park (marine life/history)
- Any type of educational and recreational activity that receives public support and can be done without damaging the natural resources at Sandy Hook should be encouraged.
- Any uses that require use of rehabilitated historic structures within Fort Hancock are appropriate. (For example, moving the bicycle rental stand into building 66, the old army gas station would be ideal, as opposed to housing it in a trailer adjacent to the building.) Another critical requirement is that these opportunities do not cause any harm to natural or cultural resources. Involved parties could include nonprofit organizations, museums/historical societies, nature groups, other legitimate causes seeking a home, etc. Appropriate for-profit entities might include small shops, similar to what one may find on a boardwalk. These could include a candy shops, souvenir stand, fishing gear store/bait shop, surf shop, etc. Any sort of business appropriate for a "shore" environment. Lodging and overnight accommodations in the form of beds and breakfasts and small hotels should not be ruled out either. Providing dining opportunities is also essential. NPS will be forced to allow additional concessionaires in the park besides HS Concessions. Government entities could include outside federal and state agencies seeking field offices or additional sites. One untapped resource is the U.S. Department of Defense. Perhaps this agency could restore some buildings for various uses including retreats for injured soldiers and their families after returning from war.
- Area for Boy/Girl Scouts of America shooting range. Viewing platforms in Floyd Bennett mural programs in high graffiti areas like Floyd Bennett, Riis Park and Fort Tilden using local artists.

- As a member of the RAA, I support and foster activities that enhance the community at large by offering cultural and educational venues that would not exist if not for the RAA. Through the contributions and efforts of its members, the RAA has maintained and renovated buildings identified as T 6 and T 7... for the betterment of the community.
- As a theater company it is our function to educate park goers to various aspects of theater and performances. We offer free & low cost workshops for children and adults in the theater, acting, tap and ballroom dance, stage and tech as well as outdoor workshops in the spring and summer. Sunset aerobics & sunset yoga.
- As people in Rockaways believe organized sports and America's pastime belong in our national recreation Parks.
- As the Director of Community Programs for the Monmouth County Arts Council, I can only address that in the Monmouth County and that serves the arts. At this time, the programs are limited but have great potential for the use of the arts as both education and community connections.
- At Sandy Hook Unit provide a trailered boat launch ramp with adequate vehicle/trailer parking bay side of the S.H. Unit preferably not too distant from the tip of the hook. This would cut down on running time to most fishing spots. The Maryland (state) parks on the Chesapeake Bay should be studied as an appropriate model
- At the present time, the resources at Ft. Tilden are limited to small groups of less than 20 people. As far as enlightening the general public to the historic values, many entrances have been closed due to security issues. There used to be concerts every summer evening on Sunday with parking at the park. These concerts were moved unsuccessfully to Riis Park. I do not think that with a shortage of Federal funds that resources should be used for expansion. A fee for activity should be the course of action at this time
- Biking, hiking, and bird watching in concept 1. Also, swimming, fishing, and wind surfing. All of these are wonderful uses. Concept 2 could include the history, but also focus on natural wonders. Concept 3 would focus on educational programs, especially focusing on the coastal ecology.
- Boating In any eco-friendly sense - kayaking, rowing, sailing - Is perfect. I lived 35 years in Brooklyn and only in the last 3 since I moved to Rockaway Park have I really explored this impressive wetland resource in the city's backyard. I'm also big o
- Boating, fishing, kayaking, biking, walking paths, wind surfing, scrubber diving.
- Boating, sailing, swimming, fishing, diving, kayaking, hiking, crabbing, spear fishing, exploring, ice boating, educating, walking on ice when frozen in winter, sightseeing
- Bring back the Clearwater Festival, Have more ethnic cultural events i.e. Irish American Festival, Indian American Festival etc.
- Broaden relationships with academic groups, foster program that inform & educate the general public as to the importance of the natural habitats in GW. Recreational activities that integrate marine ecology such as beach walk and marsh explorations!!
- Brookdale; Rutgers; Stockton; County & local Libraries; Scouting organizations; Environmental organizations; good will foundations; certainly not a restaurant or hotel facilities
- C - Any activity that will promote the appreciation of the outdoors and nature in general would work for my family & I.
- C - Those mentioned are appropriate, however I think some are underrepresented. Again the GNRA Mission Statement references "recreational opportunities" and sites" inspiration and education" as important, as well as maintaining and improving "numerous sites of critical cultural importance". None of these concepts, in my opinion, demonstrate enough

understanding of the music, theatre, art and sports that are created, demonstrated and taught by Park Partners to such a diverse population.

- C. We have a wealth of natural wonders here. We have one of a kind historical sites. We also have recreational sports. And we have a active and vibrant cultural life. Why not incorporate all of these and also work to interconnect them. At the Rockaway Artists Alliance we have engaged kids and adults in the natural beauty of Fort Tilden and its surroundings. We have also done numerous historical programs, from walking tours to multimedia historical presentations and even an evening with "Theodore Roosevelt" (portrayed by myself). Between the RAA and our Fort Tilden neighbors we also promote physical enjoyment of our park surroundings.
- Camping areas for families
- Combined - well kept picnicking areas
- Concentrate on the historic areas of the time - Concepts that speak of the relationship of the forts and fortifications how they were able to profit certain sights and still were able to offer open space for improvement. All things considered I would say that they have done an excellent job - Good Luck
- Concept #2 promoting exploration and connection to the natural world
- Concept 1 - Discovering Gateway hands on science programs. Variety of school programs. Nature walks.
- Concept 1 - Historical activities, environmental education of areas in the park.
- Concept 1 - Interactive Ranger - led tours, demonstrations, activities aided by costumed performers and creative crafts. Concept 2 - Drawing and art in addition to maps, pictures and tours of historic sales. Concept 3 - Demonstrations, on-site tours, use of maps and diagrams to emphasize coastal ecology and coastal reference
- Concept 1 weekend group nature walks
- Concept 1 would include about to other sections of Gateway. Concept 2 would include visiting the museum, walking around the preserved areas, group tours. Concept 3 would include swimming sunbathing fishing, shell collecting. No concept should include organized sports including golf. Nor should any concept have amusement rides or other honky tonk features
- Concept 1: Connectivity through recreation. Biking, between Great Kills, Miller Field, and Fort Wadsworth not only increases connectivity, but provides for recreational aspect of the park's mission.
- Concept 2 - Educate public on ecosystems in the 3 major park areas & how they interact.
- Concept 2 - Experiencing preserved places. Walking tours. Distance learning.
- Concept 2 - I like see Fort Tilden better cared for lots of good activities the recreational ball fields
- Concept 2 is the best one - promoting connection to nature
- Concept 2 should include maritime and coastal defense from concept 3 given the historic nature of money buildings at Gateway.
- Concept 3 - Coastal Connections. Boating, kayaking and canoe programs. Kayak tours, fishing, seining workshops, shoreline education, sea level programs, ecosystem programs, marine life programs
- Concept 3 - Environmental education – (1) preserve /interpretive building (2)-water based activities
- Concept 3 - Harbor programs (coastal defense and school group tours.
- Concept 3 is ok but there should be some reasonable degree of human harassment of the marine environment - i.e. kayaks/sailboats are preferred over jet skis + power boats fisherman need to clean up after themselves.

- Concept one: Camping, kayaking, canoeing, swimming, tours of natural and cultural resource areas, MVP
- Concept three: Camping, kayaking, canoeing, fishing, swimming, guided tours
- Concept two: Nature hikes, guided tours of natural and cultural resources show and tell of interesting museum objects.
- Concept: Connectivity through recreation. Biking between Great Kills, Miller Field and Fort Wadsworth not only increases connectivity but provides for the recreational aspect of the park's mission.
- Concepts are vague and offer nothing concrete to comment upon. In those areas of Gateway located in Howard Beach, recreational activities desired are those that provide for the wide gamut of recreational needs of the local neighborhood people whose homes are within 1 mile of Gateway parkland.
- Concerts, little league, volley ball, senior classes, Dietary programs, et al.
- Connecting to the natural world is valid.
- Could have boardwalk access through marsh to further understanding about ecosystem services of marshes, etc.
- cultural
- Discovery - I feel there should be more useful info concerning the military history. More tours & background.
- Don't care about educ, & recr.
- Each concept is similar in that they all want to preserve the natural resources without taking into consideration that resources have been developed by community members and fully utilized by many residents of Brooklyn and queens. In implementing these concepts all the existing groups and clubs and organizations need to be greatly considered. Any improvements can be made around all that exists already.
- Each concept should concentrate on educational awareness of our natural resources.
- Each park is unique. Education and recreation very important. Many parks with a historical past needs more "interpretation".
- Eco-friendly recreational activities are best-birding, butterflying, botanizing, walking, swimming, kayaking/canoeing, fishing or biking as long bikers stay on paths like those around Jamaica Bay and at Sandy Hook. However, I have see people bicycling on trails at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, and landing boats there, walking off trails, and there is not enough staff to enforce rules.
- Ed, as now to help NY. Curriculum not bad:
- Education on understanding water quality and dispersing sand, changing climate. Activities are up to date but still growing as we speak on that topic.
- Educational activities at all sites can be expanded. There are many resources available for independent study, NPS-staff guided opportunities, and partnerships with local educators and interest groups (boaters, fishers, WINDSURFERS, gun battery enthusiasts, etc.) that can be leveraged in planning for a new GMP. None of the current options really address this aspect of the recreational planning which would be highly beneficial in getting the local communities involved in future public expositions like this one.
- Educational opportunities should include guided walks focusing on seasonal attractions. Individual exploration should be encouraged, but visitors must be made aware of the sensitivity of the sites and to respect off-limit areas.
- educational programs about the environment, public participation in management of natural areas through volunteer programs would be both beneficial and educational
- Educational programs that aim at college students.

- EDUCATIONAL; A variety of new educational, interpretive experiences can foster enjoyment, appreciation of, and interaction with the park in many different ways (such as: hands on -- seining, working on turtle studies, counting bird species etc.
- eliminate competitive sports
- eliminate team sports opportunities/facilities
- emphasize "coastal story" via educational programs
- emphasize on sustainable organized rec such as community gardens at FBF include programs
- Encourage school based and family based programs. My kids loved the school based visits to Sandy Hook and still talk about them for years later. Current programs don't seem to encourage participation by the entire family. Programs don't seem to be available when people are off from work.
- Environmental issues
- Everything that appeals to children and keeps them active
- exploration, fishing
- Fall Festival
- First, a number of existing educational establishments, e.g., MAST, seem to now be using some of the former military buildings at Sandy Hook without significantly impacting the public's access to this area. I think such activities should continue, provided each such educational establishment can pay for the rent and all the maintenance on the building(s) it uses.
- Fishing and conservation education by volunteer groups would help but the permit process must be fixed before that can happen.
- fishing, kayaking, picnicking
- Fort Tilden has two diverse parts to it. The shorefront is historic and natural and should be left that way. It's peaceful for hiking, running, bird watching and star gazing; all of which I have done. However, the opening, central area of fort Tilden is public, active, full of children, families, and their activities. It is the LIFE of the community's sports and art scene!! RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES LIKE LITTLE LEAGUE, SOCCER, THE THEATRE COMPANY, AND ROCKAWAY ARTIST ALLIANCE SHOULD BE ABLE TO REMAIN SERVING THE COMMUNITY WITHOUT BEING PRICED OUT OF EXISTANCE BY PARK FEES !!!!!!!!!!!!!!! An empty park is no better than an empty cookie jar. The jar may remain pristine, but what good is it?
- Fort Tilden in the Rockaways is the only area that has the potential of providing a cultural, educational and relaxing venues that are greatly needed.
- Fort Tilden should maintain its areas for local sports teams to play, for community groups to meet, to allow community groups to run events for the people. These include concerts, festivals, etc.
- Garden @ Fort Tilden - what happened?
- GNRA is an Urban National Park and as such the local communities must make use of the park's facilities. Educational and sports organizations such as Rockaway Music & Arts Council, Rockaway Artists Alliance, Rockaway Theatre Company, Little League, softball, soccer have always used park facilities in a manner which does not interfere with the natural environment.
- Handball, Paddleball, Paddle tennis
- hands on experiences in our natural resources to foster our "stewardship" message & goal - increased water/boating opportunities
- heavy emphasis on bringing students to historical resources
- Highlights of each unique area should be identified and segregated into areas. A ranger should be put in charge of every area ensuring education is properly given to the public to expand public stewardship.
- Historical activities for children & coastal & maritime activities

- HISTORICAL WARFARE USE OF FLOYD BENNETT FIELD BY THE NEW YORK AIR NATIONAL GUARD FROM ABOUT 1945 THROUGH KOREAN WAR UNTIL ABOUT 1955
- History, the arts and recreation as it presently stands.
- Honor our veterans/rebuild Floyd Bennett's infrastructure. Which will encourage use by the general public, Boy Scouts of America, the armed forces, police and fire etc. Have educational tours of wildlife, history of area, aircraft, etc. Create boating activities, rifle/pistol and shotgun competitions. Fishing competitions hiking, hot air balloon rides, horseback riding, historical aircraft fly-uns.
- Hook, Riis, and Kills really kept beaches and fishing.
- I am concerned that the little league fields be maintained for use by The Rockaway Little League. These fields are important to the youth of the community. They also help fulfill Gateway's mission by: (1) Bringing thousands of visitors to Gateway every summer (2) Creating an opportunity for Gateway to get children involved in its other programs (3) Are an obligation Gateway inherited when they took over Riis Park (4) Are an asset to the Gateway national recreation area
- I am in favor of encouraging small-scale activities and self-guided hikes and walks and limiting large planned group outings.
- I am in favor of more environmental education programs for children through schools and other organizations, many are left out especially low income children in inner cities, we need them and their wonderful spirit with all this. Be creative in your inclusion of all in this circle of life
- I am very much reaching out to the youth; but I think the park's sustainability efforts would be of value to everyone in general.
- I can speak only to the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge part of this plan. Please see my comments below.
- I do not see any restrictions of any educational and recreational activities...all proposed Concepts should incorporate the installation and preservation of both activities.
- I do not see the historical aspects incorporated into these concepts.
- I don't see how limiting the grounds that are maintained by the local sports groups a good thing. The teams that play here are locally based ... we take pride in the area and are always looking to partner with the Parks Dept to maintain & improve the fields. We bring garbage bags for the reach, we line the fields, we rake the fields for rocks etc.
- I fail to see why the phrase "Limited organized recreation" appears in each one. The Aviator Sports Complex is a huge success with locals. My children learned to ice skate there. My alma Mater plays its home football games there. The Rockaway Little League and Rockaway Rugby League, as well as the Rockaway Artists Alliance, all of which do great service to the community are located in Fort Tilden. Does that phrase mean that they would no longer be welcome? Or will you simply drive up costs so to make the parks unaffordable?
- I feel that Similar to the program that NYC has adopted with Turf fields is where Fort Tilden should be looking to do with Flood lit fields for recreation run by wind and solar Why not make it a self sustaining project? There are two large abandoned Bunkers that could have Windmills mounted on them in Fort Tilden (I don't think we will have any land based Invasions anytime soon)
- I feel there should be more year round programs especially with school kids. There can be indoor components as well as outdoor components out there are many differences. Avenues that can be pursued within a theme - be it butterflies or batteries.
- I find it odd that concerts, festivals, and circuses are inappropriate in a National Park, but at Aviator, our concessioner who whers the park land with us. Activities deemed inappropriate on

our side of the fence should also be inappropriate on others. The concerts that created excessive noise on our side of the fence also do the same on theirs.

- I have often thought marine biology studies similar to Woods hole = one man's vote. It could be something very different - a school, a movie set, NYC Seaway/transportation. It is important to preserve interesting projects - through science, education, the arts.
- I have seen many school groups visit. However, large groups may not be the best way to see what this place has to offer. I'd suggest arranging for groups of ten or less, during peak migration times.
- I think anything which allows city kids to get outdoors and learn more about nature is paramount. I grew up with the woods outside my backyard. I wish my children could have had this experience.
- I think educational programs should focus on youth and senior citizens. If you get kids involved they will use Gateway for decades and teach their children about nature and outdoor recreation. Senior citizens have the time and interest.
- I think people could relish the history of Sandy Hook basking in it's natural beauty (beaches, birds, ocean) and enjoy a multitude of recreational activities (bike, boats, sailing, clamming, etc)
- I think summer camps and a educational program for local schools to come visit would add valuable knowledge to citizens
- I think summer camps and educational programs for local schools to come visit would add a valuable knowledge to citizens
- I think that Gateway National Park should continue to offer local organizations the use of the park. My children play organized baseball, softball, soccer and basketball in Gateway. This is a great service to the community since there is NO place else to have sports fields. There is an ongoing national campaign to Get Kids Moving. What better way to get kids moving then to be involved in various sports programs. The Rockaway Little League has done a tremendous job of upkeeping the fields, maintaining a snack shop and encouraging kids of all ability to get involved.
- I think that nonprofits such as NJMSC/Sea Grant, the American Littoral Society, the Audubon Society, Clean Ocean Action can provide great benefits to visitors to the park at a low cost to the Federal Government and their occupation of the building out at Ft. Hancock and groups of their ilk should be encouraged. I also think that historic groups and veteran groups could also be potential tenants as well as youth groups such as the Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts...
- I think that the educational and recreation activities that currently exist are absolutely appropriate. The park has maintained its historical importance even with Aviator and little league and soccer fields. I believe that the recreation aspect draws many people who not normally come to the park. This enables them to become enriched by the park's environment and history
- I think the historic sites would be wonderful play for educational trips. I think the maritime area will be a wonderful place for family day trips.
- I think the RAA, RTC, and Little League are offering are offering what your looking for now...it can always be improved, but we're doing the best we can with our limited resources.
- I think the RAA, RTC, and Little League are offering what your looking for now...it can always be improved, but we're doing the best we can with our limited resources.
- I think they all are and can be utilized all at the same time. You can reach the public, educate and teach them to have these concepts endure throughout the years.
- I think we need to add more exercising activities such as yoga, tai chi, zumba dancing, sports related activities, exercising, and maybe a track.
- I think you are doing a great job for environmental and nature education. As a retired scientist who understands the equipment, efforts and such on the above, I applaud it. Getting more

involvement of the youth should be two fold, the environment and the history. I visited what is left at San Francisco Gateway and much of the trails and emplacements are in great shape, a better understanding of how the approach was protected.

- I want Gateway to be used as a national recreation area by allowing local residents to enjoy the beaches, sponsored art and music events and use of fields for sports, without being charged a fee for sponsored events and parking when free parking, nature trails, and use of Gateway facilities at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Center are free.
- I work for NJSJC so I do feel the outdoor education is very important. It would be nice if all the education programs didn't have to seine at Horseshoe Cove. It severely taxes that resource. It may be too beyond repair now but the officers club would be a great place to have an environmental center.
- I would like to see greater outreach to bring children into the park to visit the various historical (shore defense areas) and wildlife (Jamaica Bay wildlife areas) locations to foster future respect and appreciation for the park. I've been a resident of the Rockaways for more than 40 years, involved in many youth activities (cub scouts, youth groups, etc) and have never once been approached or contacted by anyone from Gateway. There are several dozen schools (private and public) that could conduct regular visits to parks areas for educational opportunities that are not currently doing so. Recreationally, areas of the park have traditionally been a haven for urban families to come to play basketball (Riis park), baseball (little league at Fort Tilden) and soccer, and I would like to see these opportunities acknowledged and expanded in the new management plan.
- I would like to see some of the following:
- I would prefer that the areas be left as is as much as possible, with the goal of preserving the natural systems
- I would think connecting people to the water (like concept 3 somewhat) could be very beneficial. A dinghy sailing fleet and a fleet of kayaks would probably be well used, and programs could be built around them. The current level of educational and historical activities is pretty appropriate.
- If the cleanup and repairs to the forts structures are made it would offer a great opportunity for field trips and educational tours to take place. They could include lessons on life in the 1800's and the role of the fort in the history of America and its military role
- Impressive wetland resource in the city's backyard. I'm also big on camping, and organized hikes, tours (or maybe summer bonfires!?) would be something I'd want to pass on to friends, family and associates.
- improve beach going experience
- In "Pres Places" ought to be restrictive - designated areas, signage, enforcement of rules. There are ballfields all over the place, but Forts, archeological sites, and endangered animals & plants are not - they need to be the 1st priority or they will be gone in a few years
- In any of the 3 concepts, passive recreation that does not intrude on natural environments is the only acceptable activity. Birding, nature walks, interpretive
- In Concept 1, I'd like to see concessions that teach Kayaking and Sailing as well as renting Kayaks and Sailboats to the public, this would be a great opportunity to bring more people to the park and to promote recreation in the park.
- In the case of historical structures, programs designed to educate the public about the history and significance of the structures would be permissible if they did not destroy existing natural habitat. Fishing and quiet water-related activities such as kayaking and canoeing would be compatible with the Park's mission, but power boats would damage and destroy marine habitats

and in addition, destroy the peace expected by visitors who visit the Refuge in order to seek the experience of nature.

- increased beach camping
- increased camping
- increased educational camping programs a la ecology village
- increased educational tour through different habitats
- increased guided walks through different habitats
- Interests of land and wildlife preservation.
- Inviting the community to use the parks - and facilities - is a way for people to appreciate what is available. Many people's lives are enriched by what goes on in the buildings - and further enriched as they spend time outside as well. (Life affirming programs such as AA, art, theater, as well as nature programs are good examples of high - quality programs that invite the community to NPS)
- It is great the way it is, it totally works.
- It is killing north white trees - suffocating everything.
- It is stated that educating the public is very important to keep the interested in all of our natural and cultural resources.
- kayak, sailboats, rowboats sail boarding crabbing
- Keep what it going on now and add more environmental items.
- Lessens & Horseback riding rentals
- Live performance theatre, sports groups, cultural groups
- living history tours
- low impact camping in designated areas
- Manhattan appears to be the only borough that benefits from collected tax dollars...look at the beautiful park along the lower west side of Manhattan...beautifully maintained;...look at all the park amenities and concerts offered in Central Park; look at all the museums - the other boroughs are ignored.
- marine and other wildlife related ecosystems how they exist and what they need to survive in the future what actions by humans destroy these ecosystems
- Maritime studies, utilizing Fort Hancock building, historic war sitelighthouse. Ripe for all NJ Universities to offer a semester of maritime environment science studies
- More amenities at the present ferry terminal/fort center for visitors. I'm not much for privatization, but the Sea Gull's nest is a terrific resource, & I don't see why a seasonal restaurant built from a rehabbed Fort building could only help enhance the visitor experience.
- More environmental education activities are needed, such as kayak trips, eco-sightseeing by boat and more seining.
- More hands on that effect each area.
- More history from Henry Hudson & Native Americans also Rev War & War of 1812!
- more night time programs
- More school involvement year round. Place for workers too eat at lunch time. This would cut in half. Better all round.
- More schools and clubs such as MAST
- More tours and programs need to be offered as well. Having visitors get hands on inside the batteries and buildings is critical to visitors being able to make connections and understand the resources. These forts have interesting and unique resources - specifically, maritime navigational aids, life-saving/coast guard locations and coastal and air defenses - which are seldom, if ever, mentioned in modern media such as magazines, texts, movies, documentaries or TV shows, let alone the classroom. That having been said, each Fort becomes a classroom

unto itself, with a class size that numbers into the millions of people who visit there each year, and without any age or cultural limitations. Each visitor can be looked at as a clean slate to learn about the flourishing coastal environments and the rich military and cultural history that once thrived within them.

- Most of the same currently utilized are sufficient.
- Most people go to Sandy Hook with their own ideas about what recreational activities they will pursue. Probably 90% of summer visitors are beachgoers. In the fall and spring, birders, bikers, joggers, kite-surfers, and surf fishermen make up the bulk of visitors it seems.
- Natural activities as keeping the nude beach is very important. Many people visit Sandy Hook and spend a lot of money in our area.
- Natural unrestricted activities- fishing, surfing, kayaking, windsurfing, kiting, beach combing, etc. That's it- we don't need buildings and organized programs.
- Natural world. There should be limited organized recreation.
- Naturalist walks, kayaking
- Nature education is important. Historical tours are also wonderful experiences
- Nature Programs, Girl/Boys scouts, Sports programs, Art/theater, Summer Camps, Historical Programs & clubs
- Nature study and appreciation of our natural resources and how to preserve them.
- Nature works (trails), beach walks, horticultural research, beach clubs, surf fishing
- Need to identify the natural resources for example give a description of what are names of the trees, geese. Where they come from also how long do they live
- night activities at beaches(campfires,, stargazing)
- No ballfields.
- No camping
- No special events
- None
- Non-profit public entities already are occupying Fort Hancock and set the example for future uses.
- NPS should consult with individual and groups in the community that have in-depth knowledge in each area as this feedback will be more valuable than opinions from people who are inexperienced in those areas. For instance, I don't know much about birds, plants or alternative transportation systems, though I know that there are very skilled people out there who do.
- Ocean hiking trails would be nice have bike trails
- On the holidays when the historic ships come into the city, I would like to see one or two docked at Penn Fountain Park. I also would like to see how the area was used by the people who originally settled the area.
- Once again, I urge you to allow recreational activities, such as Little League to stay at Gateway. I cannot stress enough the importance of this activity for our community's children.
- Only resource based activities are appropriate. More organized transportation is needed to reduce cars in the park, for educational recreational activities. Diverse activities that require minimal facility construction are best
- Only those which do not further stress the natural environment!
- Organized sports and musical activities that attract crowds have no place in an area such as Gateway where the most precious asset is the natural landscape. There are numerous parks, playing fields, and other areas for sport and concerts in the surrounding area. Therefore, there is no need to further degrade or reduce natural areas to provide even more.

- Our organization, the Gateway Bike & Boathouse is knowledgeable about human powered watercraft and bicycling. We think that these activities belong in Gateway and should be included in the GMP no matter what Concept is adapted.
- Partnering w/military historical societies, integrate w/ NPNH
- People come to the beach to swim in the ocean and see their children enjoy fun activities which the beach offers for creative play. I want to see Gateway succeed and have the funding it needs to accomplish its goals. Let the money that is collected by admissions to Sandy Hook be used right on Sandy Hook to accomplish its mission of Historic preservation. Natural resource sustainability, educational and family fun. AMEN!
- PLEASE MAKE AN EFFORT TO reach out to NYC Dept of Education for shoreline explorations , esp New Dorp HS, ndhspta@aim.com Ms. Jackie Tripodi
- Please do not reduce or eliminate organized athletic activities for children on the Rockaway Peninsula. I cannot imagine what would happen to the fabric of our vibrant community were it not for organizations like The Rockaway Little League. As a parent of 3 sons who are now productive, giving adults, I can say without equivocation that their participation in the RLL helped form them into the men they are today. In addition, the Art programs at Ft. Tilden should not only be kept, but enhanced.
- Please note a new salt marsh at the south east beach of Ft Wadsworth, and encourage this marsh
- Please see my notes below for suggestions on how education programs can both raise awareness/'ownership' of the park and perhaps create an innovative means of helping to preserve it.
- Preservation & sustainability regarding educational activities. Whatever is safe & manageable & doesn't adversely affect preservation & sustainability issues
- Preserving our parks provides educational value now and in the future. They already provide recreational activities.
- Principally activities set up with coordination of educational and preservationist groups.
- Programs that make people aware of the hundreds of species of birds, fish and land animals throughout the park. Kayaking around the bird sanctuary can be a real joy even not knowing what you see. Imagine how much more interesting it would be if you actually knew what you were looking at? For those unable to kayak, scenic tours by boat would be a nice option.
- Promote to schools that the park has a lot to offer
- Protect seal rest stops in bay side.
- Questions 3, 4, 5. Nature observation and education should continue as the JBWR's focus. These activities can incorporate elements from all three proposed concepts, particularly 1 and 2, such as discovery, diversity, coastal ecology, natural and social history and participation in research and restoration.
- RAA
- Ranger - led walks are suitable for Jamaica Bay and Ft. Wadsworth. Sand Hook's buildings can be renovated for community activities. In all cases, members of the public must be made aware of what behaviors are not appropriate in each site.
- Ranger lead activities. The Cape Cod Natural Seashore Preservation Area could serve as a model of activities while preserving the essence of the Gateway.
- Rec Activities: Are necessary, should be slanted toward education of the areas resources. Bathing, are bathing beaches
- RECREATION: Under all 3 concepts, education about the ecology of the area is important. Recreation is tougher. A bike tour is an example of the type of recreation that enhances education about the history and ecology of the park, but sports leagues only do this indirectly,

not directly. Once visitors come in to Ft. Tilden for a game, they often return to participate in other events. It is foolhardy to ignore these community uses (they are appropriate purposes, I believe) of Gateway. After all, part of the history of Ft. Tilden and Floyd Bennett included the day-to-day use of the buildings by military personnel stationed there. The present day residents of Rockaway are doing no more, and no less, by playing ball, attending theatre productions and viewing art exhibits in Ft. Tilden.

- Recreational activities - More water access, equipment and lessons would make best use of Jamaica Bay's natural gifts.
- Recreational activities are centered on the park's fundamental values and promote exploration and connection to the
- Recreational activities are primarily passive in nature, e.g., swimming, walking along the beach, flying kites, visiting the several museums and visiting the old military fortifications now on the Sandy Hook. The NPS should focus on maintaining the current roads and parking lots to maximize public access to these natural recreational resources, existing museums, Nike missile displays and former coast artillery fortifications.
- Recreational activities are very important for the youth of today so you can point them toward an educational direction
- Recreational opportunities in concept #1 are appropriate. The passive recreational activities in concept #2 should be maintained but not the main focus. Water craft storage areas and launch sites should be provided in state and county parks. Not usually found in NPS sites
- Remove yellow netting by fishing location to
- Riis Park and Fort Tilden are not the Grand Canyon. They are urban parks that should be accessible to the community. Riis Park is a beach area that needs to be maintained so people have affordable access to the beach.
- RMAC summer concerts
- Rockaway Artist Alliance, Concerts, an amphitheater on the beach or overlooking Jamaica Bay. Gateway Triathlon, Sandy Hook to Staten Island to Floyd Bennett, Ecology Village expansion, what a great program. Rockaway Little League and picnic areas should be free to all registered groups
- Rockaway Little League and soccer
- Rockaway Theatre Company
- Sandy Hook has great educational opportunities cultural, historical, and natural.
- Sandy Hook is ideal for the study of Marine Biology and Oceanography education. The expansive shoreline is an attractive location to enjoy water recreational activities.
- Sandy Hook provides the model here with its magnet high school, non-profit organizations, and NMFS occupying the Fort.
- Sea/beach studies are paramount. Not many areas left within 200 miles for these studies.
- Second, a number of prior and current yearly events (e.g., the Clearwater Festival and the NY/NJ Bay Keeper's Clambake) include educational events focused on various natural and ecological aspects of the local area. Such educational events draw many people without any commercialization overhang. NPS should continue renting Sandy Hook facilities (such as the former military Chapel and its nearby lawn area) to the providers of such events.
- See 1
- Silver Gull Club
- Softball, baseball, soccer, rugby, running, biking, fishing, surfing, all the things that go on there now including art, music, performances - including the RMAC festivals - you should encourage more of this use.

- Speaking to concept 2 - Bring school groups and senior groups to the Fort area for lectures. This would also bring attention to the need for funding to preserve and stabilize these buildings.
- Specifically, all three concepts need to be able to preserve and protect the resources, and adequately interpret them to a member of the public that may have never seen a missile, a piping plover, a lighthouse, dune grass or a gun battery before in their lives.
- Sports teams that respect the natural environment and contribute to the upkeep of the property are important to many people in the community. Young children would enjoy educational programs offered.
- Sports, festivals, fairs, arts, hiking, biking, water related sports & activities.
- Stressing protecting what we have how to protect and preserve
- Stressing the preservation of nature is critical. Nature walks, bird watching and beach sweeps are very important for all 3 concepts.
- swimming lessons
- Teaching anything in nature is extremely beneficial the. Tying it in with the NPS and how it is a much large system aside your you park that you might be enjoying is crucial
- The beach experience - allowing children to see what life is out there & learning the things that are overlooked during regular beach trips.
- The camp and theatre that are at the park are extremely important to our community.
- The camp incorporates arts and crafts, sport and the history of the park in an enjoyable and historic setting. The Theatre lends brings people from all over the city to see our beautiful park.
- The concepts lay out a basic diagram best suited to suit one types of visitor. I believe that the best uses would have to be considered once the overall area is broken down into smaller areas. It would then be possible to customize a plan that would appeal to a broader spectrum of visitor and also be cost effective. Fees to use educational areas and buildings could be adjusted after enough use that a financial income statement could be considered. Sport and other youth facilities would need to consider the organizations that use them.
- The current Recreational activities must be kept and you should make every effort to expand upon what you have and upgrade them as needed.
- The current recreational activities; Little League, CYO Soccer, USA Rugby AND educational activities; arts education (provided by RAA) and theater appreciation (Rockaway Theater Company) would be appropriate for Concept #1.
- The eastern sections of Ft. Tilden are to be reserved for active recreation and special events as per the 1979 Management Plan.
- The educational programs we offer in fine. We need to add energy and excitement. We're not connecting with the public on long term basis. I'm an adult and my attention span is short so imagine a child leaving a classroom setting.
- The natural recourses are wonderful. The current youth programs incorporate those resources along with the arts and sports. The plan as I read it is designed to save money, not support the citizens.
- The park already has some excellent programs set up. Keep up the good work.
- The Park Service has a difficult task in providing both recreation (esp in the summer) and historic preservation and education. The Park has to guard against discarding/ignoring historic buildings in favor of beach and wildlife.
- The recreational activities are totally inadequate and unacceptable. It is apparent that the NPS is not qualified to manage recreational activities at GNRA and as a result the "national recreation areas" should be transferred away from NPS and to a new agency.
- The rich experiences JBWR offers should be promoted, especially in neighboring localities and among young people. Outreach staff would go to schools, church, and senior groups and would

circulate in the refuge as docents. Others would coordinate community and science partners in the participatory projects mentioned above. Such an investment in personnel would be more effective than money spent on buildings or on marketing "Coastal World." It requires mass transit improvements to access

- The Rockaway Artist program is a great asset to the community. Allowing the Rockaway kids to play recreational sports there as a team allow the community to feel safe.
- The Rockaway Little League Program is entirely appropriate for Gateway, and MUST be allowed to continue to operate in Fort Tilden/Riis Park!
- The types already implied but I think Coastal Connections themes could be incorporated into the "Discovering Gateway" concept. Also, the importance of fostering stewardship definition should be included for "Discovering Gateway"
- The types of recreation outlined are all fine, but few will be implemented. Instead the public will be given excuses on why nothing can be done (no personnel, no funding, no permits, no common sense by senior park personnel.)
- The wildlife conservation efforts should focus on the children of the community so that as they grow up, knowing its importance, they can contribute. Class trips could be spent cleaning beaches for an hour.
- Theatre, arts, music these are recreational activities that need to be preserved. Rockaway Theatre has made so many contributions to the park. First by improving the building that they are now in. Over the years they have made wonderful improvements. This will continue under the low fee system that is in place. If this changes then everyone will be hurt.
- They all have merit. Would be nice to incorporate all the plans!
- This I leave to others. I'm content to watch the waves and go for an occasional swim. Historical sites are interesting but unless crucial to advancement should be left to independent organizations (partners) with vested interests to fund, restore and maintain.
- This is a National Park not Central Park. This park must be the lungs of the city. All activities that are geared toward crowds should be directed to Canarsie Pier.
- This is again too broad and must be looked at area by area.
- Those mentioned are appropriate, however I think some are underrepresented. Again the GNRA Mission Statement references "recreational opportunities" and sites" inspiration and education" as important, as well as maintaining and improving "numerous sites of critical cultural importance". None of these concepts, in my opinion, demonstrate enough understanding of the music, theatre, art and sports that are created, demonstrated and taught by Park Partners to such a diverse population.
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- Those that were mentioned were adequate. But again, there's a broader spectrum that needs to be reached and these old archaic ways will not help us achieve a new sustainable future for the Rockaway Peninsula.
- Tours of military installations in Ft. Tilden and Ft. Hancock to lesser extent
- Tours related to animal behavior and the original planting in the specific areas.
- Under all three concepts, passive recreation that does not intrude on natural environments is the only acceptable activity. Birding, nature walks, interpretive educational programs about the environment, and public participation in management of natural areas through volunteer programs would be both beneficial and educational.
- Under Concept 2, continued hikes, boat rides, nature walks, canoe trips, etc. is a good way to facilitate this.
- Under Concept 3, the Recreation goal of all types of coastal recreational activities that emphasize connections to the shorelines, bays and forts are encouraged. This goal is not adequate for protection of natural resources since some recreation is harmful to threatened and endangered species and to the natural and scenic beauty of the coast. For example beach development destroys piping plover, least tern and beach amaranth habitat.
- Unfortunately the ed and rec activities are not differentiated by area. The historical areas should not be close to fishing, bathing, etc.
- Universally, there must be an increase in historic interpretation at the Forts and the batteries. Many park visitors wander around and look at the old concrete structures and without proper 1) maintenance 2) landscaping & 3) interpretive signage, immediately draw incorrect conclusions about "bunkers" and/or "jail cells." To properly interpret the Forts, Rangers - both seasonal and permanent - need to be able to interpret a concrete battery, a barracks, or a missile site. By the same token, those Rangers should also be able to give the same group a detailed look at the natural environments the forts find themselves in.
- Use all resources to the fullest is Building 272.
- User fees should not be levied on Little League, Soccer, Rugby and art and cultural programs which have been co-existing very well with the Environmental agenda for the area. What is presently in place, in 2011 should continue as currently set up.
- Using hikes to teach visitors about the history & survival skills
- Walking, bird watching, educational trips. No bike riding, jogging. Eating limited to designated & limited areas
- Water based activities need to be available & affordable.
- water trail/tours
- water trails/tours, tours of "coastal defenses"
- We need bike rentals
- We need to meet with GNRA and political leaders to arrive at a mutually satisfactory definition of "recreation" and a mutually satisfactory use of the fields at Ft. Tilden.
- We should halt add'l spending in Brooklyn and concentrate on Staten Island
- Well you can go to classes for acting in Gateway Park. You can learn to draw and paint with the Artist Alliance in Gateway. You can watch or play baseball or softball in Gateway. Soccer will be starting soon and people enjoy that. Rugby will be upon us also, so this park has a lot to offer and if you just want to see nature it is also here. These are things that are not really offered at the same location. I would like to see the back part of Fort Tilden opened for tours.

- When it comes to educational and recreational activities - I truly believe keeping things as natural as possible.
- While nature conservation and education would be a welcome addition to GNRA, existing programs (Rockaway Theater Co., RAA, various little league teams, etc.) should not be scrapped. Doing away with groups that have brought so much joy to this under resourced area of NYC would be criminal. Active, organized recreation, not limited, must be the primary use of the eastern section of Ft. Tilden. The concepts as currently written, are missing a vital connection to the community that the aforementioned arts and recreation programs fill with purpose.
- With any of the concepts, educational and recreational activities should be strictly limited and non-commercial. Recreation should be passive recreation only for the beaches and Fort Hancock area of Sandy Hook.
- Year-round fishing and summer beach-going are essential elements of the Sandy Hook unit. As the primary active recreation site in Gateway, Sandy Hook should have independent existence and control. Other units are more suited to supporting education and interpretive activities related to Gateway's natural resources.
- yes they all answer
- Yes, but monitored closely 2. Yes 3. Yes but hazards will always increase. More dangers.
- You have none...how about concerts, games, exhibitions, contests, movies, pageants for the 4th of July, recreations of the Revolutionary War battles fought here (oops, I forgot the kite festival).
- You're doing a great job already in this area. See below.

Question 4 - Do the concepts provide ways for people to reach Gateway and move around the different sites?

- 1. Encourage park & ride incentives to minimize weekend traffic on Rt 36
- 2 & 3. Offer bicycle rentals
- 2. Link various parks within the Gateway system with ferry service.
- 3 do this best.
- A shuttle bus worked well in other Nat. Parks visited. Need to get tourists from the ferry to Ft. Wadsworth
- Access to Gateway is difficult. That can be a good thing. Limiting access to the Refuge is essential to maintaining the natural environment. Notwithstanding, better public transportation to the Refuge would enhance participation in passive activities
- Active, organized recreation must be the primary use of the eastern section of Ft. Tilden. I do not object to sharing the park with the environmental advocates, but I object to efforts to exclude recreational users of the park and our children.
- Again, depending on the concept. I believe making use of the waterways would be an ideal way to transport people between sites, as well as developing bicycle use/paths and perhaps shuttle buses.
- All three concepts need to utilize surrounding waterways for transportation to reach the Gateway
- Alternative transportation options including shuttle systems, bicycles and ferries are the primary way to reach and move around the park.
- An absolutely monumental task that might be looked into is the restoration of a rail line back to the Bay Shore area and to Sandy Hook, or perhaps a trolley system within the park itself, following the footprint of the old historic railroad.
- An active, organized recreation must be the primary use of the eastern section of Ft. Tilden. We do not object to sharing the park with the environmental advocates, but we object to efforts to exclude Rockaway homeowners, residents are our children.
- As a Manhattanite w/o a car I find it difficult to visit any of the parks several locations.
- As best possible
- As stated they do not.
- #'s 2&3 seem to as an out of towners, I know no convenient way to get from New York City to Sandy Hook. Given the need for park space for New Yorkers, I think this is a priority. Also, I would free Staten Island from tyranny of the private car services.
- At the present time there is limited transportation on the Rockaway Peninsula. The residents are satisfied with the situation
- Bicycles, ferries and shuttle systems?? Park and shuttle from Floyd Bennett to Fort Tilden would save people tolls and limit vehicle traffic in the smaller Fort Tilden.
- Bike rental should be easier everywhere - Private partnership should be great! Bike air + maintenance areas may be helpful. The park units do not need to be linked - how many people go out to more than one unit at a time? The environment should not be abused to provide "easy and convenient" access to "lazy" visitors
- Both getting to the parks and getting around in the parks is a problem. All of the transportation concepts presented are good. Waterborne transportation, enhancing available public transportation and providing eco-friendly intra-park transportation are all important.
- Bring ferry service the area.

- C: At present Gateway is reached via city transport. Moving around the site is either by private car or bicycle. A ferry system and/or water taxis would enhance getting to and around park sites.
- Cannot find General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement - Fall 2010 Newsletter.
- Concept #2 offers the best combination of ways to access the sites without promoting helter-skelter/negative water-borne impacts such as kayakers landing in inappropriate areas or power boats impacting tidal areas.
- Concept 1, 2, and 3 all provide ways to reach Gateway. 1 and 3 would serve to accomplish the goal far more quickly than 2. Gateway needs coastal connections, i.e., ferries. Gateway needs local connections that require very little infrastructure. For example, a bike and jogging (multipurpose) path connecting Great Kills and Miller Field would by extension connect also to Fort Wadsworth, via Midland and South Beach Boardwalk
- Concept 1, 2, and 3 all provide ways to reach Gateway. 1 and 3 would to accomplish the goal far more quickly than 2. Gateway needs local connections that require very little infrastructure. For example, a bike and jogging (multipurpose) Path connecting Great Kills to Mike Field would by extension connect also to Fort Wadsworth, via Midland and Beach Boardwalk.
- Concept 2 - Ferry service from Sheepshead Bay to Fort Tilden would be nice
- Concept 2 allows for ecological alternatives to auto traffic -- this is essential for Sandy Hook.
- Concept 2 has the most robust transportation plan.
- Concept 2 offers the most attractive transportation package, but like most of the other concepts, is lacking concrete plans that represent measurable objectives that the public can both understand and relate to. Without at least the presence of concrete examples of potential transportation plans, there is no way for the public to hold the park accountable for any of ideas that the concepts address.
- Cut the jargon guys! 1) Raze the disgusting, Broker Bldgs on the beach - 2) Open the (very nice) bathroom on the beach, or of porto sans.
- D - The concepts for transportation would be terrific.
- D - Transportation can always be improved and there are always parking issues. Each concept attempts to address this, Concept 1, does it best.
- D. Transportation to and from the area can always be improved. The RAA has been actively working with the ferry services bringing visitors from Manhattan and Brooklyn, and sought to make ourselves a distinct weekend destination. We are also actively working to attract people from further and further afield. Gateway's parking is generally excellent and helps a great deal in that endeavor.
- DEFINITELY NO for Concept 3, which talks about water-borne options for linking the three Gateway park units. Transportation linkages between these three park units should rely primarily on the general transportation infrastructure of this metropolitan area – and NOT try to duplicate it!
- Definitely NOT There should be a ferry which goes to each site. to travel all thru gateway in one day could be deadly
- Doesn't state specifics should have affordable bike rentals/kayak rentals - ferries & shuttles are great.
- Don't know what you have in mind wouldn't like to see buses, etc. on park land. Perhaps weekend shuttle buses can be used place to place.
- Each site is used by different people. Some go to fish others to use the beach. The Rockaway Theatre provides a service to all people young and old. I'm a senior citizen and would not have to money to see quality performances without the help of the Rockaway Theatre's low cost.
- Electric trams.

- Ferries, bikes, shuttles
- Ferry network
- Ferry, bicycles, car, bus, shuttles. Some of these are mentioned and need to be organized and affordable.
- For example it would be ideal if some of the ranger guided activities, such as nature walks did not require people to come in their own vehicle and a shuttle service was provided to encourage those people without cars to come to park activities. Also I'd like to see ferry service to connect Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Fort Tilden, Floyd Bennett Field, Sandy Hook and the Staten Island Units. It would also be worthwhile to try to connect this with existing ferries in Red Hook Brooklyn and Lower Manhattan. Creating an easy link to Manhattan would serve to bring Manhattanites to the Park and its beaches. Currently Manhattanites often go to Long Beach because of the easy ride on the Long Island Railroad. Perhaps Gateway could get these people to come to the Park.
- For the most part. It is a challenge to move from one site to another within an urban area.
- Fort Tilden is a remote area, and transportation to the area has always been a problem. Buses do come directly there, and there is nearby train service. A ferry system has never worked. Nice idea, but, really, is there such a demand for it?
- Gateway is spread out over a very wide area and it is hard to tie it all together. With bridges that charge high tolls separating various sites you can not expect people to move freely from one site to another by car or public transportation.
- Gateway makes a lot of sense from the air, but then on land trying to get to different sites, they are very spread out and do not always seem interconnected by a common theme. Increased transportation opportunities are definitely important. I agree that bike routes and ferries will improve transportation but I think increased bus service to places like FBF and JB is also important
- Gateway parks should take better use of the media as a form of marketing tools as well as providing information to different sites
- Handicapped parking should be expanded
- Hopefully more public transport. Train, bus and especially for Gateway water transport - ferry, water taxi, etc.
- I am concerned that easy access to Jamaica Bay by members of the public looking for recreational activities could lead to environmental damage and spoil the experience for those more attuned to nature.
- I am more concerned about programs to educate people on the irreplaceable value of the natural environment. And how to preserve it once they get there.
- I am most interested in making Sandy Hook all it can be. Any connection to Gateway parks is great but I think we need to implement parts of all concepts.
- I am not sure that I got this information clearly from reading this newsletter. Once people have utilized NYC public transportation all fields are in walking or biking distance from each other. Logistically this park is not as accessible because of its natural location.
- I believe a shuttle bus is a great idea to move thru the Gateway experience.
- I believe that Fort Wadsworth is a hidden gem that is largely unknown to the general public
- I believe they do. Ferry service will bring N.Y'ers & tourist to the park just like the Staten Island Ferry. Yet will not tax the area's natural grounds. Electric Trains can be used to take people, who prefer not to hike on nature rides and can also be used to link the park.
- I believe this now exists for Sandy Hook, which is the Gateway park unit closest to me. However, I am very concerned public access will likely be curtailed because of the NPS's continuing mis-adventures in privatization/commercialization as it continues to search for

funding sources to refurbish the obsolescent officers' houses at Sandy Hook. I believe such structures should be demolished, since no tenants able to pay rent and maintenance costs for them have been found during the past ten years.

- I can speak only to the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge part of this plan. Please see my comments below.
- I can't tell -- you tell me. Clearly, it is essential to provide a means for people to get around the various parts of the Hook. Ferries that are coupled with busses and bicycle rentals are needed. Busses need to circulate with sufficient frequency so that mass transportation methods are encouraged and cars are discouraged (cars are okay but we need alternative methods to relieve traffic congestion during peak periods).
- I find it irresponsible that the plan provides no discussion of a high speed ferry service from Dead Horse Bay to Manhattan. This was part of the 1979 Plan and it is needed more now than it was then.
- I have been in many of the Gateway locations and I have never found it a problem to move around the various facilities. Why are you trying to fix a problem that doesn't exist?
- I like the concept of water access among the parks, as visitors from New Jersey can incur pretty sizeable costs in just getting from NJ to the Brooklyn parks (that Verrazano bridge toll is a killer!). If I'm going to pay more than \$10 just to get to a park, I'd rather spend it on an enjoyable boat ride that feels like a treat, than to be stuck in traffic on poor roads. Water access will further emphasize the importance of the harbor defense system. If appropriate, the boats could also swing past Hoffman and Swinburne Islands to provide more of a view into the harbor's history.
- I prefer the alternative transportation options in concept #2
- I think better utilization of water borne transportation makes the most sense.
- I think concept #1 is the most realistic.
- I think ferries linking the various locations would be terrific! I'd love a historic boat tour of the old coastal defenses from black powder times to missile turrets. But this seems very expensive and I'm skeptical about viability. For my part I like biking myself around the area. And as I mentioned above, I think of the locations as separate. Tilden is dunes, beach, fields and bunkers. Wadsworth is a really cool old fortress (I grew up outside Ft. Hamilton, which is understandably less inviting these days than it was in the 70s-80s). Jamaica bay is the water and birds, a refuge right beside an airport, which is cool in itself.
- I think it is misleading to think of "Gateway". People getting to Sandy Hook are unlikely to ever try to get to the other parks and vice versa. With the exception of Sandy Hook, the other parks seem to be very local in their appeal. Sandy Hook is more regional, but the bulk of users are still local (within say 15 miles). Do you guys have data on where park visitors are coming from? You should, as it would help drive good decisions going forward.
- I think not
- I think so.
- I think so. But the devil is in the details.
- I think that if you have a ferry it needs to be combined with public transportation options so that people who choose to come to the park can also easily get to the restaurants and shops in the towns that surround the park. I suggest partnering with a jitney service and perhaps water taxis to Highlands, Seabright..Red Bank? etc...
- I want Gateway to be used as a national recreation area by allowing local residents to enjoy the beaches, sponsored art and music events and use of fields for sports, without being charged a fee for sponsored events and parking when free parking, nature trails, and use of Gateway facilities at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Center are free.
- I want to see bike paths, walking paths and parking areas included in the concepts.

- I would encourage biking and tap into regional ferry services. It is nice to be able to drive to the park, park your vehicle and then explore either on foot or by bike.
- I would like to see principally the transportation provided that will least effect the environment, which means restriction as to the pathways used for reaching any all sections and transportation limited to foot, trolley [or other mass transport in the park and on the water]and bicycles.
- If enforced as planned, there will be many fewer activities to move to.
- If more transportation is provided. Yes.
- If the concept 1 - Transportation proposition is enforced. Gateway endeavor it would be wonderful. It would be wonderful if public transportation to help the public reach the park
- If you we choose to provide more adequate means of transportation to and from Sandy Hook.
- Important to & within each separately. I am less concerned about transportation one Gateway Park to another. Traffic a problem for 3 months of the year. Ferry service should be enhanced
- It doesn't matter. Just keep the theater, please.
- It is difficult to tell from the level of information provided; the goals to allow convenient local access and an integrated transportation system are good.
- It is important to make the parks more accessible to those who are low income and all races of people and species of all life (I understand the invasive species challenges). Of course methods which have low impact is important to be emphasized.
- it might but for the limited number of people who will use it will not be worthwhile why waste money on this when we could provide our local kids with excellent facilities
- Keep diverse kinds of transportation, but favor quiet and non polluting alternatives.
- Let's look at the available transportation area by area.
- Limiting access to the wildlife refuge of Gateway is essential to maintain the natural environment. That said, better public transportation to the Refuge would enhance the opportunity for the public to participate in passive and educational activities without the environmental destruction necessitated by construction of parking lots or additional roads, including bikeways.
- Lots of transfers long walks and slow local buses esp. bad are the long walks through nothing (like S. Hook gate to Ft Hancock)
- Maybe - Vague on the boards
- Maybe, with the help of Transportation Alternatives organization ,Solar powered buses, etc can help
- More areas are also needed to safe lock up bicycles.
- More detail needed here. What is the environmental impact?
- More ferries.
- My family & I love the bike paths, but the "serious" bicyclists still tend to ride the main road which is extraordinarily dangerous. Probably too much to ask that a bike lane be added for the spandex crowd. At any rate the rangers should be more alert to those cyclists who feel that on a summer day, they are entitled to a full car lane.
- Need greater public transportation via water-borne vehicles to connect the parks in Gateway during spring, summer, fall.
- No Comment
- NO for Concept 2. Underlying Concept 2 (and Concept 3) is an assumed need for many members of the public to travel between the three major park units that compose Gateway. But no such need exists. My family and neighbors make heavy use of Sandy Hook because it is close and it has convenient access. While I have occasionally taken my family to Gateway beaches on Staten Island and on Long Island for a change of pace, they are not are our first choice beech.

- No there should be a ferry service connecting the park system.
- No they do not. If the Gateway Rec Area is to become a port, infrastructure and connecting maps & transportation must be in place. It is too disjointed to be a park presently.
- No. They shouldn't. Each part of the GWNRA is a unique treasure and should be experienced and enjoyed on its own. The Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge is distinct from Fort Tilden. Although close, each has its own beauty and should be kept unique. We are not developing a tourist attraction. We are maintaining unique ecosystems.
- No/yes
- Not details...need to be more fleshed out
- Not really. But I can't say I'm all that desirous of it. I assume that the others have very dense population centers nearby and don't need more visitors.
- Not sure, no details given
- Not too often
- Not until transportation is tackled so that mass transportation services all units of Gateway, with different modalities to accommodate all audiences - able and disabled.
- Of course not. They're concepts, your know-deas, (not good or distinct ones unfortunately)there not uses.
- Once you get to the park, there is no transportation within the park if you got there by public transportation.
- Only in some forms of appropriate transportation can be arranged perhaps through partnerships.
- Only under concept 2 and 3. Boats/ferries to link park units would be a good idea.
- People manage to get where they want to go if they are interest in what's there they will come to visit because their family came on a camping trip. Also we need more picnic areas and toilet facilities.
- Perhaps 2 or 3 benches going out to Crooks Point - nothing fancy - maybe similar to the 1 along Buffalo 1/2 mi closer to the parking lot
- Perhaps as stated, they do, but again, the neglect over the years does not engender optimism that these things will occur.
- Plan meeting on weekend. Start end of March early April. Keep it going - maybe "adopt" a building to rehab
- Positive
- Provide travel give discounts to come to the parks
- Public
- Public transportation has always served the public well in New York. People already have access to all of Gateway. This is important when children sign up for the ice skating at Floyd Bennett Field or soccer at Fort Tilden.
- Public. If more transportation is provided
- Reach the Gateway is not a problem any longer with the construction of a state of the art bridge connecting the peninsula with the main land. I would recommend a bike trail handout available at the visitor's center. I understand there are some lovely new bike paths; but I'm not sure how they connect to each other and to the natural areas; particularly on the bay side of the peninsula.
- Rent bicycles. Have a stand at the ferry and the Gulls Nest. Rent the large tricycles so people can transport their beach stuff.
- Sadly, no matter what you plan for, the NY Metro area is one of the most heavily congested and over-populated areas on earth and nothing will ever change that. The movement of people from JABA to SAHO to FOWA will never, ever be an easy transition. However, especially for Sandy

Hook, there should be a look into trying to increase public transportation to each site. Any public transport to Sandy Hook tends to stop at the front gate of the park, next to the bridge. To increase visitation, the NPS should look towards engaging and encouraging public and private transport companies to try and establish a straight-forward method to get visitors from rail and bus terminals (most of which are miles away, certainly too far to walk or bike from) out to Fort Hancock. These systems are a little more predominant at Staten Island and JABA due to the close proximity of major roads and highways to, and in some cases through, the units. Sandy Hook is a whole new ball game, as the main resources - the Fort and the Lighthouse - are 4 to 6 MILES from the front gate. Folks can't visit what they can't get to if they do not have the resources to arrive in anything but public transportation.

- Sandy Hook is the only section of Gateway that I have accessed and am therefore familiar. Unfortunately location restricts access here. Unless one lives nearby, private vehicle is the principle means of access and internal transportation. Ferry access from population centers is fine but limits mobility within the park. Give the size of the park some means of internal transportation such as bicycle and /or small electric vehicles borrowing or rental stations (possibly by commercial partner(s) subject to strict contractual parameters set by local park officials). These facilities to be placed minimally at ferry dock(s) and a bus parking near entrance / egress. One should first study the practicality of any such plan.
- Shuttle services once the #'s are up
- Since new bus and train options are unlikely, new water transport would be great. Is a ferry between Rockaway/Jamaica Bay Unit and Sandy Hook possible/practical? I would never try to drive there. I would like the idea of bikes in the park. We bike through Ft. Tilden from home but visitors don't currently have that option. Kayaks would be a great asset.
- Small bus shuttle to take people around different park like Harpers Ferry and more press advertisement about parks
- So far ok.
- So important that it is open to the public - creating interest, attracting many
- Somewhat. There is no specific explanation as to HOW.
- The American public prefers to travel by car for the most part due to the freedom it provides to come and go when it suits them. Therefore it is important to not divert limited parking spaces to commercial businesses that do not contribute to the recreational experience of park patrons.
- The bicycle path connector should be expanded. Mass transit is not going to improve. The GAAG Line Shuttle @ Ft. Wads closed due to lack of ridership. If brochures list bus numbers that might help, but that can change
- The bike rentals in Sandy Hook are a good new development. A ferry between the parks would not get enough ridership to make it worthwhile.
- The concept can be made better if we add a shuttle for the elder and disabled.
- The concepts forget that Floyd Bennett Battlefield was a garbage dump, then airport, the US Navy Airfield. If you wish to alter the present state the EPA & DEC will require to dig the entire Island of Floyd Bennett Field and replace with virgin soil. Why not restore and clean grounds otherwise. Good luck!
- The concepts provide suggestions but not ways for people to reach Gateway and may only serve the well to do. Right now, there is limited bus service to the area and most people travel by car or bicycle (in the milder months) and apply for permits if they are actively involved in arts programming. Continued and improved communication among the GNRA staff, existing community organizations and the community will keep traffic monitored and controlled.

- The concepts to move from one site to another are not economically viable. Moving between Staten Island, Jamaica Bay and Sandy Hook will be too expensive or ecologically unsound (Jamaica Bay.)
- The concepts work for ideal situations, but lack specific ways to carry them out
- The ferry is a fantastic resource.
- The footprint left on the environment by any new provision for transportation, whether for access to or movement within the park, will necessarily impinge on natural areas, including bird feeding, resting, and breeding habitat, and must be carefully considered and analyzed in order to minimize that adverse impact.
- The idea of water transport linking the 3 Parks is a good idea
- The idea set forth in concept 3 of linking the three park units by ferry doesn't make sense to me because it is doubtful that these would be desirable or convenient to the general public. This should only be attempted by an independent company, free to abandon it if it isn't profitable.
- The NY units of Gateway and Sandy Hook essentially two different parks. And while the mission of GNRA is a noble one, in 35+ years we have learned that these two areas of the park serve different purposes and different audiences. Treating them as one does not allow either to grow to its full potential. Special transportation between the two NY units to Sandy Hook is as unnecessary as providing special transportation between Sandy Hook and the Statue of Liberty or Sandy Hook and Edison NHP.
- The only Gateway site that I am familiar with is Sandy Hook. It does not appear that there is any difficulty reaching the site. On summer weekends, the parking lots fill early. Is there a way to use more green technology to move people around? I know in other parks, there are green type shuttles.
- The proposed concepts do offer commuting alternatives but are totally financially impossible to maintain due to lack of participation.
- There are adequate, but why concept 1 would not include ferries escapes me
- There are no details to make that determination. I would think that experts would first come up with some high-level concepts, which the public can then comment on. The chosen concept would then be further developed in more detail.
- There is limited transportation to areas to GNP, and although your concept says you need more how will you implement it? Moving around the park will be difficult considering the vastness of the park and that it is located in different states and within NY, within different boroughs, even those who have cars have to pay a lot in high bridge tolls.
- There is no transportation once on FBF.
- These concepts are as they are now.
- They all give a ways but I think that concept 2 and 3 are offered are more customer friendly
- Transportation can always be improved and there are always parking issues. Each concept attempts to address this, Concept 1, does it best.
- Transportation can always be improved. I think the cancelled Ferry from Manhattan to the Breezy Pt. Coast Guard Station was a great missed opportunity to bring visitors into the park in a controlled way. Jitneys within the park during the summer would be a great help.
- Transportation can always be improved. I think the cancelled Ferry from Manhattan to the Breezy Pt. Coast Guard Station was a missed opportunity to bring visitors into the park in a controlled way.
- Transportation definitely needs to be address highly! Here's a suggestion: Extension of the already implemented bus service that goes in that direction which is the Q22.

- Transportation issues can not be adequately address until a plan for the use of the entire area has been set forth. Allowing for more transportation to use water and ocean themes might not be feasible use for interior access to buildings.
- TRANSPORTATION: Everyone on the peninsula, myself included, favors as many flexible and beneficial, waterborne and land-based transportation modes as possible to make accessing the park easier. Better maintained and safer bike lanes along Beach Channel Drive and the Boardwalk should be an immediate priority. So should a flexible water taxi to ferry visitors from Riis Landing to Floyd Bennett, Plumb Beach, and somewhere near to Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge.
- Traveling opportunities and access already adequately exist at the Hook. To encourage additional infrastructure would negate the original park service mission statement to preserve and conserve natural resources.
- unsure
- Use "bus" or "van" as rolling billboard to transport and advertise
- was not completely clear
- We must take care that reaching and moving around different sites does not diminish preservation of parks.
- WE NEED A FERRY -- PERMANETLY --- DAILY --- 365 DAYS A YEAR!!!!!!!
- We should be provided with parking areas, grandstands, sun-protected areas etc.
- We should have a tour bus with someone from each site giving a brief overview when the bus stops at each site. There should be a small fee but it's would be fun and give the visitor a great feeling of being welcomed
- Why is this important? I don't care. When I try to go surfing in the winter the parking lot is closed because a little snow is on the ground is disappointing to me. When I try to go surfing in the summer and someone who knows nothing about the ocean decides to close it to surfing because he unknowingly thinks the conditions are unsafe is important to me.
- Within the park: For Jamaica Bay and its gorgeous environs there should be a waterway course for kayakers and canoers with stops at the Wildlife Refuge, Plum Beach, Riis Park/Ft Tilden and along the Rockaway's Bayside Waterfront. NPS property along the bay, just east of the Marine Park-Gil Hodges Bridge and directly north of the Riis Park Parking Lot, is completely, totally and disturbingly abandoned...it s/b restored as the Jamaica Bay Esplanade/Bikeway/Greenway. Outside the Park: a blue-water ferry linking the Park and the Rockaway Peninsula to Manhattan at one end and JFK Airport at the other end should be developed with the Port Authority and NYC's DOT.
- Yes - May I suggest trans.
- Yes but keep in mind the personal auto is what will rule until it is too expensive and other forms of trans are very inexpensive or free. Alternative forms of trans, kayak, bike, are great if easily available
- YES for Concept 1 with its emphasis on affordable and convenient public access.
- Yes it does provide ways for people to reach Gateway an also moves around to different sites.
- Yes transportation is important in which it is provided in every unit I have seen many people get off buses trains and ride their bicycles to the WLR.
- Yes will traffic flow and even the pavement (Sandy Hook) be improved. Improve the roadways first, pot holes, damaged roads first, then you can move people
- Yes you can choose what you want to do activity wise or just walk down to beach or watch birds.
- Yes! However, I am concerned with concept 3 and water based travel (expensive)

- Yes, but not in specific terms for people in Queens, outer Brooklyn, or the Bronx and upper Manhattan. It takes 1.5 to 2 hours, by public transport from these locations only outer Brooklyn's time would be lessened by Gateway ferry from Manhattan
- Yes, but not specifically. What about handicapped accessibility? Jitneys from out-side areas (Sea Streak Ferry) jitneys running regularly throughout the park from opening to close. Bike rentals (Mikes).
- Yes, but to what end? In the Rockaways--the beach is all and runs for miles beyond Fr. Tilden. To limit just what goes on there to exclusively the content of the National Parks would--most certainly--reduce attendance and alienate the Rockaway community.
- Yes, but until you adequately rehab and/or restore the buildings, what will there be to see? Don't concentrate on transportation until you have the sites in better physical condition.
- yes, but would prefer that parks not get overused
- Yes, I would like to specifically item about proposed water venue transportation alternatives.
- Yes, in good time they will.
- Yes, more public transit needed. Bus system threw Sandy Hook parking areas
- Yes, no problems with the present arrangements. Bldg. T-4 is a live performance theater and T7 is an art gallery and exhibition space. The Little League maintains its clubhouse and field and people have no problems "moving around" the different locations. The Environmental focus at present is not disrupted by the layout and/or use of the recreational and art-cultural activities. Their present locations do not have a negative impact on any present environmental sites and the ingress and egress to all of these sites are not impeded in any way.
- Yes, they do, but the public must be aware, if they are to have easy access to all sites, that their recreational activities will be limited at such sites as Jamaica Bay & Ft. Wadsworth.
- Yes. Ferries to get people to and between the various sites are essential.
- Yes. I believe the ferry access and the bike paths at Sandy Hook offer great opportunity to access the park
- Yes. Where there is a will, there is a way.
- Yes. Because we could improve on activities for senior citizens and handicap.
- Yes. Best under concept # 4
- Yes. The approach seems to be similar across the board. I think the emphasis should be on mass transit/low-impact transport in order to maximize audience access to the park. The ability for visitors to seamlessly move around to different sites is equally important. The 1st and 3rd concepts seem to provide more of an avenue to prioritize transit accessibility.
- Yes... more affordable ferries, jitneys, sand parking lots

Question 5 - How could partnerships support the ideas in each concept?

- \$ & staffing
- 1) The most important thing to is reforest those areas that can be transformed into more hardwood trees in Ft. Tilden, Floyd Bennett field. 2) Dredge and deepen the ponds at Floyd Bennett & Ft. Tilden. They are now chucking with seeds. Flower gardens will make those areas more beautiful and will attract more nature lovers.
- 1. Schools and universities would be obvious in helping to develop the historical interpretation more thoroughly at Sandy Hook. Clearly they already are vitally involved in bird migration, maritime science, and ecological research work.
- 2. Nonprofits like Audubon are really great, logical partners. I would think the military academies would have alum associations that would also be interesting resources. I live near West Point and know their alums are amazing, smart, deep-pocketed people for whom a Sandy Hook project would be a great idea.
- A community outreach would be great. Creating opportunity for the public to donate money to a presentation fund with a specific cause.
- A partnership such as that of Sandy Hook Partners, which probably failed as a result of extended litigation and a downturn in financial markets, rather than any inherent defect in concept, is the best solution for Fort Hancock and the Sandy Hook Unit. Building-by-building restoration by individual non-profits would be terribly inefficient, and will never happen, nor would it improve access and use by the public. The public would have far more access to the unique Fort Hancock complex and its individual structures if they were adaptively reused as bed-and-breakfasts, conference centers, restaurants, or even individual residences restored and leased. Public access to the Parade Ground and other restored grounds, and various individual structures, would be an immeasurable improvement over the present status.
- Active, organized recreation must be the primary use of the eastern section of Ft. Tilden. I do not object to sharing the park with the environmental advocates, but I object to efforts to exclude recreational users of the park and our children.
- Additionally, simple hostel/bed and breakfast facilities would bring in income and keep the buildings in use while introducing more families and groups (scouts, etc.) to the beauty of the park. If NPS' prime goals include bringing in 'non traditional' visitors and encouraging stewardship, what better way is there than to have people from these groups stay over the weekend, enjoy the beach, explore the fort and gain a true appreciation for the site and its history?
- Afraid of the possible traps that can occur.
- Again I prefer concept #2 since it stresses PROTECTION
- All are needed to add their creativity and love and compassion for caring for the parks. Keeping everything public is essential to this mission. Private = exclusive. We need diversity in all expressions not homogeneous.
- All types of partnerships should be tried then the preservation framework.
- Allow a contractor to live in one of the houses on officer's row for free of charge for X amount of years in exchange for repairs to the house. Have a clear agreement what is to be fixed by a declared timeline. Once repaired turn it into a bed and breakfast to fund repairs for other buildings.
- An active, organized recreation must be the primary use of the eastern section of Ft. Tilden. We do not object to sharing the park with the environmental advocates, but we object to efforts to exclude Rockaway homeowners, residents are our children.
- Any of the partnerships listed would help and enhance the experience.

- Any partnerships should involve only non-profits
- As a long time member of the Rockaway Artists Alliance, I know we have worked long and hard to improve our facilities and become a positive influence in the park. With our many Art Shows, cultural and Educational events we are a positive presence on weekends, as well as during the week on a more limited basis, dispensing information and a welcoming atmosphere. WE ARE NOT DISRUPTING THE NATURAL ASPECTS OF THE PARK, WE ARE ENHANCING THE VISITOR'S EXPERIENCE, AND HOPE TO CONTINUE OUR MUTUAL MISSIONS FOR MANY YEARS TO COME
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- As a partner in the park we already help support the idea of making the historic structures in the park accessible to the public by providing both interpretive and educational activities. Our presence at Fort Tilden has already served to strengthen community connections
- At Fort Hancock specifically, GETTING THE BUILDINGS HABITABLE AND IN USE is the prime means of keeping them preserved. As we've seen, just stabilizing them (and only some of them, at that) is no guarantee of preserving them for future generations. They have to be used every week. You can easily see that when you look at the houses that are occupied now, versus the ones that have been standing vacant for well over a decade.
- B & D: Working with local organizations, especially those organizations such as RMAC (a park partner of over 25 years) and allowing them to air problems would lend support to park planning. Preventing such organizations from utilizing park facilities (as has already been accomplished) results in more harm than good regarding GNRA's concern for community involvement.
- Based on the dismal NPS experiences with privatization/commercialization at Sandy Hook, I am concerned that the emphasis on the "Partnership" elements included in each of the three Concepts unnecessarily opens the door for private exploitation of public park land, which belongs to all of the people. This should NOT be allowed to happen!
- Better visibility within the community funding.
- Beyond offering ideas and input on how to best execute NPS objectives, the involvement of partners can offer the park powerful supporters as well as volunteer PR people that will spread the park's mission and objectives in meaningful and measurable ways within the local and extended communities.
- Bike riding & boat rentals would create p/t jobs and new bus ventures
- Bring in nonprofit groups to help keep a presence in buildings and can produce events.
- By constructive interaction
- By having quarterly meetings where the input of new citizen could be brought to the table.
- By helping to preserve and maintain the park
- By involving the community
- By partnering with private enterprises, the NPS can secure the necessary funding to maintain and clean the beaches and marshes; by doing so, the national parks can attract patronage that

would further utilize these natural resources for the betterment and the quality of all living inhabitants.

- By promising to respect the natural resources.
- Can facilitate educating and sensitizing children and adults to the importance of preserving the Park and acting responsibly with regard to the Environment.
- Carefully reviewed prior to being chosen to ensure they are compatible with the parks primary goal of providing a recreational experience to park patrons. No unrelated non-recreational commercial entities allowed
- Certainly financially and with organizational details. It would be great to have organized volunteer programs. I see school groups at the park all the time. Are these guided or docents that greet them.
- Colleges for in active management activities such as engineering, forestry, wildlife and science curriculums could be beneficial to the Refuge as well as educational institutions. Partnerships with not for profits, such as NYC Audubon, could be fruitful efforts to increase both public understanding and support for natural resource management.
- Concept 1 - Educational partners could bring new groups to experience the park. Friends groups/special interest groups (biker, birders, etc.) could enrich our offerings. Partnership with NYC Parks could actually better differentiate types of experiences for urban audience.
- Concept 1 - Partnership with local sports organizations, schools and NYC DOT and NYC Planning Commission
- Concept 1 - Programs with the NYC Board of Ed to get students outside and in natural places could serve to better Transportation and promote outdoor learning under the Natural and Cultural Resources. Programs with the Sierra Club, Jewish Outdoors Club and other outdoors groups would also be helpful.
- Concept 2 - Higher ed/Research oriented partnerships could directly benefit habitats/ecosystems. Historical preservation groups could augment our ability to restore/interpret. Educational partners could serve to groom future environmental stewards who care about resource preservation
- Concept 2 - Partnerships would give further stimulus to science research art preservation. Many incentives
- Concept 2 - Schools, youth organizations, and local philanthropy groups
- Concept 2 is a good approach - education, respect, appreciation for nature and history. Protect the integrity of the environment - do not sell out the beauty and peace for a cheap business deal that ruins the place for our children
- Concept 2 partnerships are best for Jamaica Bay & Ft. Wadsworth. Concepts 1 & 3 apply well to Riis Park & Sandy Hook.
- Concept 2: Natural and Cultural Resources: Partnerships with USEPA, NYSDEC and NYCDEP could help foster better water quality under.
- Concept 3 - NY and NJ DIT's, schools, youth organizations, and local ferry businesses operating in NY Harbor
- Concession could be heavily controlled by Federal agencies. Development has been proposed for Coney Island. It is a Skeleton and an Eyesore.
- Concessions and NYC could sustain visitor facilities
- Connect, create, products, plan to maintain connection after funding is exhausted.
- Continue working cooperatively with the various bird clubs - Brooklyn Bird Club, Queens Bird Club and all of the Audubon entities - National, Audubon NY, and NYC Audubon. By working with National Audubon and Audubon NY, you will have the opportunity to network with the many local chapters (in addition to NYC Audubon) that visit the refuges.

- Continued awareness of use of parks through festivals
- Cooperation between the Federal and local Governments
- Could set up same here on Staten Island
- Create alliances with community based organizations & make GNRA assets available to them
- Do not privatize our parks.
- Donation of time, money and materials (bikes) to the park. Short of outright advertising, corporate partners could be given credit for restoration and continued preservation of selected resources. This could be applied to ballfields, fortifications, even natural areas in need of invasive vegetation removal & continued maintenance
- E - Gateway needs partnerships. These established groups that are already located in Fort Tilden are terrific partners that educate their members on the importance of the parks and preservation of it.
- E - Partnerships, such as The Rockaway Little League, The Rockaway Theatre Company, and the Rockaway Artists Alliance support and enhance all the ideas and concepts of GNRA and NPS as a whole. Their missions mesh with these concepts in numerous ways.
- E. Again here all three concepts are good ones. I feel Concept 1 makes the best of the immeasurable resources partnerships provide. In these difficult financial times for us it all this makes the most sense. Partnerships such as with the Rockaway Little League, the Rockaway Theatre Company and the Rockaway Artists Alliance are already well established and have a proven track record. They rehabilitate, restore, renovate and maintain numerous park buildings through their own funds. They attract thousands of visitors to the park through their own programs and promotional work. They welcome all park visitors and also provide a strong presence in the park all year round. And groups like this more than anyone have a stake in and appreciation for all the parks have to offer and all the hard work the NPS has done. This is our home, too.
- Ease up the permit process so a partnership is achievable.
- Educational institutions would be an ideal partner. Businesses would also be good partners; they have the money needed to implement the concepts.
- Educational partnerships when I taught I took my students to Jamaica Bay back in the 70's - 80's. So education re: environment
- Existing shore groups such as the Jersey Shore Partnership and Monmouth University's Urban Coast Institute should be contacted for input if that has not occurred.
- Expand the outreach of Nat. Park system to local groups.
- For example, the Gateway Bike & Boathouse, a Rockaway-based 501(c)(3) is partnering with NPS to help run a kayaking program at Riis Landing to provide public access to Jamaica Bay
- Funding would enhance any of the proposed areas. Perhaps corporate advertising would be considered.
- Get onboard with all unit coordinators and set priorities
- Get use of building for certain number of years free and be able to use it after fixing it
- Getting ideas in partnership is a really good idea due to each helping with ideas and suggestions being made by professionals
- Good will foundations; as well as environmental groups could share the task of taking over the responsibility of upgrading and revitalizing a building for their particular purposes. Sports groups could get together and work with professional volunteers to bring the buildings into compliance so they can once again be seen in their original beauty.
- Greater emphasis is needed for the park system to reach out to local volunteer groups and non profit to conduct env education programs
- Have large sums of money ready for action.

- Have volunteers to assist in helping keeping the park clean and assist in cleaning beaches
- Help with finances and promote to park
- I am especially proud that our Rockaway community has its extensive sports programs, supported by the NPS. These programs make the National Parks special to the children as they grow up using their parks for the sports they love, as well as the other programs such as the Artists Alliance and the performing arts programs available in Ft. Tilden.
- I believe that Sandy Hook could have a private Chapel and perhaps a good restaurant and maybe one or two Bed and Breakfast, a few snack bars and let nonprofit groups rehab the various houses for their needs. We could have a military museum and perhaps the Historical society may want to utilize a house/museum. We could even do some reenactments there and school children's outings.
- I can speak only to the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge part of this plan. Please see my comments below.
- I envision existing groups (civic associations, schools, etc. "adopting" parts of the park. They would help to recruit volunteers for clean-ups, staff volunteer positions, and help to notify their memberships of educational opportunities and programs in the park.
- I have camped at Sandy Hook with the Scouts many times. Great facilities and support however, more could be done as far as service projects from all types of groups to reduce costs.
- I really like the idea of the historic leasing program now in use at Sandy Hook. It most closely matches concept 1. I think these kinds of partnerships are a great way to make connections w/ other organizations and preserve/restore historic structures
- I think a partnership with community groups is essential so that the voice of the people in the surrounding urban areas is heard.
- I think partnering with nonprofit groups as well as small Mom & Pop operations such as Bed and Breakfasts for the Officers Row or theater or film groups in the Theater with in limitations that don't overstress the delicate ecosystem or take away tourist dollars from local businesses outside of the park.
- I think partnerships are a good concept espec. considering the Presidio in Ca.
- I think that sponsorships rather than partnerships would be more financial viable. Large commercialism and signage would deter from the natural use of the park. However paths, buildings, small areas of wild life use, fields and other places could be sponsored by individuals or business. Small sign designed by the parks department could have the sponsors name on it. Fees would be applied according to placement or activity. Each sponsorship would be for 1 year and renewable if desired. With such a large area portions of paths and areas could be broken down in a manner such as adopt a highway.
- I think the partnerships will open up many opportunities for jobs and also will be able to have multiple projects worked on at the same time.
- I think your partners who have taken care of their buildings and made the park a better place then it was some 20 years age deserve a lot of credit. Is there room for improvement? YES. We all have to work together.
- I want Gateway to be used as a national recreation area by allowing local residents to enjoy the beaches, sponsored art and music events and use of fields for sports, without being charged a fee for sponsored events and parking when free parking, nature trails, and use of Gateway facilities at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Center are free.
- If the partnerships, i.e. participating entities have something to gain.
- If this is done in partnership, you will have support from the surrounding areas. Also, the community people may have some novel Ideas for the use of the parks that make them more useful for everyone.

- I'm in favor only of Concept 2. Educational and outreach partnerships in schools and communities are needed. The answer to involving population groups who don't now use the area is NOT to add transport and activities that will damage it, but to increase understanding of the importance of nature and the personal rewards and satisfactions that come from experiencing it.
- In a time of economic distress, it would behoove the NPS to reach out to the community and offer partnerships with area organizations that would renovate and utilize deteriorating buildings.
- In concept 2, partnerships with educational, historical and environmental NON PROFIT organizations can help enhance the learning potential for visitors.
- In the Bay area, private ferries seem to work
- Increase the base of individuals concerned about the area. Act as agendas to assist in promotion of the restoration/utilization goals.
- It depends. Corporate partnerships are loathsome, and commercialize the park. Partnerships with community groups are fine, and encourage a healthy degree of public participation and usage.
- It has remarkable resource that would be returned to all it can be. Get the Gates Foundation or The Schmidt Foundation involved. Ft. Hancock once defended our country. Let it defend it again with our best defense: Education
- It seems fairly apparent that NPS does not consider its current partnerships very important. If NPS is willing to turn a blind eye to the improvements made to the facilities used by the Rockaway Little League, Artists Alliance and Rockaway Theatre Company, I see little benefit to any other organization partnering with NPS.
- Jamaica Bay Ride Academy exists now in Bklyn.
- leasing out the abandoned building in some cases to business ventures would help drive revenue
- Lighthouse partnership
- Limited commercial (for-profit) establishments could help support the National Park as established by law, but the disgraceful history with the Wassel group will hopefully ensure a transparent planning & evaluation process. The Park Service should learn from the past and follow Federal procurement laws as well.
- Look across the bridge - at aviator in particular. Great example of partnerships.
- Management of natural areas is labor intensive. Partnerships with high schools and
- Money
- More history leadership from the NPS.
- New York City Audubon wishes to continue a long tradition of partnership with the park in promoting science, research, and preservation. Partnership with NYC Audubon and other not for profit organizations devoted to natural resource management and conservation could provide opportunities to increase both public understanding and support for the Park. Partnerships with high schools and colleges for active management activities such as engineering, forestry, wildlife and science curricula could be beneficial to the Refuge as well as the educational institutions.
- no comment
- Not for profits may operate visitor services (food stands) that are lacking in GWNRA. Money made can be used for trail maintenance, purchasing playground equip, etc.
- not sure
- NPS needs a better outreach program to work with the surrounding communities and stakeholders.

- Only in a comprehensive volunteer and friends group partnerships can only of these concepts be realized.
- Our Rockaway kids aren't "couch potatoes" largely due to the support of the NPS and the opportunities they have to use their parkland. We are raising children who appreciate their park service and who will support it as adults. Please continue to provide access to Ft. Tilden for the Rockaway Little League and the other sports leagues that currently use the wonderful fields there.
- Outside experts/providers could provide services under contract to the NPS, as the umbrella head.
- Outside partnerships will obviously help procure the large amt of funding necessary for some of these larger scale concepts.
- Park partners can be enormously helpful even expanding the intentions of concept 1. The Rockaway Theater Company and the Rockaway Artists Alliance can be helpful in fulfilling Gateway's mission in Fort Tilden, for example. Rangers, performers and artists can combine to offer dynamic expanded activities for visitors of all ages.
- Park should organize a meeting with all the historic societies and NGO's in Monmouth County to look at the future of the bldgs., preservation, use and funding - develop a workgroup to keep things moving - park should provide a project manager
- Partner with the current local Rockaway arts organizations presently in place. The Rockaways would suffer immeasurably without them.
- Partners provide or support the services that we can not provide or afford. Funding or offering volunteer services or resources could help support all concepts.
- Partnership could help in the up keep of the parks Maint. Program by supply money to help
- Partnership with the Community
- Partnerships allow for different point of views.
- Partnerships are important to help get folks involved in some of the projects in the parks where funding is limited and "hands & feet" are necessary. It also helps to instill a feeling of ownership in the visitors. Although this sense on ownership sometimes causes it own problems.
- Partnerships are important, and you have been abandoning partnerships with local Rockaway cultural organizations for the last number of years. It is also rumored in the local press (The Rockaway Wave, Feb 25, 2011) that you will continue to abandon partnerships with local cultural and recreational and children organizations. I certainly hope NOT.
- Partnerships are key for this to work. Outside organizations can supply these services.
- Partnerships are misused by the Park. It is a way to legally discriminate between politically favored groups and users of the park. Without objective standards to determine who can be a partner and who cannot this will be just a way to exclude people from public property that our taxes have paid for. The discretion of the superintendent is a poor substitute for objective standards.
- Partnerships are needed to keep the costs down on the already struggling organizations so that they can remain operational for the many people that utilize them.
- Partnerships are probably the only viable solution to the lack of funds problem. Great care must be exercised upon entering into partnerships to preserve the natural habitat. Restoration of historic buildings can be accomplished thru partnerships.
- Partnerships are the only means of achieving them. But there is a vast difference between planning a successful partnership and achieving it.
- Partnerships as described under concept 1 seem the best. Educational entities should be able to occupy and rehabilitate some of the abandoned buildings

- Partnerships bring money to the history of Fort Hancock buildings & enhance the natural beauty of the peninsula.
- Partnerships bring new ideas & a fresh approach
- Partnerships can help Gateway reach communities/audiences that currently don't know what the NRA has to offer. Rockaway Little League brings 800 children from Rockaway onto Ft. Tilden every summer and hundreds more from other areas of the city. We can work together to get these children into nature programs/activities and/or make their parents aware of Gateway oppts.
- Partnerships could be terrific! To fund marine biology programs or a school for environmental programs. The sky is the limit and time is a wastin'!
- Partnerships could be the key to maintaining the park. Each organization would be responsible for maintaining their building or space and if needed could be required to help maintain other areas of the park.
- Partnerships could be very supportive of all themes.
- Partnerships could enhance and assist each concept based on their research and experience.
- Partnerships have to be consistent in their ideas & concepts.
- Partnerships have to do more than support their own interests. There have to be well thought out ground rules for these partnerships so that Gateway actually gets something useful in return
- Partnerships help with costs sometimes as well as maintaining certain things but I think it gives them too much control. We should be able operate Gateway. We need positive reinforcement, training, effect managers, supervisors, and upper management. It takes time but it will work evening if we just egan to support each other even when we don't understand.
- Partnerships in a general way or would advertising from corporations with an "agenda" be involved?
- Partnerships need to be nurtured - Existing partnerships do not always benefit the park. New partnerships need to be developed and sought out.
- Partnerships should be defined better. Who are you partnering with? It is important to keep the park open for all and not just a few.
- Partnerships should be invited to have more input into the concepts. Right now the concepts seem to be written without taking the local community and community usage into consideration. Educational programming about conservation could be offered in the RAA summer day camp, with adequate funding from the government. Theatre, Little League and RAA fans could be invited to join GNRA e-lists on programs. Wildlife conservation programming and ranger programs in the seasonal months would be a welcome addition. Guided ranger tours for school groups and camps would also be a great tool for education.
- Partnerships that promote science, research and preservation are emphasized in order to protect park resources.
- Partnerships w/ local universities such as Pratt Institution, Parsons, etc. should be used to
- Partnerships will help promote Gateway National Park & encourage the use of the park
- Partnerships WILL support the ideas per concept; simply put, any competent partner group will effectively support the NPS' various missions throughout Gateway, be they historical or natural in nature. Any partner organization that can engage and work with the NPS to assist with interpretation, preservation, protection and usage of resources for the visitor should be encouraged to help out and team up at all costs.
- Partnerships with not for profits, or for profits on an individual basis will help the area keep it's unique landscape. Each lessee should be responsible for the historical rehab of each building they lease. It is critical to not let more than one entity lease a majority of the properties. NPS needs to retain control over the development projects so that the national parks do not turn

into a commercialized area. The natural beauty is why people return to these parks. The "city escape" is essential, especially in this bustling New York/ New Jersey region.

- Partnerships with schools & all local not for profit organizations are key
- Partnerships with Universities and High Schools could increase monitoring and inventories of natural resources under Concept 2.
- Partnerships with whom
- Partnerships would help to strengthen us in the areas where we are weak. - need local neighboring agencies to achieve goals/ideas.
- Partnerships, such as The Rockaway Little League, Rockaway Rugby, SFDS Soccer, The Rockaway Theatre Company, and the Rockaway Artists Alliance support and enhance all the ideas and concepts of GNRA and NPS as a whole. Their missions mesh with these concepts in numerous ways.
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- Please partnership with Fisherman's Conservation Association, Protectors of Pine Oak woods, and Natural Resources Protective Association
- Please see my answer to Question 3.
- Private partnerships, particularly those dealing in military contracts and suppliers should be encouraged to donate time and funds to the restoration of our forts.
- Programs with Boy/Girl Scouts could help to beautify areas of park through donated time, labor and materials.
- Promotions of the organizations and would bring more awareness.
- Provide funding and programming.
- Public - Private partnerships are an essential link between the NPS and community organizations. Groups and individual volunteers can assist a cash strapped National Park Service to fulfill its mission in providing recreation along with natural and cultural stewardship and related programming.
- Public not for -profit entities are the only partnerships that should be considered
- Public relations can seek sponsors and volunteers to team play. Promote each concept.
- PUBLIC RELATIONS!
- Reach out to artists and environmental groups that may draw like musicians with a following to give a promotional concert appearances like clear water sailing ships, folk groups calling attention to issues in addition to a beach cleanup or graffiti removal
- Retain ideas of final plan
- Rockaway Theatre is a partnership that has provided services to the community. They are a teaching as well as providing quality entertainment.

- Sandy Hook foundation is a great resource for the park
- Sandy Hook needs an aggressive focused partnership to provide accommodations at the park for people to stay overnight. Previous attempts have failed. It would be ideal if there could be accommodations similar to the of National Parks (like Yellowstone) at Sandy Hook.
- Some ideas were discussed above. Educational institutions and historical preservation groups could partner well with park administration as set forth in these concepts. Commercial partners might work well in the transportation areas. What should NOT be allowed to happen is for independent contractors to lock up park assets in long term exclusive contracts that essentially preclude park administration ability to amend agreements in response to changing conditions.
- Special event policies and user fees must make the distinction between for profit and not for profit organizations.
- The beaches and marshes under the stewardship of the NPS have become a wasteland of discarded debris and hazardous material that threaten the existence and survival of the biological inhabitants and the eco system.
- The biggest need in the park, in my view, is an active partnership with an advisory board of representatives from the active groups serving as stewards of the park's lands and buildings. Also, a university should be engaged as a formal partner to improve and coordinate education programs. Education programs presently conducted by both park service rangers and community groups could be coordinated, meshed, and promoted better. They are really quite scattered at the present time. The same is true of recreation opportunities. The Gateway newsletter should be issued monthly, not quarterly, and a better effort made to include all the many activities occurring in the park.
- The cultural ideas are supported and very well represented at present, by the live performance theatre in Bldg. T4 and the art gallery and exhibition space in Bldg. T7. The recreation mandates are fulfilled by Little League, Soccer, Rugby and other sports. The environment should not become the sole focus of the Partnership. The proposal to levy exorbitant usage and maintenance fees on the 3 partner groups presently tenating the park as well as the proposal to institute some form of charge or user fee on members of the public who wish to recreate in Ft. Tilden is a violation of the original mandate of the Gateway National Recreation Area concept.
- The current partnerships are building cultural events and sports events. The new plan would destroy it all.
- the focus of partnerships should be to organize stakeholder support and understanding for the preserving the traditional NPS values
- The government owns the park- we don't need privatization.
- The Monmouth County Arts Council would be the best partnership to have the voice of the arts in the process for Sandy Hook. MCAC is not an arts organization but rather a service organization that would speech for the broadest needs of the arts as well as be a conduit to the artists and arts organizations in the region.
- The Park should also be able to work with NYCDEP on green infrastructure projects that will reduce the amount of combined sewer overflows reaching Jamaica Bay and other waters around the park. NYC will be spending \$billions on green infrastructure and the park should work to include some of these projects on its properties. (This may be a way to turn paved areas, such as those at Floyd Bennett Field into more natural areas)
- The Rockaway Little League has been a tremendous partner in Gateways recreation program. This relationship should continue.

- The vast majority of the partnerships NPS have entered into are totally for the benefit of the concessionaire with little regard for the visiting public. One need only at the western parks, where giving leases to political hacks at a far below market rate is the norm.
- There are so many ways partnerships can work. The NPS is not rich by any means. It's silly not to enter into as many partnerships as possible to achieve all our goals. The BEST partnership in Ft Tilden would be a Dog Park. The benefits in this community would be huge and stop dogs from running wild thru the baseball fields, beach, boardwalk. Containing them in an area would help the park with Park police presence for people who let their dogs go in unauthorized areas.
- There are some very good partnerships now - the Community Gardens at Floyd Bennett and Fort Tilden, the aviation restorers at Floyd Bennett, American Littoral Society and Marine Consortium at Sandy Hook, etc.
- There must be a general plan and requests made to organizations who would be interested in supporting those areas which they feel most agree with their expertise.
- There must be an advisory board of GNRA & Rockaway people who review all applications for use of Riis Park and Ft. Tilden.
- These ideas can be supported by seriously engaging more eclectic non-profits to do partnerships with, to enhance the already natural beauty and splendor that is Ft. Tilden!
- These Not-For-Profit Organizations welcome all visitors to the National Park System and bring a much broader audience through their diverse memberships and public programs. They offer and promote cultural, educational and recreational experiences for all, while investing time and money in maintaining and preserving our historical structures.
- They do not.
- This will sound odd, but my concern is birds and wildlife, so the partnership needs to be with them: what plan best helps them survive and thrive.
- Though it's not the Ideal choice for preservation purposes, why not create a partnership that creates some sort of sponsorship program for key buildings within the fort? That way, you're not counting on a single partner/developer, etc. to raise hundreds of millions of dollars to restore everything. You're looking at a host of sponsors, working simultaneously, who are raising/spending maybe \$5-10 million apiece to restore a building they're motivated to occupy and operate. NPS grants a 10 year contract/franchise to each partner for the building they're restoring; in return the partner gets the right to run an approved business at the building, plus the prestige of working with the NPS, which might give them added cachet for their other business dealings. (Not sure of the arrangement they have with the park service, but take a look at the hotel operators at Hawaii Volcanoes, Grand Canyon, etc. for thoughts on how this might work.)
- Through additional Partnerships and staffing. The existing partners have been responsible for rehabilitation of their buildings, with no monetary support from the Park system.
- Through donations and helping out at special events
- Through partnerships the parks can restore many of the buildings that are just sitting and getting with the right partners depending on what the restored building is used for, it will attract other visitors that normally come to the park, to see what the park has to offer.
- to attract people like me (a few million locals) you have to have more better local transit options like express bus or shuttle to Highland ferry for example
- Transportation - perhaps partnerships with IKEA in Red Hook could help promote ferry service from Red Hook to the Park.
- Twin lights
- University environmental maritime studies should be encouraged. Buildings refurbished - a national volunteer programs @ Sandy Hook are contagious.

- Unless the NPS budget gets a major infusion of tax dollars, public-private partnerships seem to be a necessary priority. Until the US economy improves, these partnerships seem unlikely.
- Using conservation and wildlife organizations that are already in place in the area and allowing some commercial recreation.
- We don't need any more development in the State of New Jersey so I am not sure partnerships are necessary. We just need some basic infrastructure to enjoy the beautiful landscape and vistas!
- We need a variety of educational, environmental and historic preservation organizations that can be encouraged to come up with creative ideas.
- We need to establish cultural partners
- Where were these fine words about partnership when the NPS forced the Clearwater Festival to leave Sandy Hook for the benefit of the now defunct private commercial entity (was it Sandy Hook Partners, Inc.?) that was going to "rescue" Sandy Hook's decaying officers' houses?
- Why not have a charitable org - "Friends of Gateway" - I'll donate!
- With global participation
- Working with local groups and nonprofits, in addition to larger environmental groups, in a real way with an open mind would be a start, rather than starting with fixed ideas about what constitutes "appropriate" "educational" and "recreational" activities. National parks are different depending on location, and while local people want to preserve the natural beauty and life of the park, we also want the park used and enjoyed. Developing partnerships that don't start by informing people that the basic guidelines come from "on high"--but being more open to input and feedback--would help.
- Working with non-profits is key. There are also many opportunities to work with for profit enterprises that will benefit a variety of stakeholders.
- Yes so that we could get outside monies. Sponsors from big companies.
- You have a very poor track record of working with outside organizations and this will have a negative impact on any deals you try to set up in the future.

Question 6 - Are there other ideas important to you that are missing from these concepts?

- 1. To allow people to plant trees on Federal properties 2. To allow limited usage of such property for profit to fight funds shortage. 3. To allow private investors to restore some buildings
- A change of attitude by the National Parks Service - This is a very viable, user friendly, vital Urban National Park - not Yellowstone, Sedona, Grand Canyon, Zion, Bryce Canyon, Monument Park, etc. An urban park needs to share the area with those who will use it the most & all the environmentalists. Since the local communities cleaned & fixed up the mess & disrepair allowed by the Park Service, the programs should remain a very important part of the Gateway National Park.
- A clear statement should be added to each of these Concepts that public uses of public parkland and its properties must always be protected, never be restricted to serve private interests, and shall forever remain open and easily accessible to all the people.
- A goal should be to restore shell diversity to what it was in the 40's. As water quality improves partner with Rutgers, for example, to reestablish colonies of lost shell bearing species. Keep as much of the park open to dog walkers as feasible. Try to get away from the carry in carry out policy so people have a place to get rid of dog droppings and other litter.
- A key issue at Sandy Hook is getting the public on board with ecologically sound practices. I have noticed two disturbing trends: an increase in trash on the beach, and a trend towards feeding wildlife. A grassroots program to eliminate litter and to teach people that feeding seagulls (and interfering with wildlife generally) is bad for both the animals and for people might be effective, and should be an emphasis of the park going forward. Surf fishermen in particular are frequent litterers, but everyone should be made aware of the existence of the carry-in/carry-out program and the reasoning behind it. Many first time visitors are confused by the policy.
- A richer and more exciting description of what Concept 2 has to offer.
- A summer Jitney service within the park would be a great help to visitors that come by public transportation. Think about a water taxi service within the NY harbor so that intercity residents can enjoy a wonderful weekend outing.
- A zoo or exhibit of native fauna
- Access is the most important thing along with preservation of habitat & key structures. I think people will use it if they can get to it.
- Active organized recreation MUST BE the primary use of the Eastern Section of Ft. Tilden.
- Active, organized recreation must be the primary use of the eastern section of Ft. Tilden. I do not object to sharing the park with the environmental advocates, but I object to efforts to exclude recreational users of the park and our children.
- Active, organized recreation, not limited, must be the primary use of the eastern section of Ft. Tilden and should include current community organizations. Levying steep fees for access to Fort Tilden would be prohibitively expensive for the majority of users. Most of the people who use Fort Tilden donate time, money and sweat equity to bring arts and recreation to the greater community who use this magical place. Current active community organizations and community members are not reflected in the concepts.
- Again, many people in the community would love to come to the park to let their dogs run and enjoy the beauty of the park themselves.
- Again, the question is why do we allow concessioners (like Aviator) to conduct activities on our land that are considered inappropriate for us to conduct on our land.

- Again, you have provided little in terms of detail. How do each of your concepts effect the current utilization of the park?
- All concepts touch on Gateway's needs for the future. I believe special emphasis needs to be placed on the following: (1) Local and inter unit connectivity -9 we need connecting paths, ferries and shuttles (2) Education about Gateway's Existence - Sandy Hook users should be aware of SIU. Floyd Bennett Field users should be aware of Sandy Hook. Users need to be aware of the size and myriad uses of their park and should be capable of visiting and enjoying them in all their capacity. All these concepts have merit, but when one is selecting a strategy, one must consider the characteristics of the individual site and develop a strategy for that site. Furthermore, when the desires of the public conflict with the needs of wildlife e.g., beachgoers vs. piping plovers), some hard choices must be made. One must keep in mind the needs of the natural world as one tries to please the people who use the park.
- All plans should allow for greater environmental dynamics. Here I use environmental in its widest sense, to include not only ecosystems but social, political and financial elements. This is not so much a criticism as an observation that the concepts read a bit as if these conditions were static. Change usually brings change.
- Allow Fisherpersons to have access to the GK Harbor bulkhead for fishing and crabbing
- Allowance by the RAA for the Fall Festival & Crafts Fair with just enough fees to cover the cost of the few rangers necessary and for cleanup after the fair
- Allowing the community to stay involved and to have access to the facilities...
- Always before new concepts are brought to any. Giving the people to find out what they want.
- American Youth Hostel facilities
- An active, organized recreation must be the primary use of the eastern section of Ft. Tilden. We do not object to sharing the park with the environmental advocates, but we object to efforts to exclude Rockaway homeowners, residents are our children.
- As a biology teacher (Beach Channel HS) I had my limnology classes research the Ft. Tilden Pond over a number of years. The students loved the exploration and study of the various organisms associated with the pond. Another teacher (geology) would bring students down to the beach and teach about erosion, weathering, and coastal changes. The marine forest of Ft. Tilden is also a treasure as well as the many plant varieties growing on park property. The park's natural environment must be preserved and opened to scientific study by local students.
- As a dog lover - and understanding the need for leashes in the park - I would love to see a dog park at Ft. Tilden.
- As a resident of Belle Harbor, it disturbs me that the opportunities at other outdoor sites like Central Park and Prospect Park are not given due importance at Gateway. In particular, I am talking about planned, outdoor recreational activities such as outdoor concerts and seasonal festivals. For years, one of the great pleasures for Rockaway residents was riding their bicycles and taking their kids to the free outdoor concerts at Fort Tilden. This wonderful seaside activity was taken away from Queens residents a couple of years ago for no valid reason. Another yearly event I attended for years was the September Festival at Riis Park. Again, this was taken away from local residents because of outrageous fees the organizers could not afford.
- As a resident of the Rockaways, I want to make sure my children still have first access to the ball fields that we have been cultivating for years. In particular the baseball and soccer programs run by the Rockaway associations.
- As one of the hundreds of people in Rockaway who derives so much participation in AA at Ft. Tilden. I hope that we continue to have the opportunity to meet there. The park is so beautiful and it offers such a peaceful setting for the healing recovery process.

- Attracting the names are a plus but often become a negative because of lack of clean up for themselves. This is a park and needs to be left cleaner than when fishing, surfing, boating, sailboating, working with local fisherman all a priority.
- Better control and planning for events like the West Indian concerts in both the Riis area and at Floyd Bennett Field. Those events are out of control.
- Bike program through the park to allow visitors alternative access to park reducing carbon foot print
- Camping! I need a place to go camping!! Find ways to promote the park - honestly I didn't know anything about Gateway until I applied for a job posting. That is after 11 years living in NYC! I believe preserved places is best except coastal theme is what u
- Can you work in concert with area vocational schools to build a historic preservation program for students? Bring in experts in woodworking, home renovation, carpentry, plumbing, etc. to teach students the historically-appropriate preservation techniques and assign them a building (or portion of a building) to renovate for their semester/year project.
- Cannot find General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement - Fall 2010 Newsletter.
- Can't think of any at this time...
- Carry in, carry out doesn't work. Restore garbage/recycling in park
- Children should be the number one priority. I remember when I was a child in this beautiful state of ours; and the fun we had running around and playing outside in nature in all seasons of the year. We were a large New Jersey family and we did not have TV; Barbie; etc. But we found our entertainment out of doors. I can tell you there were numerous ways to have fun outside in the open air and we were never bored. We knew who our neighbors were; and we knew how to make acquaintances easily.
- Choose partners from academic and science communities.
- Civil War reenactment
- Community involvement and access to these areas are important to the stabilization of a community.
- Concept 1, definitely addresses outreach and visitation which to me are key in forwarding the GNRA Mission. I would however have addressed the cultural elements which are so specific to an Urban National Park, in more detail. Perhaps we can address these issues more fully at the next step of this process in the summer.
- Concept 2 - Schools, youth organization and philanthropy groups
- Concepts - NY and NJ DOT's, schools, youth organizations, and local ferry houses operating in NY Harbor
- Concerts / Shows. – I believe that Sandy Hook would be an excellent venue for large outdoor concerts. These types of events would not only draw a youthful enthusiasm to the Gateway cause, but also could generate a fair amount of revenue for future projects.
- Connect the areas to pull the parks together. A ferry from Fort Wadsworth to Breezy Point
- Consider possible flooding.
- Culture. Art. Expression. All of these things, by their very nature, can coexist with environmental exhibits. There is no need for them to be sacrificed.
- Each of the three concepts has overlapping as well as unique aspects. However, the most critical issue, in my view, is funding. NPS is woefully underfunded and it does not seem likely that this will change any time soon.
- Educate the visitor that all resources are both cultural and natural. They are connected
- Educational opportunities are limited by the capacity to provide programming - either personnel or creation of new types of programs
- Eliminate inappropriate activities such as ballfields, model airplanes, and festivals.

- Every idea here is good and I know "green" is very popular, but you need to look at what you are trying to accomplish 1) A natural habitat for flora and fauna 2) Preserve our past history to remind younger generations 3) Make a compromise that is enjoyable to the general public. As I stated before, if you like to "carve" up Floyd Bennett Field, you will encounter "Red Tape". If you just clean, trim, neaten, and restore this area it can be done without the affirmed headache, and that is greener than green, its recycling.
- Example: Long Beach N.Y. charge \$12 a person to get on the sand. And they're willing to pay the price. Why? Is Riis Park providing the amenities (food, open restrooms, respectable places to change & shower, entertainment) That consumers are willing to pay many dollars for? Spending habits seem to indicate that if they like the product, they will pay!
- Extending Jamaica Bay riding Academy for horses to ride further around the bay
- F - Concept 1, definitely addresses outreach and visitation which to me are key in forwarding the GNRA Mission. I would however have addressed the cultural elements which are so specific to an Urban National Park, in more detail. Perhaps we can address these issues more fully at the next step of this process in the summer.
- F - The Discovering Gateway Concept (#1) includes many terrific ideas.
- F. The Gateway National Recreation Area is unique. It shares the designation of "urban park" with very few sites across the country. Indeed it is a resource for the entire New York City region and beyond. It is important that its uniqueness be recognized and preserved. Natural, historical, environmental, recreational and cultural all have a place here. That place needs to be recognized, respected and indeed cultivated in all concepts for future use. Working together we can do that. There is no place like GNRA. We would be wise to note what already makes it special and celebrate it through past, present and future.
- Facilities for veterans, state and federal installations, educational, not-for-profit public uses are not being given due consideration over private partnerships
- Feel strongly that the very limited use of Fort Tilden for ball fields be continued as is.
- Fixing up buildings at Floyd Bennett and Fort Tilden, Areas which I am familiar with.
- Floyd Bennett field needs to be home by restoring the buildings that one broken down.
- Free use of the field for Summer Evening concerts in the park without or with just minimum fees (there is no charge for the concerts for the attendees).
- Full use of the playhouse by the Rockaway Theatre Company without fees
- Gateway is a beautiful park. I've seen it transition from good to bad. Morale is very low here. There's no opportunities for lower grades. Everyone looks at it as divisions. We are individual sites but we must learn how to work together to get the jobs accomplished. Everyone allows their personal judgment to affect their decisions. If we're going to become an effect park we need to begin with changing some our standards. Provide positive feedback and criticism that's constructive and provide training. We have talent right here in Gateway let's put out pride behind us and build up the par. Also, we need more youth in the field.
- Gateway NRA is a unique opportunity to bring the national par experience (in the traditional sense) to the urban population so don't waste the opportunity by allowing activities that deviate from the original National Park concept.
- Harnessing wind and solar energy.
- Here is my take on the public's perception of Gateway NRA... (1) It is a wonderful place but could be a lot better (2) The public often feels unwelcome (3) Public - private partnerships have not been encouraged in the past (4) Superintendents go through Gateway like a revolving door, no consistency (5) It is in a terrible state of disrepair
- How about children programs - perhaps advertised a little more. I remember to of the shoreline by rangers, climbing aboard clear water should the boat guard and kids would climb all one it

- How will you connect all the concepts? Cannot 1st then stand alone. All units and personnel should be involved in a comprehensive conceptual frame no separation
- I am a bit wary of finding 1 primary overriding theme of concept for such a widespread and diverse park bus coastal seems more appropriate
- I believe that there should be more boating destinations at the park with designated anchorages, docks, restrooms, and overnight capacity.
- I believe there needs to be an easier way to employ younger people. They have fresh ideas & have different talents than their elders. Looking around Gateway many of the permanent employees are over 35.
- I believe they all focus on education and recreational activities. It would wonderful to have a variety of places to visit more home and enjoy on a daily basis.
- I belong to a private beach club. For many years, there are hard working members who belong, which include blue collar workers, teachers, and seniors. The club is currently a Federal concession which borders on Riis Park. We have open access to the public for a fee which is prorated based on our seasonal fee.
- I cannot stress enough the importance of preserving Fort Hancock, its buildings, batteries and other historic resources and structures for future generations. Any plan that does not provide for their full preservation (or at the very least, effective stabilization) constitutes a failure of the National Park System. In the federal case of *NRA v. Potter*, the court ruled that the NPS's prime directive conservation (and therefore, preservation) over recreation. Without these historic resources, Sandy Hook is just another nature area.
- I did not think the concepts, to the extent described in the on line materials, presented any sense of vision or loyalty to the mission of Gateway. They seemed to be centered around the various constituencies who have different ideas as to what Gateway should be used for. Asking for comments on these three concepts essentially sets up a popular vote for different directions. The leadership at Gateway has a responsibility to remain true to the mission of Gateway and frame the public discussion accordingly. I was therefore disappointed with the planning effort.
- I didn't see much specific information about historic preservation of Fort Hancock. This is an essential part of Sandy Hook and it must be addressed as soon as possible since the buildings are crumbling.
- I didn't read about any kind of accommodations. When you enter the north entrance of YELLOWSTONE the administration buildings remind me of officer's row. What about a lodge? Have any of you been to Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons?? When we stayed at a lodge a percentage went back to the park. Please do a little research (if not done already). How do other parks exist? I think a LODGE at gateway could be beautiful if done the right way. Panoramic views!! could be gorgeous and appropriate. Don't let some fast talking business man do the work. Don't reinvent the wheel. Glacier national park is on the water and has lodges. good luck!
- I do believe our coastal connection through our true theme and we need that careful balance.
- I feel that getting folks to and around the parks in an eco-friendly way are key to success of the parks. I would make better use of the internet and partnerships to spread information on parks. I would better advertise the preservation activities, wildlife conservation and coastal resources history & management to get more people interested in the park operations.
- I find it very odd that there was no mention of the Rockaway Little League at Ft Tilden. The Little League fields and the Little League children and volunteers are the greatest resource that you have. The Little League has been serving the community since 1954 and since the beginning they have been promoting sportsmanship, teamwork, and plain old fun for the children in the Rockaway community. Every year the Little League consists of 800 boys and girls from various

backgrounds, ethnicities, and religions. This is what Gateway should be all about. Ft Tilden is wonderful exactly as it is. Please don't change it!!!

- I have visited plenty of state and national park locations. It would be terrific if Gateway can attract a broader target audience! But I tend to think that it's the surrounding communities that will and should be the focus of attraction.
- I just think the importance of beautifying the parks need to stay of importance. A beautiful park attracts people, and when people come they will see what the parks have to offer.
- I think a blended concept of coastal connections & experiencing preserved places would provide the best experience for visitors.
- I understand the need to preserve and rehab the buildings. I worry it will become too built up and commercial. I like it the way it is. Less garbage is my concern.
- I want Gateway to be used as a national recreation area by allowing local residents to enjoy the beaches, sponsored art and music events and use of fields for sports, without being charged a fee for sponsored events and parking when free parking, nature trails, and use of Gateway facilities at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Center are free.
- I would like people to be able to enjoy Sandy Hook in have ways soon and in all stages as it becomes the treasure it can be.
- I would like the four paddle tennis courts to remain at Jacob Riis Park. Paddle tennis is relatively inexpensive, easy to learn, and a game for all ages. A sister sport to tennis
- I would like to see, more roads to remote areas for welfare and reserve of visitors.
- I would like to the return of flea markets, concerts...we need to utilize the open public lands while maintaining a respect and preservation of the ecosystems.
- I'd like to see some creative approaches to preserving the Fort on a limited budget. If NPS regulations prohibit getting funding from outside businesses, why not look for win-win opportunities within the local communities?
- I'm a big supporter (and Board member) of the Little League that uses Fort Tilden. This position has allowed me to gain a new respect for the park, and has been a "Gateway" (pardon the pun) for learning about and visiting other areas of the park. I hope the "mission" of the National Parks does not change to the extent that its basic use by thousands of residents for organized recreation is not ignored when the management plan is reviewed.
- If generated by Partnerships, have an annual contest to those who "invent" or discover the best means to keep this concept going.
- If you are encouraging people to use the ocean I think you must have lifeguards which at present they do not.
- If you improve access to more areas visitors may damage the natural resources i.e., the dunes @Ft. Tilden. Ft. Tilden has become over run which is both good and bad.
- I'm not sure how these issues fit within the concepts, but here is a list of things that concern me @ Gate: Graffiti on historic structures breaks my historic heart! (Batteries @ Ft. Tilden look like they have been forgotten for years) lack of control o
- Important to maintain NPS uniform staff. Visitors to some NPS sites & parks never see a park employee
- In addition to the launch ramp facility described on the front of this form a fishing pier with handicap access on the bay river side would be a welcome addition. Maybe it could be combined with the proposed ferry dock to be built.
- In my opinion the amount of soccer fields should be increased on the territory of the park. As I know there is only one soccer field available in Brooklyn (Aviator). It is difficult to get a permit for it because a lot of teams won't play there. In addition to that weekly students trips to the

Coastal Defense would be a great idea. I never knew what Gateway Park is, but now I do, so I will try to those attractive places.

- Increase use of arrowhead signs so that people can visit to plan trips across the country. (i.e. Grand Canyon) and make reservations (is lodging)
- Instead of companying GNRA to National Parks, compare GNRA to other National Recreation Areas. Let's get a apples to apples comparison
- Is there a consideration to separate Sandy Hook as its own National Park? Sandy Hook supports a huge recreation & historic population. Preserving Ft. Hancock needs to be priority if separating the Sandy Hook unit will help in that endeavor. There should be a separate Sandy Hook NP.
- It is essential that activities that have existed for many years not be priced out of existence. We just returned from Mississippi and Louisiana, where the National Park service is restoring an Antebellum Mansion. I new Orleans the is a National Jazz Park.
- It is important to remember that Sandy Hook should always be a place of for anyone no matter what economic level. Sandy Hook belongs to the people not private developers or organizations that do not allow any and all types of people to use the grounds, buildings or limit opportunity for education and recreation.
- It is important to the community to be able to use the parts of the land for recreational purposes.
- It is interesting to see that all concepts do not address engaging diverse groups. While that may not be the "parks purpose" it is important to the parks survival. With the reality of the changing demographics and the parks lack of diversity these are very important issues.
- It is very important that you let the National Park Service
- It might seem weird to have this type of program in a park, but this park BP/JBU is located right in the middle of this community that thrives because of this program. I urge you to help
- It seems to me that there is too much emphasis on resource management and not enough on recreation. This is a recreation area, not a traditional national park. It's sad that we've destroyed relationships with many community groups that have taken years in the 1970's to establish.
- It would also be great to have a bus that enters the park to employees and visitors
- It would be nice, (but probably far too costly) to be able to have more seasonal public docking by the ferry landing. There's so much recreational boat traffic in the area, and with the addition of a 2nd Sea Gull's Nest (if you will) would be a terrific magnet for the entire northern end of the park.
- Just that our public lands remain public that they not be overly developed that the natural and historical aspects remain intact, and that they may be preserved, protected, and enjoyed.
- Just to stress the importance of stabilize the historic building now. I see all these all these buildings Ft. Hancock that are open to the elements. Close them up while plans and money are secured.
- Kayak docking at various sites
- Keep it simple. One reason Sandy Hook works is that it is simple now.
- Keep our parks accessible for all our people. Do not privatize!
- Keep Paddle Tennis Court at Riis Park. Paddle Tennis's impact for overall general good health. Keep Silver Gull Club operations. It has so much activities going. Art stimulates all the sense. Save Silver Gull Club.
- Keep the playing fields.
- Keeping Sandy Hook noncommercial is important. If we want to attract people to New Jersey we must protect our parks and recreational areas.

- know that the baseball fields and Little League program IS an essential part of Gateway. It should be incorporated into the plan to preserve the fields for our kids to play the American sport of baseball and softball. My sons have been playing on those fields since they were able to walk and now they are 11 years old. We need a place for our kids to play ball.
- lack of control of vegetation growing on Batteries at all sites
- Let the S.I. public know about Fort Wadsworth
- Let's get money. There are creative, sensible pockets of money looking to preserve and build their image while making Sandy Hook/Fort Hancock the historic site. It has an opportunity to preserve and make as functional as Golden Gate National Park
- Listen to the residents.
- Litter/garbage issues - pack it on/ out may not be the best idea for everyone. The entrance fee is such that dumpsters may be a fair answer. Dog walker need to do better with the feces removal. Fishing garbage should be disposed of or else they should pay a fee.
- Lobster hatchery (as in Martha's Vineyard)
- Making good use of the parks/sits/beaches, while preserving the natural resources and integrity is most important to me.
- Man and nature can co-exist if an intelligent approach is fostered.
- Many
- Many of us are strongly opposed to the privatization of the North and of Sandy Hook! Private property signs are followed by keep out signs. Public space is for all. I invite you to look at the work of genesis farm at www.genesis.farm.org and their focus and work. Part of their inspiration and emphasis is that we all are part of one story - the beautiful, amazing, evolving universe story the unites us all. We are all connected and interconnected.
- Maybe
- Means of anchoring without disturbing the bottom. (At various locations for scuba divers), or for snorkelers. No boat traffic allowed in these areas
- Mention as you have frequently rising sea levels puts you in a viable political camp. A reference should be stricken.
- Money must be put aside to nurture any program to be implemented
- More attention must be paid to the cultural and recreational attractions of the GNRA sites. Fort Tilden in particular. People come to see a play or attend an art show while they are experiencing the sites natural environments and historic sites.
- More information concerning the park outside of the Brooklyn, Queens area. As to what's going on.
- More ranger presence throughout the park. More cable publication to be informative to the public. For example, bike tour, marathon, kayaking programs.
- Mostly military would be supported as a hollywood set and sublet housing for shoots or just historic
- Mostly reality and common sense.
- Movie facility such as Steiner Studios in Brooklyn, NY
- Must be more pro active in "preventive maintenance" not only with infrastructure but with resource management.
- Must become more "user friendly"
- National parks serve a dual purpose. They protect natural environments and their inhabitants, but also serve the enjoyment of people. Especially the people who, in a unique urban area, have fostered a symbiotic relationship over the years. Your own introduction mentions that national parks offer "a wide variety of outdoor activities..." With Gateway having so many various areas in which to preserve nature, educate citizens, explore wildlife, and help balance the

environment, Fort Tilden's public, central area can easily be utilized by the Rockaway citizens for organized sports and artistic programs without closing them down due to punishing fees. After all, it was Rockaway Little League, RTC, and RAA that built the buildings, and revitalized what was once an abandoned mess currently known as Fort Tilden. Naturalists from "outside" should stop being so self-centered and myopic thinking they own the whole park system. "Outsiders" seldom have the best answers.

- Needs to be more people oriented. All the area in GNRA is created by people who were here long before we came to look here. Tell their story. Farmers soldiers fisherman squatters indians. This park should be more about the areas all encompasses and the people rather than the stuff that's been left behind. Consider more history and just military.
- New Jersey has no lack of development and commercial buildings. What we crave most is open space/nature--a place to stroll and hike and bike. A place to see animals and flora/fauna in their natural habitat. Quiet spaces to sit. A place to enjoy with our dogs. While I believe that some of the most important buildings at Fort Hancock should be preserved for historic reasons, I believe that most of the structures could come down and the land returned to its natural state.
- No. Great job by all communicating their specific ideas. I hope all feedback is gathered to add additional input for critical areas of GMP.
- None of the concepts provide clear plans for interpretation and preservation. Concept II comes closest, but there are too many holes in the fence and loophole clauses in which valuable resources can slip through the cracks and be lost forever. Once resources such as these are gone, they are GONE forever. There is a great deal of talk of abandoning or intentionally neglecting resources, especially at Sandy Hook due to "climate change." In the resource studies to date, it appears that preservation at Sandy Hook will be intentionally ignored on the grounds that the resources will simply be underwater in the future, so why bother? Historically, Sandy Hook has always been at the mercy of Mother Nature. However, there has never been any storm that has damaged the physical structure of the peninsula and destroyed resources beyond repair. Photographs exist from the 1800s to the 1940s that yes, the peninsula, especially in the Fort Hancock area, will flood in a good storm. The Army built an effective seawall in front of Officers' Row for that very reason. That seawall has now fallen into terrible disrepair and should be a priority item for refurbishment. A good seawall will do wonders to keep Sandy Hook Bay out of the Parade Ground area. As the old saying goes, "Don't Yell At The Darkness – Light A Lamp." Regardless, Sandy Hook will always be hit with bad storms, and extremely costly damages will be incurred. However, as no pertinent data exists to prove that "climate change" is going to permanently swamp Sandy Hook in the near future, the threat that there may be a flood every so often is something you just can't get away from. That having been said, the Fort CANNOT be allowed to deteriorate and be intentionally neglected because of a very flimsy, at best, "what if" scenario. The NPS mission, to preserve and protect the best that America has to offer, MUST be upheld in this instance. It won't be easy, and it sure won't be cheap, but the extra effort to preserve the harbor forts, especially Fort Hancock, will provide future generations with the resources to understand and appreciate why such locations are critically important to our history and why they need to be preserved and protected for all time.
- None that come to mind at this time.
- None that I can think of right now
- None that I have not already covered in previous fields.
- Not at this time.
- Not really
- Not sure yet

- Not that I noticed. Seemed to cover all bases. Tricky part is to focus too much in one are without losing sight of another.
- NPS must put more emphasis on resource management
- On a personal note, I ask that you please keep the clothing optional beach - clothing optional.
- One of the reasons for the success of Sandy Hook over the years has been its dedicated staff. Workers were tied to the Hook and felt ownership and pride in their work to maintain the resources and deliver the programs. Without on-site, daily oversight, this success will wane. Perhaps NPS should sell off the least important sites to the private sector so that it can adequately and appropriately care for its most important treasures.
- Partnering with the Chambers of Commerce and governments of the towns that surround the park. Working with the local hotels, restaurants, shops as well as alternate travel options such as local buses, trains and taxis services.
- Partnership w/ local sports organizations, schools and NYC DOT and NYC Planning Commission.
- Perhaps volunteer organizations such as the Boy Scouts of America could be visited in the cleanup of these sites.
- Please identify with more particularly the "stakeholders" involved in the review process (eg historians, ecologists) so the public has added confidence in the results.
- Please see comments below!
- Please see my specific comments below.
- Preservation of what remains of the natural environment at Sandy Hook should be the highest priority going forward. Restoration of Fort Hancock buildings should be undertaken only for historical preservation and without partnerships with commercial developers, or it should not be undertaken at all.
- Preserve the structures in Fort Hancock. Increase passive recreational opportunities in the park. Sandy Hook should be a national seashore within NY Harbor parks.
- Preserving surfing and fishing opportunities which have been destroyed in the past by beach building projects. These dredge fill projects destroy structure and create unnatural steep drops at the water's edge. This formation is not conducive to fishing or surfing- two major year round activities at Sandy Hook.
- Provide more shore support (water, pump out, dock...) for boaters. Make it so there is a time limit at the dock, with fees or hours worked on a service project.
- Providing opportunities for academic I research should be added as a specific element of each concept. Each concept should touch on the issue of privatization of services or leasing to private entities.
- Public access to, protection of and enjoyment of public property must not be impeded, diminished or obstructed by self-serving special interests. All of the national parkland belongs forever in public hands and not in the profit-hungry hands of special-interests intending to exploit public parks.
- Public service announcements on radio/TV making the public aware of us
- Recreation, transportation and partnership secondary to the unique features of the Gateway.
- Recreational and educational opportunity: What does organized recreation mean? Is it specifically permitted activities for various field use - FOTI, or does it mean organized groups such as scouts, audobon, etc. MIFI ranger led or self guided?
- Re-introduce oyster farming
- Remember to put aside enough funds to maintain all projects done in any unit
- Retain sites as they remain & fix up buildings. Will clean ocean action remain!
- See the above. Organized, active, recreation is not an ancillary objective, IT IS THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF A NATIONAL RECREATION AREA.

- Shift the focus from habitat restoration to ecosystem restoration. This will give sustainability in a changing environment
- Solar powered camp grounds
- Such events not only brought local residents to Gateway, but attracted residents from other boroughs as well. To be able to enjoy such events at an oceanside park is priceless. Such events should be considered and included in any concepts related to Gateway, and in fact, should be expanded. These organized events bring culture, pleasure and recreation to the many hundreds of residents who would attend.
- Sustain beach clubs for the handicapped people and senior citizens
- Thank you
- The "limited organized recreation" statement is a little vague. Is interper considered recreation? Does organized mean guided by NPS staff or partner or does it just mean guided by themselves like a little league - type thing?
- The biggest thing missing is supporting the programs that have kept the park alive all these years. These organizations are vital to the kids in this community and important to the adults as well. The Community needs the Rockaway Theatre Company, Rockaway Little League and the Rockaway Artist Alliance. There is so little to do for children as it is so please do not take these things away from our children.
- The carry in carry out policy of litter is a failure!! There is more trash than ever before at Sandy Hook. This policy is not helping the situation, only adding trash to it.
- The Concepts as presently drafted do not sufficiently respect this priority. Any plan for the Park should stress the essential need to reverse the loss of marshes and islands in Jamaica Bay, as well as managing the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge to maintain the optimum conditions for breeding, migrating and wintering birds. Other priorities should be the maintenance and improvement of grasslands at Floyd Bennett Field for both breeding and wintering birds and the management of Sandy Hook to protect and improve the wildlife habitat there.
- The concepts as stated cover all aspects of the park well. It is truly a great natural resource and historical resource. All things possible should be done to maintain this but once again the park has become a very important recreational resource for the people of Rockaway and Brooklyn. All three of these concepts currently coexist very well and should be allowed to continue.
- The concepts really cover how the parks can be used. However, I would like to see the ideas merged. I would not want to see one concept adopted over all the others.
- The cost/benefit should drive the concepts. Greater use of the wonderful resource would be achieved by razing the dilapidate buildings. They are not used and would not serve the needs of concepts 1 & 3. Currently the park is only utilized 10/12 of the year. Concepts 1 & 3 appear to be congruent; education and coastal ecology can go hand in hand. Year round attractions such as restaurants and cultural activities would be welcomed.
- The cultural and recreational activities that might be stripped from our community. See below.
- The Halloween party at Ft Wadsworth was great for getting the public onto the park grounds.
- The idea of strengthening the bond between Gateway and the organizations which serve as partners in the park is extremely important. We have spent a great deal of blood, sweat, tears and a huge amount of money brining culture and recreation to Fort Tilden. We hope the NPS considers the importance of cultural activities in the parks and will continue to give partner organizations their complete support
- The internet is valuable tool and use of it should be encouraged.
- The military history of the post.

- The NPS should realize that the American people are the true owners of all our national parkland. The NPS appointed officials and employees are merely stewards assigned to hold park properties in trust for the people – the taxpayers who have paid for such public property.
- The only thing I would suggest is to better define "organized recreation", and the appropriateness within each concept. It's a major issue that could quickly become very divisive. My personal feeling is that it doesn't really have much of a place at Gateway, and distracts from the purpose of the parts. It could have a large place in the 1st concept, but still in a much smaller capacity than its current status.
- The park's highest priority must be protecting, preserving, improving and restoring the natural areas and habitat that supply an immense variety of natural resources, from rare plants to the huge flocks of shorebirds that require many of the park's areas to feed and rest during migration.
- The part of the park that I visit most often is Sandy Hook. What is amazing to me is how safe and wholesome it feels to be in the park. I think part of this is because of the beautiful, unspoiled environment. It makes people feel relaxed, friendly and at home.
- There are currently several users of the park that don't fit nor should they fit into these concepts and should be removed from the park boundaries. The Park (Floyd Bennett Field) should not serve, bus or garbage truck traking facilities, or helicopter training facilities. Many of the paved areas including 1 of the 2 historic runways should be eliminated or covered over to foster native vegetation and wildlife and green space. (Perhaps with NYCDEP green infrastructure funds?).
- There is an excellent bathroom there (near the beach) which has been locked for at least 10 years - Why??
- There is very little open recreational space surrounding the park. The existing use of the fields within the park system must be preserved specifically those uses in Fort Tilden.
- These concepts are too broad and do not have enough details to be considered as presented. More detailed concepts need to be formed before an intelligent choice can be made.
- These concepts talk about utilizing the park as a natural preserve without keeping in mind the present use of the park. Rockaway has very little to offer our Youth as well as all our residents. As a family we utilize the athletics, theater, the arts on a VERY regular basis. Without this my children would be lacking in activities. As an artist I would be lacking any cultural outlet. The Summer camp is also utilized by my children that teach them about the existing natural resources, they visit the gardens, go on nature walks. All this is being done now. If high fees are implemented I am afraid that these above activities will become nonexistent for many.
- These fields need the protection and maintenance by the Park system so that they can continue to meet the needs of the surrounding community, for organized sports, games, and picnics.
- This opinion addresses the oceanfront primarily (but could apply to all Gateway's facilities). The focus (regarding access) seems to be "affordable" and "convenient" means to getting to the site(s). (bus, bicycle) But... maybe the focus should be shifted to providing more compelling reasons to the "customer" for wanting to get there.
- This should be a welcoming, historically themed park for the enjoyment of the Public, one that could encourage tours and visitors and still maintain a picnic area for the communities nearby.
- Tours of natural areas, as well as cultural landmarks. Rental of binoculars/bird books/flora/fauna
- Use by the Little League teams (without the fees)
- Use of support groups of aa, na etc. Thank you.
- Use of the current fields for the various sports teams with a very minimum or no fees at all
- Use of the existing structure by the Rockaway Alliance (RAA) without fees
- Water based recreation or land based?

- Ways that children can see the wildlife in the park.
- We are to live in harmony and the common good of all species of all life forms on in and above mother earth. Earth is our mother and we must take good care of her. I also invite you to look at the efforts of www.waterspirit.org.
- We had been in the chapel for many years. The outside of that building had been renovated. We would be willing to make repairs inside with our own funds.
- We try to take care of each place we have been in as if it was our own.
- We would love to have a building to ourselves. We are courteous, considerate and the program is full of many men who are in construction and are tradesmen. They can fix/repair anything, plumbing, carpentry and electrical - even with licenses.
- What about Fort Hancock? Large scale commercialization should be forbidden, nothing should be off limit to the public. I think various N-F-P s should be allowed to lease the cottages and buildings, very similar to the Snug Harbor Cultural Center model. No neon!!, and fix them up to code, under Historic Site Guidelines.
- What about the people who actually use the park now? There seems to be no mention of them, including them, or of being concerned with their needs.
- what is important to me is a healthy community program of Alcoholics Anonymous that is based in Ft Tilden and has been there for about 20 years. It is an incredible successful program for the Rockaway community that is actually saving lives. Right now we have been shifted around and around to various building now sharing a building with the Kidsmart program.
- What is most important is the preservation of the park and for people to use the park in a way that brings generations together. It seems that the plan is heavy on preservation, but light on incorporating families in the immediate areas and how they use the park. The success fields, theatre and camps bring thousands of people to the park. In addition, it helps maintain the beautiful area surrounding the park.
- What role can volunteers with specialized skills play? Do NPS regulations allow volunteer 'contractors' to donate time and talent to preservation? Is there an opportunity for NPS to create a 'working vacation' program for people who'd like to volunteer and enjoy the parks at the same time? (For example, I know NPS volunteers who spend half the year at their home out west – during that time, they volunteer at Mesa Verde. The rest of the time, they volunteer at one of the harbor parks here.)
- What you plan to do to become a better neighbor to the communities near your various sites.
- Whats important to me is the erosion that is taking place at the WLR. It needs more attention before it gets worse also in other parts of the park.
- What's the 12 mo plan?
- Where will the money come from?
- Would need more contact with the planners to give a better answer.
- Yes -- I would like to see Riis Park go back to the way it was years ago. The people who frequent there are not ticketed for loud music playing, the filth they leave behind or for loitering after the beach is closed at night. What a disgrace to drive by the traffic circle to see garbage overflowing people barbequing anywhere & everywhere -- even on the traffic circle and nothing is done! We are a beautiful beach community that is ravaged during the warm weather.
- yes taking care of the local kids with properly managed fields and facilities
- Yes the history of the area along the whole Atlantic Coast.
- Yes there are. There are a whole lot of ideas and concepts that are missing that should be and need to be heard. Perhaps, more details on the cultural aspect would have been really great being that it's an urban national park and all. Or do we just put it in the hands of others to dictate and to define its definition of what is and should be an urban national park? This park is

for the people and by the people of the Rockaway peninsula and should stay that way. All are and should always be welcome to our beautiful piece of paradise-the Rockaways! Let's get it straight-for Rockaway, by Rockaway!

- Yes, lack of understanding of ecosystem services of marshes...for carbon sequestration, for protection, wastewater treatment, nurseries for fish, etc.
- Yes, more activities for the youth.
- Yes, paying attention to the local community. The park cannot be governed solely by local concerns, of course, but in an urban area, where local people have limited access to natural areas, and where many people live in close proximity to the park, local input and concerns should be highly valued.
- Yes, the main idea missing is that the public is entitled to pursue cultural and recreational endeavors as well as environmental programs in Ft. Tilden. The original intent was to provide such public opportunities as currently exist. Furthermore, it should be kept in mind that the participants in the "Partners in the Park" program agreed to refurbish and maintain Bldgs. T4, T7 and the Field and Clubhouse at their own expense. They have lived up to their part of the bargain and now the GNRA should live up to its original mandate.
- Yes. Sandy Hook has tremendous importance to Revolutionary history overall, and particularly within Monmouth County, which played an unparalleled part in that history. No site was occupied longer by the British, or played such an important part in the conflict between Tories and Revolutionaries. The later significance of Fort Hancock in coastal defense, and the cohesiveness of Fort Hancock's architecture and overall plan, are things that have been little considered, and something on which Department of the Army historians have been remiss in not addressing.
- Yes. Why is Gateway wanting to charge the nonprofit organizations??? Why can't Gateway charge a fee for car decals? Do a 50.00 year round pass fee for whatever organized sport. Do a 10.00 per day visit fee for just a day. Ticket cars that don't have passes this will generate money for the park.
- Yes...Please adopt the motto & mission of Bill Clinton's '92 Presidential Campaign: 'Putting People First'
- Yes...real concern for the community. (See below)
- You mention little league and soccer but also stress "limited organized recreation.' Youth sports are an activity and are an activity Gateway inherited and should be part of its mission on a limited basis. They provided much needed physical activity and are an opportunity to introduce Gateway to families who otherwise don't realize all this NRA has to offer.
- You mention nothing about local community use that are currently going on at GNP. Are those people and organizations who have been using the area for years and trying to maintain it for years going to be asked to leave. for example the post office that serviced the local community was asked to leave.
- You took away the festival and now this. We want to be able to use the area for our children. We aren't destroying it.