



Visitor Programs and Events – Autumn 2012

New York Sites (*Jamaica Bay, Staten Island*)

On October 27, Gateway NRA Celebrates its 40th Anniversary!

On October 27, 1972, Congress passed legislation that created a new kind of national park. The park would have natural, historic, and recreational treasures that one would expect to find in a national park, but what made this place different, was its location. Unlike most large national parks, which were located in rural, and remote areas, this was located in and around the nation's largest urban area. The idea was to bring the parks to the people, and the result was Gateway National Recreation Area.

This fall, please join us as we celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the creation of the park. We will be conducting programs on the history of Gateway, and all of the things found here, that make it one of the great things about being in the New York and New Jersey metropolitan area.

Even if you can't join us for any of the programs, you can celebrate this special anniversary, by just enjoying the many things that make Gateway one of the unique parks in the national park system, and one of America's truly special places!

Gateway Visitor Centers and Contact Stations will be closed on Thursday, November 22, for the Thanksgiving Holiday.



On our e-mailing list?

If you are not on our list and wish to be added to receive this publication and notices of special park events electronically, please send a message to Charles_Markis@nps.gov : put 'program guide' in subject line.

What's With The ♥?

Gateway's programs are wonderful ways to stimulate your mind and your senses, but did you know that many of them provide fantastic opportunities to get some exercise? Our hikes, service projects, and paddles are great ways to get your heart going, while you enjoy the natural beauty and historic treasures that surround you. Just look for the ♥ next to the program listing for programs that require walks of a mile or more, or moderate physical exertion, and let Gateway pump you up!



September

Bike Around

Floyd Bennett Field ♥

Floyd Bennett Field

Ranger Station

Saturday, September 8

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Join a Park Ranger and enjoy the sites of Floyd Bennett Field on this 4 mile trip. Travel at a moderate pace and break for lunch at Hangar B. Dress for the ride, bring lunch, water and sunscreen. Space is limited; call (718)338 – 3799 to make a reservation. (4 miles)

Family Camping in the Urban

Outback ♥

Floyd Bennett Field

Ecology Village

September 8 – 9

Check in at 2 p.m. Saturday.

Check out 12 p.m. Sunday

See write up on Page 4.

Jamaica Bay Sunset Ecology Cruise

Saturday, September 8

4 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Join us for a special 3-hour narrated tour of Jamaica Bay aboard the “Golden Sunshine” out of Sheepshead Bay. Learn about the history & ecology of the bay and see migrating hawks, falcons, osprey, herons, egrets, ibis, shorebirds and waterfowl.

Leaders: Mickey Cohen, Don Riepe. Cost: \$45/person (kids under 16 -\$20) includes 3-hour narrated tour of backwater marshes, wine & cheese, fruit, drink, snacks. This is a partnership program between Gateway NRA and the Littoral Society.

www.jamaicabaycruises@eventbrite.com

Camp Gateway Paddle ♥

Floyd Bennett Field

Seaplane Ramp

Sunday, September 9

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Walk-up and paddle! Kayaks, personal floatation devices, and paddles will be provided. No reservations required.

Sunset Paddle ♥

Gateway Marina

Monday, September 10

5 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Join a Park Ranger for a leisurely paddle to enjoy the waning light of late summer. Kayaks, personal floatation devices, and paddles will be provided. Space is limited; call 718 338 3799 to make a reservation. (2 miles)

2012 International Coastal Cleanup Weekend

Sites: Jamaica Bay Wildlife

Refuge, Congressman Joseph P.

Addabbo/North Channel

Bridge, Miller Field Ranger

Station

Saturday, September 15

11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Great Kills Park

Sunday, September 16

11 am. – 1 p.m.

Join park rangers, the American Littoral Society, and volunteers in this global citizen science effort. Our findings will be added to an international database. Bring sun and insect protection, work gloves, sturdy shoes, and drinking water. Call (718)318 – 4340 for more information and to join.

Sunrise Paddle ♥

Gateway Marina

Monday, September 10

5:30 a.m. – 7:00 a. m.

Kayaks, personal floatation devices, and paddles will be provided. Space is limited; call 718 338 3799 to make a reservation. (2 miles)

Fall Equinox Hike

Adventure ♥

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Saturday, September 22

10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Explore the phenomena of the autumnal equinox (10:49 a.m.) where night and day are nearly equal in length. Fittingly our 3.5 mile hike will balance both Upland Woodlands and West Pond Trails. Bring water, sturdy shoes. Leader: Anthony Sadasiva.

Earn Your Wings

Ryan Visitor Center

Floyd Bennett Field

Saturday, September 22

1 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Floyd Bennett Field was home to New York City’s first municipal airport. Children ages four to five, “earn your wings”, visit the Golden Age Discovery Room in the recently restored Ryan Visitor Center. Join us for a story and activity teaching children about airports and the history of aviation. Siblings invited. Reservations required (718) 338-3799.

Family Camping in the Urban

Outback ♥

September 22 – 23

Floyd Bennett Field

Ecology Village

Check in at 2 p.m. Saturday.

Check out 12 p.m. Sunday

See write up on Page 4.

Jamaica Bay Sunset Cruise Riis Landing

Sunday, September 23

5:30 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Enjoy a ranger-led ecology cruise aboard the American Princess. Together we’ll find out what makes this place so important for wildlife - and people, too! You’ll hear amazing stories of the military defense of New York, get the latest updates on habitat restoration, and maybe see the fastest animal on the planet! Cost is \$13 per person, cash only; children under 5 are free. Call (718)318-4340 for more information.

Beach Plums and

Goldenrod at Plumb Beach

Plumb Beach Round House

Saturday, September 29

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Explore ever-changing Plumb Beach with American Littoral Society naturalist Mickey Maxwell Cohen. Discover its autumn beauty, replete with groves of seaside goldenrod and ripened beach plums.

Bike Around

Floyd Bennett Field ♥

Floyd Bennett Field

Ranger Station

Saturday, September 29

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Join a Park Ranger and enjoy the sites of Floyd Bennett Field on this 4 mile trip. Travel at a moderate pace and break for lunch at Hangar B. Dress for the ride, bring lunch, water and sunscreen. Space is limited; call (718) 338 – 3799 for reservations. (4 miles)

Full Harvest Moon Walk ♥

Fort Tilden, Bldg. 1

Sunday, September 30

5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Watch the sunset and the rising full moon reflected in the Atlantic waves. A ranger-guided beach walk and hike through the uplands will reveal the wonders of the coast at twilight. Bring a flashlight.

October

NYC Audubon

Hawk Watch

Fort Tilden

Sunday, October 7

10a.m. – 1 p.m.

Meet at Bldg. 1 in Fort Tilden and hike along the beach & wooded areas of the fort. Visit the hawkwatch platform on top of Battery Harris east to observe migrating hawks and falcons. Leader: Don Riepe. For reservation call (718) 318 – 9344. E-mail: donriep@gmail.com

An Autumn Hike at

Breezy Point ♥

Fort Tilden, Bldg 1 and caravan to Breezy Point

Sunday, October 7

12:30 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Carpool in a caravan led by Mickey Maxwell Cohen of the American Littoral Society to the little known western tip of the Rockaway Peninsula. Highlights will include shore birds and a surprising assortment of rocks and minerals used in the construction of the Breezy Point Jetty.

Seining on the Bay for Kids

Big Egg Marsh

October 13

2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Learn about the marine life of Jamaica Bay and why the bay is important by seining with a national park ranger. Children ages 9-12 will take turns using this ancient method of catching fascinating creatures of the sea for closer observation. Parents should accompany their children. All will car pool to Big Egg Marsh.

Jamaica Bay

Sunset Ecology Cruise

Saturday, October 13

3 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Join us for a special 3-hour narrated tour of Jamaica Bay aboard the “Golden Sunshine” out of Sheepshead Bay. Learn about the history & ecology of the bay. Leaders: Mickey Cohen, Don Riepe. Cost: \$45/person (kids under 16 -\$20) includes 3-hour narrated tour of backwater marshes, wine & cheese, fruit, drink, snacks. This is a partnership: Gateway NRA and the Littoral Society. 718—318-4340 www.jamaicabaycruises@eventbrite.com

Family Camping

in the Urban

Outback ♥

Floyd Bennett Field

Ecology Village

October 13 – 14

See write up on Page 4.

Monarch/Dragonfly Migration

Great Kills Park Ranger Station (opposite main parking lot A)

Sunday, October 14

1p.m. – 3 p.m.

Join us for a hike to view the migration of the monarch butterflies and dragonflies. Call for reservations: (718)987 – 6790.

Amelia

Ryan Visitor Center

Floyd Bennett Field

Saturday, October 20

1 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Children ages 4 to 7, visit the Ryan Visitor Center, Golden Age Discovery Room for a story about pioneering aviator Amelia Earhart. Afterward learn about the changes in aviation through fun activities. Reservations required. Call (718) 338 – 3799.

Gateway 40th Anniversary Historic Lantern Tour

Fort Wadsworth

Friday, October 26

6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Explore the historic sites of the fort by night, and discover why they are a part of America’s national park system. Bring a flashlight. Reservations required; call (718) 338 – 3799.

Gateway 40th Anniversary Campfire Program

Floyd Bennett Field

Wiley Post Campground

Saturday, October 27

6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Join us around the campfire, on Gateway’s 40th Anniversary, to sing songs, make s’mores, and hear about how this great urban national park was created, and what the future might hold.

Halloween Arts & Crafts

Miller Field Ranger Station

Sunday, October 28

10 a.m.

Join park rangers, volunteers, family and friends as we creating an arts and craft project for Halloween. All ages are welcome, but children must be accompanied by an adult.

Happy Owl-o-ween!

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Sunday, October 28

5 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Owls have long been a symbol of Halloween. Discover what makes these nighttime predators so successful while hearing about of the folklore of owls. This program, for kids age 7 – 12 plus their guardians, includes an owl-pellet discovery activity.

November

Forest to Coast Hike ♥

Greenbelt Nature Center

November 11

10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Join the Greenbelt educators and National Park Service rangers for a 3-hour hike from forest to field to coastal habitat. The White Trail of the Greenbelt connects to Great Kills Park. Please make arrangements for transportation back to the Greenbelt Nature Center at the end of the hike, or arrange a ride from Great Kills Park to the start of the hike at the Greenbelt Nature Center. Dress appropriately for the weather and bring water and a snack. Registration required. Call (718) 351-3450.

Veterans Day

Tour of Hangar B

Floyd Bennett Field

Hangar B

Monday, November 12

2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Mark the Veterans Day holiday by visiting Hangar B, and hearing the stories of the men and women who served our nation at the field.

NYC Audubon Winter Waterfowl Workshop

Saturday, November 17

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Meet at the Jamaica Bay Refuge visitor center for a hike around the West Pond to observe the many species of ducks and geese that winter here. Leader: Don Riepe. Call (718) 318-4340 to reserve.

Low Tide at Riis Park

Bathhouse Entry Pavilion

Saturday, November 17/

Alternate date: Sun. 18th

2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Walk the beach at now-desolate beach at Jacob Riis Park with Mickey Maxwell Cohen, American Littoral Society naturalist. Check the flotsam and jetsam on this stormy beach while learning about the extraordinary aeronautical and military history of the area.

Northern Visitors

Congressman Joseph P.

Addabbo/North Channel Bridge

West Parking Lot

Sunday, November 18

12 p.m. – 1 p.m.

Visit the beach with a ranger to view wintering waterfowl such as brant geese, snow geese, and buffleheads. Learn about how conditions in the “Frozen North” affect these birds and by

Family Camping in the Urban

Outback ♥

Floyd Bennett Field

Ecology Village

Check in at 2 p.m. Saturday.

Check out 12 p.m. Sunday

Dates available:

September 8 – 9

September 22 – 23

October 13 – 14

Learn to pitch a tent, build a fire, and cook out like a pioneer. Make s'mores, tell stories, and sleep under the stars. Enjoy kayaking, marine nature study, and hiking with National Park Service rangers. Bring the whole family: parents, kids, grandparents! The program is free, but reservations are required, and space is limited. Call (718) 338 – 4306, for more information, and reservations.

Continuing Programs

Be a Bird Detective

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Visitor Center

Saturdays, Sundays and holidays

10 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Don't know much about birds? That is okay, we'll teach you! Learn to use binoculars and a bird detective checklist. See for yourself why Jamaica Bay is a special place for all kinds of birds. This family friendly program is good for new comers to Jamaica Bay. Binoculars and field guides to share will be provided, but more are always welcome. Dress for the weather, but the program may be adapted to an indoor program.

Touch Table

for the Curious

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Visitor Center

Saturdays and Sundays and holidays

1:30 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Touch and explore shells, feathers and other curious stuff. Is it food? Is it armor? How does it move? This family friendly program is good for new comers to Jamaica Bay.

H.A.R.P. – Historic Aircraft Restoration Project

Floyd Bennett Field

Hangar B

Tuesdays, Thursdays, &

Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Sundays, 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Discover Floyd Bennett Field's rich aviation history, by joining us for a tour of this historic World War II hangar, and the aircraft found inside.

Herbert Johnson Lectures

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Celebrating 40 fabulous years

Wednesdays in October

7- 8 PM