



Jamaica Bay, New York



Butterfly weed at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; photo by Don Riepe.

There are several programs and special events that we wish to highlight for this fall. On Staten Island the **International Coastal Cleanup at Great Kills** will happen on Sunday, September 21. Join the American Littoral Society for the Annual New York State Beach Cleanup, who have sponsored this activity for more than 30 years. Also on Staten the Annual Greenbelt to Great Kills Hike to Willowbrook Park 1 Eton Place, Sunday, October 6. Join us and our friends from NYC Greenbelt Educators to travel (one way!) from Willowbrook Park to Great Kills Park, a distance of six miles!

Monarch Butterflies begin their migration south in the fall. The **Monarch and Pollinator Festival** will occur on Saturday, September 28 at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. Sandy Hook has slated a **Monarch Butterfly Walk** on Saturday, October 5.

Every Kid in a Park Adventure Day will be presented at **Sandy Hook's Fort Hancock** and at Fort Tilden, Sunday, October 6. Every Kid in a Park is a

national initiative that provides **fourth graders** with a **free National Park Pass** for themselves and their families to visit all of our federally managed public lands, waters, and shores. Come and pick up your pass, good for one year, and join us for a day filled with adventure. Learn about the special changes taking place in the fall season at Jamaica Bay, such as bird migration (live birds and hawks), fall equinox, hibernation (both plants and animals), fish migration, and weather.

Can you dig dirt? Join us for the **Urban Soils Festival**, Floyd Bennett Field – Ecology Village Saturday, October 12, with partner Urban Soils Institute for workshops, art-science exhibits, food, music, harvest festival with local urban farms, and games. Experience the world of soils in our city and how they secretly support our city and daily lives. This is an event for all ages. **Jamaica Bay Raptorama**, Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Sunday, October 20. Activities include indoor slide programs, a presentation of live hawks and owls provided by a local

rehabilitation center, and more. Also the **Winter Waterfowl Workshop**, Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge Saturday, November 16. Learn about biology and behavior and how to identify the many species of ducks and geese in the field. Leader: Don Riepe.

At Sandy Hook plan to join us for the **FORT HANCOCK DAYS WEEKEND** Mark the anniversary of the 1895 establishment of Fort Hancock and discover the fort's role in the defense of our nation. There is the **World War II Harbor Defense Lantern Tour** Fort Hancock Museum/ Post Guardhouse, Friday, October 11. And join us for **Fort Hancock Day** Battery Gunnison/New Peck, Sunday, October 13. Join us as we commemorate the renaming of the "Fortifications at Sandy Hook" to "Fort Hancock" in October 1895. As part of this commemoration, volunteers from the Army Ground Forces Association uniformed as World War II era Coast Artillery soldiers will bring Battery Gunnison/New Peck and its 6-inch guns to life as they were in October 1943.

The details of these events and many — C Markis

Visitor Center Hours

Ryan Visitor Center Floyd Bennett Field

Wednesday- Sunday
9AM – 5 PM

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Open daily, 9 AM to 5 PM

After Nov. 10,
Wednesday- Sunday
9 AM – 5 PM

Recurring Programs

Guardian of the Gateway

Fort Tilden
Building 1

Sundays, through November 10
10AM – 12PM

Join a park ranger for this walking tour, and discover Fort Tilden's role in the defense of New York City and its harbor.

Historic Aircraft Restoration Program

Floyd Bennett Field
Hangar B

Sundays, through November 10
2PM – 4PM

Join a park ranger on a trip back through time to learn Floyd Bennett Field's rich aviation history, as told through the historic aircraft in the hangar.

Volunteer Opportunities

Sadhana Beach Clean-ups

North Channel Bridge
Saturday: September 21, October 5,
November 2

10 AM – 1 PM

Join Sadhana: Coalition of Progressive Hindus for our monthly beach clean-up at the North Channel Bridge as part of an ongoing effort to improve the coastline habitat of Jamaica Bay. Learn about Hindu culture while helping to protect our environment.

International Coastal Cleanup

North Channel Bridge
Saturday, September 21
10 AM – 1 PM

Ocean trash is a serious pollution problem that affects the health of people, wildlife, and local economies. Come join the National Park Service and participate in the Ocean Conservancy's

International Coastal Cleanup. Call 718-318-4340 for more information.

Programs and Events

September

Seaplane Ramp Kayaking Tryout

Floyd Bennett Field, Brooklyn

Seaplane Ramp

Sunday, September 1

9:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Kayak Tryouts for those who have never done it before. Open to the public, ages 6 and up with and adult. No reservations required.

Yoga & Beachtime!

Riis Beach - Wise Clock

Sunday, September 1

10AM

Start off your beach day this Labor Day weekend with Sun Salutations and a gentle flow. Appropriate for all levels, ages 12+. Yoga class led by Sharon Discorfanio, certified E-RYT 500 and NYC-based instructor. Please arrive 15 minutes before class time with your own mat.

Osprey Watch Guided Walk

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Sunday, September 1

10 AM – 11:30 AM

Learn all about the amazing Osprey on this guided walk of the West Pond Trail. We will talk about their incredible migration and the inspiring story of how conservation efforts were able to bring this species back from the brink. All ages welcome. (♥ 1.7 miles.)

September Flowers:

A Wildflower Exploration

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Sunday, September 1

2 PM - 3:30 PM

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge is always changing. With flowers coming into first bloom every month, there is always something new to discover on this walk and talk through the park. Hand lenses are encouraged, but not required. Wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather. (♥ 1.7 miles.)

Beach Channel Excursion

Riis Landing, Queens

Thursday, September 5

11:00 AM– 3:30 PM

Paddle East along the Rockaway Peninsula to Beach 88th Street Kayak Launch. Break for lunch and return on the ebbing tide. Dress to get wet; bring sunscreen, a snack and water. Kayaks, personal floatation devices, and paddles provid-

ed. Reservation required, call 718 338 3799 for more information or to reserve a space. (♥ 8 miles.)

Stargazing

Floyd Bennett Field –

Community Gardens

Friday, September 6

8 PM – 10 PM

Join the Brooklyn Amateur Astronomers Association for stargazing. Cancelled if overcast.

Birding for Beginners

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Saturday, September 7

10 AM – 11 AM

Join us for an introductory nature walk where you will learn the essentials of birdwatching. Fun for all ages. (♥ 1.5 miles.)

Tree Trek

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Saturday, September 7

2 PM - 3:30 PM

Learn to better recognize common native and cultivated trees on this walk through the park. Hear poetry that was inspired by trees and discover just some of the important ecological roles that they play. Wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather. (♥ 1.7 miles.)

Wellness Walk on West Pond

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Sunday, September 8

10 AM – 11 AM

Come out for this moderate 1.7-mile walk. We'll travel at a consistent pace around West Pond, the Crown Jewel of bird sanctuaries. Please be sure to bring water, wear comfortable shoes, clothes, and insect repellent. (no race walkers or strollers please). Steady rain cancels. (♥ 1.7 miles.)

Sunset Paddle

Moonbeam Gateway Marina,

Brooklyn

Thursday, September 12

6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Join a Park Ranger after work for this paddle on Deadhorse Bay. Kayaks, personal floatation devices, and paddles will be provided. Space is limited; call 718 338 3799 to make a reservation. (♥ 1.5 miles.)

Sunrise Paddle

Floyd Bennett Field, Brooklyn

Seaplane Ramp

Friday, September 13

6:00 AM – 7:15 AM

Join a Park Ranger before going to work for an energetic paddle. Kayaks, personal floatation devices, and paddles will be provided. Space is limited; call 718 338 3799 to make a reservation. (♥ 2 miles.)

Harvest Moon Sunset Walk

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Friday, September 13

6:30 PM – 8 PM

Come along for a sunset hike around the West Pond Trail with a National Park Ranger. Learn more about the nocturnal residents of the Refuge. Call 718-318-4340 to reserve a spot. (♥ 1.7 miles.)

Birding for Beginners

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Saturday, September 14

10 AM – 11 AM

Join us for an introductory nature walk where you will learn the essentials of birdwatching. Fun for all ages. (♥ 1.7 miles.)

Beginner Map and Compass

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Saturday, September 14

2 PM – 3 PM

What will happen when your phone and GPS run out of power in the wilderness? Will you have the means to navigate out of the wilderness? We'll teach you to know where you are and where to go by using map and compass.

Osprey Watch Guided Walk

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Sunday, September 15

10 AM – 11:30 AM

Learn all about the amazing Osprey on this guided walk of the West Pond Trail. We will talk about their incredible migration and the inspiring story of how conservation efforts were able to bring this species back from the brink. All ages welcome. (♥ 1.7 miles.)

Birding for Beginners

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Saturday, September 21

10 AM – 11 AM

Join us for an introductory nature walk where you will learn the essentials of birdwatching. Fun for all ages. (♥ 1.7 miles.)

Pitch a Tent!

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Saturday, September 21

2 PM – 3 PM

Autumn is the best time of year to backpack or camp. Preparation is the key. If you want to get out there, but feel a little daunted at the thought of setting up a tent, we'll show you how to do it without damaging it or yourself.

Wellness Walk on West Pond

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Sunday, September 22

10 AM – 11 AM

Come out for this moderate 1.7-mile walk. We'll travel at a consistent pace around West Pond, the Crown Jewel of bird sanctuaries. Please be sure to bring water, wear comfortable shoes, clothes, and insect repellent. (no race walkers or strollers please). Steady rain cancels. (♥ 1.7 miles.)

Jamaica Bay Monarch and Pollinator Festival

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Saturday, September 28

10 AM – 3 PM

Learn about the amazing journeys of butterflies such as the monarch butterfly, along with many different species of moths, bees, and other pollinators at the second annual Jamaica Bay Pollinator Festival. Meet at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center for a fun day of activities, including indoor presentations, children's programs, walks around the refuge, and a trip to Fort Tilden, to see the monarch migration.

Yoga + Nature Walk

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Sunday, September 29

10 AM – 12 PM

Autumn is in the air and seasonal changes are all around us! Join Sharon Discorfano (500 E-RYT) for an all-levels, beginner-friendly yoga class, followed by a ranger-led nature walk around West Pond Trail. Yoga begins at 10:00am, so please arrive 15 minutes before with your own yoga mat. FREE. (♥ 1.7 miles.)

October

Stargazing

Floyd Bennett Field –

Community Gardens

Friday, October 4

8 PM – 10 PM

Join the Brooklyn Amateur Astronomers Association for stargazing. Cancelled if overcast.

Pitch a Tent!

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Saturday, October 5

2 PM – 3 PM

Autumn is the best time of year to backpack or camp. Preparation is the key. If you want to get out there, but feel a little daunted at the thought of setting up a tent, we'll show you how to do it without damaging it or yourself.

Osprey Watch Guided Walk

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Sunday, October 6

10 AM – 11:30 AM

Learn all about the amazing Osprey on this guided walk of the West Pond Trail. We will talk about their incredible migration and the inspiring story of how conservation efforts were able to bring this species back from the brink. All ages welcome. (♥ 1.7 miles.)

Every Kid Outdoors Adventure Day

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Sunday, October 6

11AM - 2PM

Are you in 4th grade? If so, you can get a free entry pass for you and your family to visit all National Parks for the entire year! Come and pick up your pass and join us for a day filled with adventure. Learn about the special changes taking place in the fall season at Jamaica Bay, such as bird migration, fall equinox, hibernation (both plants and animals), fish migration, and weather.

Urban Soils Festival

Floyd Bennett Field –

Ecology Village

Saturday, October 12

11AM – 7PM

Come with friends, family, colleagues, and join us and our partners at the Urban Soils Institute (USI) for workshops, art-science exhibits, food, music, harvest festival with local urban farms, and games. Experience the world of soils in our city and how they secretly support our city and daily lives. This is an event for all ages. Also, check out the USI's 4th annual urban soils symposium and field tours taking place the same weekend. More information at usi.nyc.

Birding for Beginners

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Saturday, October 12

10 AM – 11 AM

Join us for an introductory nature walk where you will learn the essentials of birdwatching. Fun for all ages. (♥ 1.7 miles.)

Fall Hawk Migration

Fort Tilden, Breezy Point

Saturday, October 12

10AM – 11AM

Meet at Bldg.1, Fort Tilden for a hike along the beach, dunes and woods with naturalist Don Riepe. Visit the hawk watch platform to look for migrating hawks (Sharp-shinned, Cooper's hawks, etc.) , falcons (Kestrels, Merlins, Peregrines), and many other species of birds heading south. For info and reservations call the American Littoral Society (718) 474-0896; e--mail:

don@littoralsociety.org. This is a partnership program with NYC Audubon, Jamaica Bay/ Rockaway Parks Conservancy, and Gateway NRA. (♥ 1.7 miles.)

Jr. Angler Fishing Clinic

Canarsie Pier

Saturday, October 12

12 PM – 2:30 PM

Are you a first time or novice angler? Join NPS rangers in our fishing clinic. We will teach you everything from how to set up your pole, the rules and regulations of fishing in Jamaica Bay and about the fish that live in the waters of the bay! Children will earn a special Jr. Ranger badge for participating.

Peak Foliage Leaf Peep

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Sunday, October 13

2 PM - 4 PM

Experience the full color spectrum of Jamaica Bay on this tour of fall leaves. We will hike park trails with the most variety, collect our favorite fallen leaves, and bring them back to the Visitor Center to create a decorative display. All ages welcome. Wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather. (♥ 2 miles.)

Hunter's Moon Sunset Walk

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Sunday, October 13

6 PM – 7:30 PM

See the park after dark! Take a

nighttime hike around West Pond with a National Park Ranger. Learn more about the nocturnal residents of the Refuge. Call (718) 318-4340 to reserve a spot. Wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather. (♥ 1.7 miles.)

Open House New York

Saturday, October 19 – Fort Tilden

Sunday, October 20 – Ryan Visitor Center

10AM – 2PM, guided tours at 10AM, 12PM, and 2PM

Special behind-the-scenes tours of Fort Tilden and the Ryan Visitor Center for the annual Open House New York.

Raccoon Intelligence:

Too smart for our own good?

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Saturday, October 19

2 PM – 3 PM

A fun look at what some might claim is the most intelligent creature in Jamaica Bay. We'll take a look at some of the psychological tests done on *Procyon lotor* (aka. the raccoon) and how they compare to other creatures.

Jamaica Bay Raptorama

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Sunday, October 20

10 AM – 3 PM

See and celebrate hawks, falcons, eagles, owls, and other birds of prey. Learn about raptor behavior, biology, and migration, as well as where to find many species around the city. Activities include indoor slide programs, a presentation of live hawks and owls provided by a local rehabilitation center, and a visit to the hawk watch platform at Fort Tilden, Queens (must provide your own transportation).

Birding for Beginners

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Saturday, October 26

10 AM – 11 AM

Join us for an introductory nature walk where you will learn the essentials of birdwatching. Fun for all ages. (♥ 1.7 miles.)

Jr. Angler Fishing Clinic

Canarsie Pier

Saturday, October 26

12 PM – 2:30 PM

Are you a first time or novice angler? Join NPS rangers in our fishing clinic. We will teach you everything from how to set up your pole, the rules and regulations of fishing in Jamaica Bay and about the fish

that live in the waters of the bay! Children will earn a special Jr. Ranger badge for participating. (♥ 1.5 miles.)

Pumpkin Carving Station

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Sunday, October 27

All day activity

Take home your very own decorative pumpkin, just in time for Halloween! Pumpkins will be provided. Use nature-themed stencils to paint or carve a unique (temporary) keepsake that will remind you of the wildlife of Jamaica Bay. All ages welcome.

November

Stargazing

Floyd Bennett Field –

Community Gardens

Friday, November 1

8 PM – 10 PM

Join the Brooklyn Amateur Astronomers Association for stargazing. Cancelled if overcast.

Jr. Ranger Evening Owl Prowl

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Saturday, November 2

5 PM – 6:30 PM

Join a Park Ranger on an owl adventure. Learn about owls and their habitat through a hike and an owl pellet investigation. Dress for the weather and wear comfortable shoes. (♥ 1.7 miles.)

Winter Waterfowl Workshop

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Saturday, November 16

10AM – 1PM

Meet 10am at the Jamaica Bay Refuge visitor center for a slide presentation on waterfowl followed by a hike around the ponds to view them in the wild. Learn about biology and behavior and how to identify the many species of ducks and geese in the field. Leader: Don Riepe. To reserve call (718) 474-0896; e-mail: don@littoralsociety.org. This is a partnership program with NYC Audubon and Gateway NRA.

—end of listings—

If you would like to be on our mailing list to receive notifications of events and this Program Guide, Please send a message with 'program guide' in the subject line to Charles.Markis@nps.gov.

The ♥ symbol indicates a program of moderate exercise. Pump up your