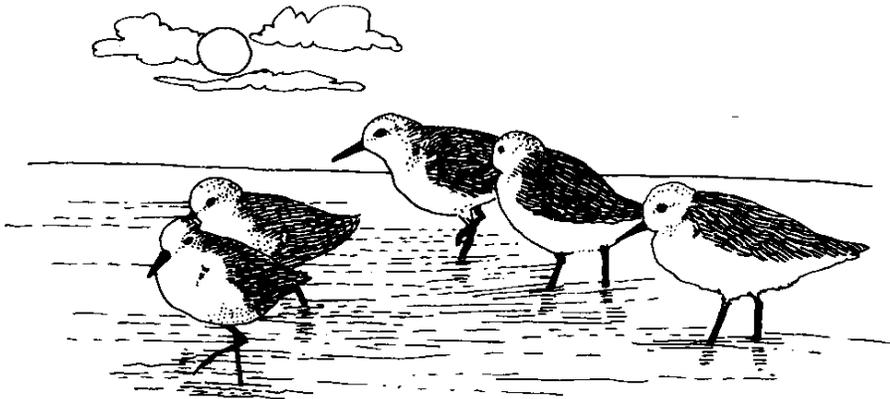




Visitor Programs and Events – Summer 2011

Jamaica Bay Unit



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!

Be Prepared to Get Outdoors! Keep Summer Safe and Have Some Fun!

Your time spent outdoors will be safe and more enjoyable if you remember a few simple tips. To safely enjoy swimming at Gateway's ocean beaches, swim only where and when lifeguards are on duty. Wear sunscreen, dress in layers, and drink plenty of fluids to prevent heat stress. Protect yourself from ticks and mosquitoes with insect repellent and light colored clothing, wear sturdy shoes and tuck your pants bottoms into your socks. Bring a camera, binoculars, hand lens, and personal journal to get up close to nature and record your memorable discoveries. And don't forget to check the park website www.nps.gov/gate, follow us on Facebook or Twitter, or call the park for updates on program changes and park conditions. Then, get outside and have some fun!

Let's Move Outside Junior Rangers!

Let's Move Outside Junior Rangers is a fitness initiative dedicated to getting kids and families to take advantage of America's outdoors with active recreation and learning in National Parks. Children ages 7-12 are invited to get a healthy start to a healthy future by participating in any of the guided Jr. Ranger programs that are being offered throughout Gateway, throughout the summer. In addition, they can embark on a self-guided Jr. Ranger adventure with their families, by picking up a Jr. Ranger booklet at any visitor contact station. Junior Rangers who participate in ranger-guided programs or the self-guided program can earn a certificate, Junior Ranger badge or a special patch, while championing the Junior Ranger motto: "explore, learn and protect."

Family Camping in the Urban Outback ♥

Floyd Bennett Field
Ecology Village
Saturday through Sunday
June 18 – 19, July 23 – 24,
August 13 – 14, September 3 – 4
Learn to pitch a tent, build a fire and cook out like a pioneer. Make some smores, tell some stories and sleep under the stars. Enjoy kayaking, marine nature study and hiking with National Park Rangers. Bring the whole family - kids, parents, grandparents, and more! Program is free, reservations are required and space is limited. Call (718) 338 – 4306 for information and reservations.

Photography Exhibit – Intimate Portraits of Nature

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Saturday, June 18 –

Friday, September 30

See the colors, shapes, and patterns of Jamaica Bay through the lens of photographer Johann Schumacher. Mr. Schumacher's nature photographs, all taken within 50 miles of his home in Queens, artfully capture the magic of motion and light in nature.

Jamaica Bay Ecology Cruises

Riis Landing

Sunset Cruises

Tuesday, June 21
(Summer Solstice)
7:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Thursday, July 14
7:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Wednesday, August 10
7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Weekend Afternoon Cruises

Saturday, July 23
1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Sunday, August 21
1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Enjoy a ranger-guided boat tour of Jamaica Bay aboard the American Princess vessel. Coast past verdant salt marshes. Observe osprey, terns, and herons hunting in their natural habitat. Hear about the human history of the bay and what the future may hold. Cost: \$12. Call (718) 318 – 4340 for more information.

June

Horseshoe Crabs at Plumb Beach ♥

Plumb Beach Roundhouse

Sunday, June 5

9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

The tides and time are right to catch the annual spring mating of horseshoe crabs at the water's edge. Learn about these ancient sea creatures and how they fit into the world of Jamaica Bay. See gulls, sandpipers and land birds feasting on the bounty of crab eggs. (1.5 miles)

Rose Moon Prowl ♥

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Wednesday, June 15

7:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Enjoy a colorful sunset and the rise of the full Rose Moon. Observe wildlife, plants and the shift from day to night while strolling the West Pond Trail. (1.7 miles)

NYC Audubon Horseshoe Crabs and Terrapins ♥

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Saturday, June 18

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Hike around the West Pond with naturalist Don Riepe to look for mating horseshoe crabs and diamondback terrapins coming ashore to nest. (2 miles)

Junior Ranger:

Batteries and Beach Forts ♥

Fort Tilden

Building 1

Saturday, June 18

1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Explore batteries and bunkers during this walking tour of the historic fort. Then, Junior Rangers will build their own fort in the sand! Wear comfortable shoes and bring drinking water. (2 miles)

Jamaica Bay Sunset Cruise

Sheepshead Bay

Saturday, June 18

4 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Learn all about Jamaica Bay during this popular boat tour with the American Littoral Society. See egrets, ospreys and more. Cost: \$45. Call (718) 318-9344 or e-mail: donriepe@gmail.com.

Osprey on the Wing

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Saturday, June 25

10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Observe these majestic birds of prey raising their young and hunting in the wild, while learning about their dramatic return from the brink of extinction.

Seaweeds, Seashells and More ♥

Fort Tilden

Building 1

Sunday, June 26

9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Hike the seashore with naturalist Mickey Maxwell Cohen to look for marine life, coastal birds, and seaside plants. (3 miles)

Rockaway Cove

Kayak Excursion ♥

Wednesday, June 29

9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

This 2-mile paddle to Rockaway Point and back follows the scenic bay shore of Rockaway Peninsula. Space is limited. For reservations, call (718) 338 – 3799. (2 miles)

July

Beach Campfire

Jacob Riis Park

Bay 14

(Boardwalk & Beach 169 St.)

Friday, July 1

7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Kick off the July 4 weekend with a National Park Service tradition. Rangers and volunteers will give talks on the natural and historical treasures found at the park, in a beautiful beach setting. Then, an old fashioned sing-along will follow! Bring a chair or blanket, and a musical instrument, if you have one!

North Forty Trail Hike ♥

Floyd Bennett Field
Main Entrance Ranger Station
Saturday, July 2
9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

American Littoral Society naturalist Mickey Maxwell Cohen leads the discovery of the birds, wildflowers, fruits and foliage of this interesting natural area. Participants will carpool to the program site at Floyd Bennett Field. (2 miles)

NYC Audubon Butterfly Count & Bird Walk ♥

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Sunday, July 3
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Join naturalist Don Riepe for an indoor presentation followed by a field walk to look for the birds and butterflies of summer. (2 miles)

Junior Ranger: Canoe Paddler ♥

Gateway Marina
Wednesday, July 6
1 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Kids ages 7 – 12 accompanied by an adult will learn to paddle and discover what makes Jamaica Bay so special. All equipment will be provided. Reservations required, call (718) 338 – 3799.

Pumpkin Patch Kayak Excursion ♥

Congressman Joseph P.
Addabbo Bridge
Thursday, July 7
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 a.m.

Paddle Pumpkin Patch Channel on this serene 2.5-mile trip into the heart of the wildlife refuge. Space is limited. For reservations, call (718) 338 – 3799. (2.5 miles)

Terrapins in Jamaica Bay: What's New?

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Saturday, July 9
2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Hofstra University's research team has been studying the diamondback terrapins of Jamaica Bay since 1998. Now, many discoveries later, we've learned a lot about these charismatic reptiles. Come hear the news during a presentation, and then observe turtles in the wild, with biologist Dr. Russell Burke.

Piping Plovers and Neighbors ♥

Fort Tilden
Building 1, Flagpole
Sunday, July 10
9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Bird the Breezy Point Tip for piping plovers, common terns and black skimmers. Join naturalist Ron Bourque for the bird watching, and to learn the scoop about these threatened birds and efforts underway to protect them. There will be carpooling from Fort Tilden to Breezy Point. (2 miles)

Catch a Fish

Canarsie Pier
Sunday, July 10
1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Join a Park Ranger for a chance at catching fish. No experience necessary, all equipment provided. Space is limited. For reservations, call (718) 338 – 3799.

Ruffle Bar

Kayak Excursion ♥
Floyd Bennett Field
Main Entrance Ranger Station
Thursday, July 14
9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Paddle around this large island in Jamaica Bay on a 4-mile trip. Learn about the history of the island and the plants and animals that thrive there. Space is limited. For reservations, call (718) 338 – 3799. (4 miles)

Junior Ranger: Urban Wildlife Safari

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Saturday, July 16
2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

When we think of New York City, buildings, traffic, and crowds of people come to mind. But, wildlife are part of the city too! Learn about the creatures that share the city with us, and how they manage to survive and thrive in our urban environment during this indoor/outdoor program. For kids ages 7 – 12, accompanied by an adult.

Bike around Jamaica Bay ♥

Canarsie Pier
Sunday, July 17
9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Join a Park Ranger for an athletic cycle around the bay. This 18-mile trip will follow bike paths and city streets. Travel at a moderate pace and break for lunch midway. Dress for the ride, bring water and sunscreen. Space is limited. For reservations, call (718) 338 – 3799. (18 miles)

Canarsie Pol Kayak Excursion ♥

Canarsie Pier
Thursday, July 21
10 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Circumnavigate Canarsie Pol on this 4-mile paddle that begins at Canarsie Pier. Space is limited. For reservations, call (718) 338 – 3799. (4 miles)

Jamaica Bay Kayak Excursion ♥

Floyd Bennett Field
Seaplane Ramp
Thursday, July 28
9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

See both sides of the bay on this 12-mile trek for experienced paddlers. All participants must demonstrate skill requirements prior to trip and have completed trips of similar length. Space is limited. For reservations, call (718) 338 – 3799. (12 miles)

Birds of Summer ♥

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Saturday, July 30

10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Seek out wading birds, shorebirds, songbirds, and more along the East and West Pond trails. (2 miles)

August

Junior Ranger:

Canoe Paddler ♥

Gateway Marina

Wednesday, August 3

1 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Kids ages 7 – 12 accompanied by an adult will learn to paddle and discover what makes Jamaica Bay so special. All equipment will be provided. Reservations required, call (718) 338 – 3799.

Pumpkin Patch

Kayak Excursion ♥

Congressman Joseph P.

Addabbo Bridge

Thursday, August 4

9:30 a.m. – 12:30 a.m.

Paddle Pumpkin Patch Channel on this serene 2.5-mile trip into the heart of the wildlife refuge. Space is limited. For reservations, call (718) 338 – 3799. (2.5 miles)

Explore the Shore

Congressman Joseph P.

Addabbo Bridge

West Parking Lot

Saturday, August 6

11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Discover Jamaica Bay by land and sea. Walk the dunes and shoreline with a National Park Ranger and use a seine net to explore marine life thriving in the bay's waters.

Catch a Fish

Canarsie Pier

Sunday, August 7

1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Join a Park Ranger for a chance at catching fish. No experience necessary, all equipment provided. Space is limited. For reservations, call (718) 338 – 3799.

Ruffle Bar

Kayak Excursion ♥

Floyd Bennett Field

Main Entrance Ranger Station

Thursday, August 11

9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Paddle around this large island in Jamaica Bay on a 4-mile trip.

Learn about the history of the island and the plants and animals that thrive there. Space is limited.

For reservations, call (718) 338 – 3799. (4 miles)

Shorebird Stopover

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Sunday, August 14

9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Join naturalist Ron Bourque to observe migrant shorebirds up close on East Pond's shore as they ready up for their 2,000 mile marathon flight over the ocean.

Wear wading shoes or waterproof knee boots.

Canarsie Pol

Kayak Excursion ♥

Canarsie Pier

Thursday, August 18

10 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Circumnavigate Canarsie Pol on this 4-mile paddle that begins at Canarsie Pier. Space is limited.

For reservations, call (718) 338 – 3799. (4 miles)

Catch a Fish

Canarsie Pier

Sunday, August 21

1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Join a Park Ranger for a chance at catching fish. No experience necessary, all equipment provided. Space is limited. For reservations, call (718) 338 – 3799.

Rockaway Cove

Kayak Excursion ♥

Wednesday, August 25

9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

This 2 mile trip to Rockaway Point and back follows the scenic bay shore of Rockaway Peninsula. Space is limited. For reservations, call (718) 338 – 3799. (2 miles)

6th Annual Jamaica Bay

Shorebird Festival ♥

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Saturday, August 27

7 a.m. – 5 p.m.

This annual event includes early morning birding around the East Pond; digital slide presentations on shorebird identification, ecology and behavior; and an afternoon bird hike, all during peak shorebird migration. Presenters include: Kevin Karlson, Don Riepe and Lloyd Spitalnik. Call (718) 318 – 4340 to reserve. (2 miles)

Exploring

Dead Horse Bay ♥

Floyd Bennett Field

Main Entrance Ranger Station

Sunday, August 28

10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Hike the trails and shoreline of Dead Horse Bay with American Littoral Society naturalist Mickey Maxwell Cohen. Explore the nature and fascinating history of this little known area. (2 miles)

Beach Campfire

Jacob Riis Park

Bay 14

(Boardwalk & Beach 169 St.)

Friday, September 2

7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Kick off the Labor Day weekend with a National Park Service tradition. Rangers and volunteers will give talks on the natural and historical treasures found at the park, in a beautiful beach setting. Then, an old fashioned sing – along will follow! Bring a chair or blanket, and a musical instrument, if you have one!

Jamaica Bay Continuing Programs:

Canarsie Concerts

Canarsie Pier

Thursdays

July 7 – August 25

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Enjoy the breezes while listening to live local music at Canarsie Pier.

Deadhorse Bay Paddle ♥

Gateway Marina

Wednesdays

July 6, August 3, 17 & 31

9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Plumb Beach Cove is the destination for this 2-mile trip.

Kayaks, personal floatation devices, paddles and instruction will be provided. Space is limited.

For reservations, call (718) 338 – 3799. (2 miles)

Fabric Aircraft

Floyd Bennett Field

Hangar B

Saturdays

10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Join a park volunteer and learn how to fabricate an aircraft, the “old fashioned way,” using needle and thread.

Family Sailing

Gateway Marina

Fridays

July 8 – August 26

9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Families will enjoy sailing and the environment of Dead Horse Bay.

Program is free, reservations required. Space is limited. For reservations, call (718) 338 – 3799.

Go Fly a Kite

Canarsie Pier

Sundays

July 3, 24, & August 14, 28

1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Learn how to build your own kite and fly it. All supplies provided. Space is limited. For reservations, call (718) 338 – 3799.

Historic Aircraft

Restoration Project

Floyd Bennett Field

Hangar B

Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays

9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Observe park volunteers as they restore vintage aircraft from Floyd Bennett Field’s past. Group tours are available by reservation; call (718) 338 – 3799.

Individual Sailing

Instruction

Gateway Marina

Thursdays

June 30 – August 25

6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Each class consists of three consecutive sessions where participants will learn the basic skills of sailing. There is a \$50 fee for the program and reservations are required. For reservations, call (718) 338 – 3799.

Kayak Skills Workshops ♥

Riis Landing

Mondays and Tuesdays

July 4 – August 30

1:30 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Receive instruction and practice a different set of kayak strokes and skills each week. Children over 11 and adults are welcome. Space is limited. For reservations, call (718) 338 – 3799.

Youth Group Camping

Floyd Bennett Field

Ecology Village Campgrounds

July 5 – September 2

Kids camp overnight in tents, prepare meals outdoors, practice teamwork and explore nature in the urban outback of Floyd Bennett Field. Call (718) 338 – 4306 for information on leader training and group scheduling.

Youth Group Paddles ♥

Canarsie Pier and Riis Landing

Fridays

July 1 – September 2

10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

& 12 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Free group kayaking sessions at Canarsie Pier and Riis Landing. Space is limited. For reservations, call (718) 338 – 3799.

Youth Group Sailing

Gateway Marina

Tuesdays, Wednesdays and

Thursdays

July 12 – September 1

9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Groups will learn about sailing and the environment of Dead Horse Bay. Program is free, reservations required. Space is limited. For reservations, call (718) 338 – 3799.

Rockaway Theater Company

All shows are performed in the Post Theater at Fort Tilden.

For reservations call the RTC Hotline (718) 374 – 6400, or visit www.rockawaytheatrecompany.org.

Annie Get Your Gun

July 8, 9, 15, 16, 22 & 23

8 p.m.

July 10, 17 & 24

2 p.m.

Directed by John Gilleece.

Musical Direction by Walter Birkhold.

Crossing Delancey

August 19, 20, 26 & 27 and

September 9 & 10 at 8 p.m.

August 21 & 28 at 2 p.m.

Written by Susan Sandler.

Directed by Michael Wotypka.

Floyd Bennett Garden Association

Organic Pest Control and Fertilizers

Floyd Bennett Field
Building 272

Saturday, June 11
2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Adriann Musson will present tips and techniques to reduce hostile insect populations in your garden. Control garden pests without harmful chemical pesticides. Learn how to garden with natural organic fertilizers.

Container Gardening

Floyd Bennett Field
Community Garden Gazebo

Saturday, June 18
2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Bob Halligan will help you make the most of your limited space. Grow flowers, herbs and vegetables in containers; you can even have a water garden in containers. Join us and learn all you need to know.

Beneficial Insects

Floyd Bennett Field
Building 272

Saturday, July 9
2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Shari Romar's workshop will help you identify those bugs that are actually helpful as predators of damaging insects, pollinators of plants, or just simply harmless but important to the ecosystem.

Planning Your Fall Garden

Floyd Bennett Field
Building 272

Saturday, July 16
2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Learn from Bob Halligan how your garden can produce for you well into December and beyond. Join us to learn what you can plant as your summer crops fade. We will also discuss methods for extending the season such as row covers and cold frames.

Rockaway Artists Alliance

The Rockaway Artists Alliance galleries at Fort Tilden in Studios 6 and 7 are open to the public on Saturdays from noon to 5 p.m. and on Sundays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. All exhibitions are free of charge. For information, call (718) 474 – 0861, or visit: www.rockawayartistalliance.com.

Nature

Fort Tilden
Studio 7

May 21 – June 26

Jena Homsey

Fort Tilden
Studio 7

July 2, 3

High School to Art School

Fort Tilden
Studio 7

July 5 – Aug 11

People at Work

Fort Tilden
Studio 7

July 16 – Aug 7

Matt Petagna

Fort Tilden
Studio 7

Aug 20, 21

Open Mic Night

Fort Tilden
Studio 6

Thursdays

8 p.m. – 11 p.m.

Free performances, sign-up at 7:45 to participate.

Directions to Jamaica Bay Sites

Mass Transit

Canarsie Pier (718) 763 – 2202

BMT "L" subway to Rockaway Parkway, then transfer (free) to the B42 bus to the entrance of the pier.

Floyd Bennett Field
(718) 338 – 3799

Subway: IRT #2 (also #5 at rush hours) to Flatbush Avenue, or IND "A" to Rockaway Park / Beach 116th St. Take Q35 bus from either stop to park.

Jacob Riis Park/Fort Tilden
(718) 318 – 4300

Subway: IRT #2 (also #5 at rush hours) to Flatbush Avenue, or IND "A" to Rockaway Park / Beach 116th St. Take Q35 bus from either stop to park, or Q22 from Beach 116th St. Connect with the Q35 bus on Flatbush Avenue at the corner of Nostrand, Kings Highway, Fillmore Ave. or Avenue U (Kings Plaza). *Alternate:* Q21 or Q53 to Beach 116th St., then Q22 or Q35 to the park.

For information on excursion cruises on Jamaica Bay, call (718) 318 - RIIS (7447).

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
(718) 318 – 4340

Subway: IND "A" to Broad Channel Station. Proceed by walking on Noel Road to Cross Bay Boulevard. Turn right and walk about three quarters of a mile to the Refuge Visitor Center.

Bus: Q21 from Liberty Ave. (Queens) or 116th St. (Rockaway) to the Refuge, or the Q53 bus from 61st Street & Roosevelt Ave. (Queens) to the refuge.