



Visitor Programs and Events

Spring 2016

Staten Island, New York

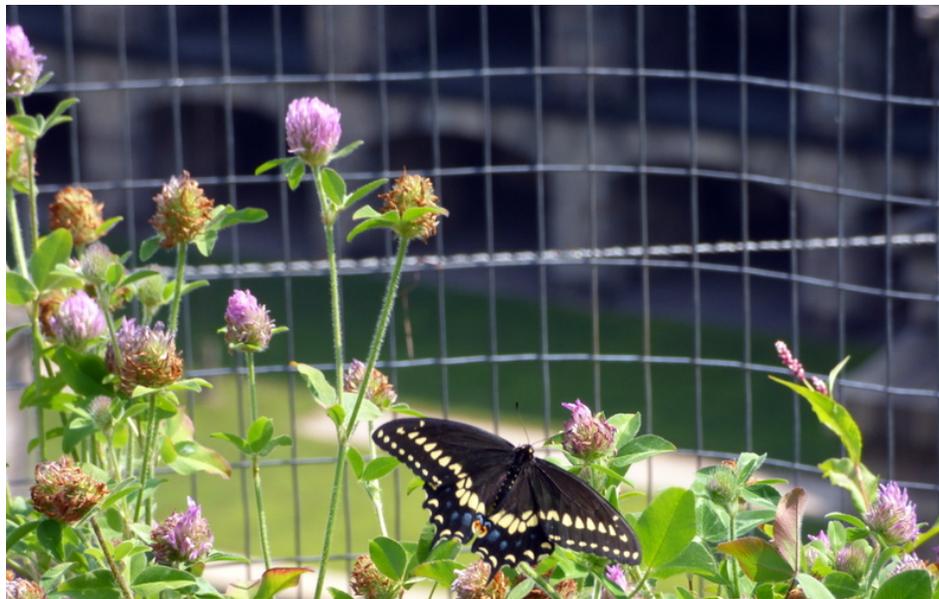
Find Your Park, National Park Week and the Centennial Celebration Did you Find Your Park?

Have you ever thought about what makes a park “yours?” Is it proximity or convenience, some place nearby where you go to rest, relax and recharge? Is it a special place that requires planning and effort to reach, perhaps far away? Or is it a state of mind that you can bring on whenever you are in a special place?

We know from talking with our wonderful visitors that Gateway, with its nature, vast beaches, open spaces, trails and its historic structures, provides a special place for many of you. With visitation figures hovering around eight million people per year, we are in the top three or four for visitation in the NPS, so we must be on the “I found my park” list for many of you. City dwellers in our area have a great desire to find park space. To see what other people have found, and to share “your park” go to www.findyourpark.com and have a look.

The annual National Park Week celebration, April 16- 24, is also the launch pad for the centennial celebration as the nation salutes and celebrates the 100 year anniversary of the NPS. As you might imagine we have some special programs and events planned for the summer season including some events occurring during the spring. We are producing a special Centennial Celebration Brochure which will be published for National Park Week.

At Sandy Hook, there is the Annual Coastal Defense Weekend and Ocean Fun Day to occur May 20-22. This celebration includes an evening Lantern Tour, a World War II Harbor Defense “Field March” Tour, and open houses at several batteries. Ocean Fun Day, sponsored by the New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium offers a day-long series of activities for the entire family. See the Sandy Hook Guide for details of these and other program offerings.



At Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge we have some special programs for kids planned: On Sunday March 6 at 1:00 PM, we have an Owl Adventure including a hike outside. Stick around for the Harp Petting Zoo Program at 3PM—you can see and hear and touch the harps that Mia Theodoratus will bring for show and tell.

On Sunday March 20, join us for a reading of *Sleigh Bells in Springtime* by Jessica R. Kratz, local author and NYC Parks and Recreation Ranger from Staten Island, who will be with us at 3:30PM. Find out what the reference to sleigh bells might be. Also celebrate the 100 year anniversary of the International Migratory Bird Treaty Act with a day of fun activities for the entire family, including bird-house building, birding walks, live bird demonstrations with Volunteers for Wildlife. Then join us to help re-plant the West Pond bird blind with native plants. Event is all day from 9AM to 4PM.

At Staten Island, on May 15 at Great Kills Park, join us for a Junior Bioblitz- Celebrate International Migratory Birds 9:30 AM. Working

Butterfly at Fort Wadsworth, by Jared Kofsky, an entry in the 2014 Photo Contest.

with an expert, help to create a bird and plant checklist to use as you explore various habitats.

In Staten Island we are also offering a special Centennial Series: *Discussing the Untold Stories of the National Park Service*. These five talks on weekends in March and April will be given at the Fort Wadsworth Visitor Center.

On Wednesday May 25, the first day of Fleet Week, there is no better vantage point to watch the parade of ships enter New York City’s Harbor than the Overlook at Fort Wadsworth. A US Coast Guard representative will narrate the passing ships, and there will be an exhibit as well. Stick around for tours of Fort Tompkins. See the Staten Island Guide for details of these and other program offerings.

Enjoy Spring in Your Park, and stay safe...remember no swimming until the lifeguards are back on duty, Memorial Day Weekend.

--C. Markis

Programs - March

Bird Walk

Fort Wadsworth Visitor Center
Sunday, March 6
9:00 AM-11:00 AM
Sponsored by the Friends of Blue Heron Park, join Howard Fischer to good viewing areas with the Raritan Bay waterfront and vegetated area that attracts and holds migrants along with wintering birds. Call 718 354-4655 for details. (♥ 3 Miles).

Centennial Series

Discussing the Untold Stories of the National Park Service

Buffalo Soldiers: The First Park Rangers

Sunday, March 6
1PM – 3PM
Fort Wadsworth Visitor Center
This program interprets National Parks sites where these “original” Park Rangers served the USA. Reserve at 718-338-3799.

Centennial Series

From Housework, to Millwork, to the World: Women at Work through the Centuries

Fort Wadsworth Visitor Center
Saturday, March 12
1PM – 3PM
Help celebrate Women’s History Month by learning about the development of women’s role in society, from the 18th century to the present.

Centennial Series

On The Home Front: Women during Wartime

Fort Wadsworth Visitor Center
Saturday, March 19
1PM – 3PM
Women did their part for the war effort. “Rosie the Riveter” became a symbol for all the women working on the home front. Visitors are invited to join us for a Power Point presentation, discussion and display to learn more about the women that helped win WWII on the home front.

History Walk at Fort Wadsworth

Meet at the Fort Wadsworth Overlook
Sunday, March 20
Noon-1:30 PM
Join us for a 1.5-hour hike at Fort Wadsworth as we explore both the natural areas and the remnants of the former harbor defense system. Inclement weather will cancel the program. Reservations required. Call (718) 354-4655. (♥ 2 miles).

Stargazing

Amateur Astronomers Association of New York
Great Kills Park-parking lot A
Saturday, March 26
8:30 - 10:00 PM
The Staten Island Chapter of the Amateur Astronomer’s Association hosts public stargazing at the main parking area, Lot A. Inclement weather will cancel this program.

Centennial Series

The Scots and the National Parks

Sunday, April 3
1PM – 3PM
Fort Wadsworth Visitor Center
“Journey” to National Park sites, and celebrate Scots Americans’ contributions, at this pre-Tartan Day event. Reserve at 718-338-3799.

Stargazing

Amateur Astronomers Association of New York
Great Kills Park-parking lot A
Saturday, April 9
8:30 - 10:00 PM
The Staten Island Chapter of the Amateur Astronomer’s Association hosts public stargazing at the main parking area, Lot A. Inclement weather will cancel this program.

Centennial Series

Native Peoples of the National Parks

Sunday, April 10
1PM - 3PM
Fort Wadsworth Visitor Center
Learn about National Park Service sites, including Gateway NRA, that interpret the indigenous Peoples North America. Please call 718-338-3799 to reserve your space.

National Park Week-Spring Cleaning

Great Kills Beach
Tuesday, April 19
10:00-Noon
Celebrate the local National Parks and help keep it beautiful. Bring water and dress appropriately, gloves will be supplied. Call 718 354-4655 for details.

Citizen Science Horseshoe Crab Monitoring Information Workshop

Fort Wadsworth, Visitor Center-Building 120
Sunday April 24
10:00- Noon
Conference House Park
Sunday April 24
2:00-4:00 PM
The New York City Park and Recreation Greenbelt Educators, will be hosting two workshops with the National Park Service for interested volunteers to assist in the monitoring of populations. At the session we will demonstrate how to record data and tag horseshoe crabs for the upcoming project at both, Great Kills Park, Crookes Point and Conference House Park. The study runs from early May through July 1, and is part of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and Cornell University Cooperative Extension’s Marine Program. Registration is required, call 718 351-3450.

Celebrate the NPS Centennial Take Your Daughter/Son to the Park!

Thursday, April 28
2PM - 3:30 PM
Fort Wadsworth Visitor Center
As the National Park Service turns one hundred years old in 2016, make a sculpture or painting of your favorite park animal. Call for information; reservations are required: (718) 354-4655.

Make Do and Mend

Fort Wadsworth Visitor Center

Saturday, May 14

1PM – 2PM

During World War II, everyone had to help the war effort. Supplies were scarce, everyone had to pitch in. Clothes were mended and remade. Join us for a power point program about WWII clothes, fashion and rationing.

Stargazing

Amateur Astronomers Association of New York

Great Kills Park-parking lot A

Saturday, May 14

8:30 - 10:00 PM

The Staten Island Chapter of the Amateur Astronomer's Association hosts public stargazing at the main parking area, Lot A. Inclement weather will cancel this program.

Junior Bioblitz- Celebrate International Migratory Birds

Great Kills Park – Ranger Station-Lot A

Sunday, May 15

9:30 AM-12:30 PM

Working with an expert, help create a bird and plant checklist as you explore various habitats.

Dress appropriately and call 718-354-4655 for details and reservations.

Armed Forces Day Tours

Saturday, May 21

10AM (Fort Tompkins) and 2PM (Ryan Visitor Center)

Fort Tompkins (Staten Island) and Ryan Visitor Center (Brooklyn) Celebrate Armed Forces Day by touring two iconic places of New York City's important military history. Call 718-338-3799 for reservations.

Biking - Park to Park

Fort Wadsworth Visitor Center

Sunday, May 22

10:00-Noon

Bring your own bicycle and ride through National Parks and New York City Parks. Must be able to ride a bike for long distances- up to 6 miles. Ages 14 and under must be accompanied by a parent. Meet in front of Fort Wadsworth Visitor Center. Bike, helmet and water are not provided. Reservations required, call 718 354-4655.

Celebrate the NPS Centennial

Parade of Ships – Fleet Week NYC

Fort Wadsworth Overlook

Wednesday, May 25

9:30 -11:30 AM

There is no better vantage point to watch the ships enter New York City's Harbor than the Overlook at Fort Wadsworth. A US Coast Guard representative will narrate the passing ships, and there will be an exhibit as well. Join park rangers in welcoming the navy ships entering the harbor as we kick off New York City's time-honored celebration of the sea services with Fleet Week. After the ships come in and stick around for a tour of Fort Tompkins. Ship arrival times to be confirmed via www.fleetweeknewyork.com/ A food truck will be on hand for those who wish to purchase refreshments.

--end of listings--

Do you receive email notifications of Gateway's programs and events? If you are not on our mailing list and would like to be, please send a message to

Charles.Markis@nps.gov, with 'program guide' in the subject line and we will add you.

The ♥ symbol denotes a hike or walk of moderate activity. Improve your health, as you enjoy your park .