



Visitor Programs and Events – Spring 2013

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

RECENT UPDATES

Hurricane Sandy Relief Funding

Congress passed a \$50 billion dollar hurricane relief package in January which the President signed into law on January 29, 2013. The National Park Service (NPS) was included in this bill for \$348 million dollars, with \$160 million targeted for Gateway National Recreation Area. These funds will be used to repair the damages sustained by Hurricane Sandy. Park staff is working with a team of NPS managers from our Regional Office and Denver Service Center to prepare and execute contracts for much of the work that needs to be done. We have an aggressive plan in place in order to reopen most areas of the park by Memorial Day weekend!

Sequestration

Congress passed a continuing resolution funding the federal government through March 27, 2013. It also established an earlier deadline of March 1, 2013 that says if a budget resolution has not passed, then \$1.2 Trillion will be sequestered (i.e. it will be cut) from the federal budget. Both parties in Congress are opposed to this sequestration, and it is meant to serve as a deterrent to the budget stalemate in Washington. The President and Congress are working to try to avoid sequestration, but until that happens, it is a reality we will have to prepare for.

If sequestration were to be enacted, the hit to Gateway will be greater than \$1.24M. The park has submitted a proposal to the Regional Director outlining the manner in which we are prepared to deal with this cut to our budget. It is our intention to deal with this cut by not filling a number of vacant positions, reducing the period of time that seasonal staff will be working and improving operational efficiencies. This will help, but it will not be enough. We will have to make difficult decisions and tighten our belts to see our way through this unprecedented fiscal challenge. It goes without saying that these



Like returning migrants, such as the piping plover, Gateway is coming back!

cuts will have a major impact on our operations, but we will work together and remain committed to the mission of Gateway NRA.

Summer 2013

The park plans to reopen as many areas of the park that are safe and ready for visitors.

Hurricane Sandy Before and After Photo Exhibit Continues

The exhibit compares large scale satellite images from before the hurricane and photos taken afterward by National Park Service (NPS) employees. Post-storm photos were taken by NPS employees as part of the recovery effort. The large format-almost two by three feet-reveals the storm's destruction in great detail. Some of the most dramatic images are aerial shots taken from helicopters used by the team to survey the park. The exhibit continues for the next several months in the Multi-Purpose Room at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center, located at 100 Cross Bay Boulevard in Queens. The Visitor Center is open daily, free of charge, from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M.

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,

And put 'program guide' in subject heading 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!

March

Star Gazing

Floyd Bennett Field
Community Garden
Brooklyn

Friday, March 15
7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Come gaze at the wonders of the night sky over Floyd Bennett Field with the Amateur Astronomers Association. Weather permitting; clear or partly clear skies. Dress for the weather. Telescopes will be provided.

“The Flying Irishman” – The Flight of Douglas “Wrong Way” Corrigan

Floyd Bennett Field
Brooklyn

Ryan Visitor Center
Sunday, March 17
1 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Join a park ranger for a presentation and discussion of one of the most colorful pilots in aviation history. Bus – Q35.

The Prepared Paddler

Floyd Bennett Field
Brooklyn

Ryan Visitor Center
Monday, March 18
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Interested in going paddling in Jamaica Bay? Get an overview of paddling best practices. Learn about the skills and equipment you will need, so you can plan your next trip. Space is limited; call 718/338 3799 to make a reservation.

Spring Peepers

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Queens

Thursday, March 21
6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Celebrate the first full day of spring with the spring peeper chorus. Join a ranger to discover these tiny but fascinating tree frogs on a stroll to Big John’s Pond. Evening will begin with a short indoor presentation. Bring a flashlight. Rain date, Sunday, March 24. Bus – Q 52/53.

Have a Hoot with a Ranger

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Queens

Saturday, March 23
2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Junior Rangers are invited to 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. Bus – Q 52/53.

Jamaica Bay Origami

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Queens

Sunday, March 24
2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Did you know that origami came from the Japanese words “Oru” meaning “to fold” and “Kami” meaning “paper”? Learn more about this relaxing art and create the animals found in and around Jamaica Bay. Bus – Q 52/53.

Woodcock Watch

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Queens

Tuesday, March 26
6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Wait and watch in the dusk for American woodcocks and their amazing flying tricks. These birds, also known as timberdoodles, mudbats or bogsuckers, put on a spring show that’s not to be missed! Program will begin with a brief indoor presentation. Bring a flashlight. Rain date, Saturday, March 30. Bus – Q 52/53.

Family Tours of Fort Tompkins

Fort Wadsworth
Staten Island

Wednesday, March 27
10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. and
2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Families join us during spring recess for a tour of Fort Tompkins. Meet at the Fort Wadsworth Overlook. Bring your cameras and dress for the weather. Bus – S51/81.

Moon Shine

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Queens

Wednesday, March 27
7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Enjoy the night as a ranger guides you along the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge trail on a full moon night. Please wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather. You are welcome to bring a flashlight. Rain date, Thursday, March 28. Bus – Q 52/53.

Spring Surprises ♥

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Queens

Thursday, March 28
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

On this family-friendly nature walk, we will seek out some springtime surprises, including a plant that has been used as makeup, flowers that have gone to war, and birds of many kinds.

We’ll have binoculars available to borrow, please bring your own if you have them. Bus – Q 52/53. (1 mile)

Lantern Tour of Fort Wadsworth

Fort Wadsworth
Staten Island

Thursday, March 28
7 p.m. – 9 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. Bus – S51/81.

NYC Audubon

Early Spring Bird Walk
Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge,
Queens

Saturday, March 30
10 a.m. – 1p.m.

Meet at the Jamaica Bay Refuge visitor center at 10am for a hike around the ponds and uplands to look for the first birds of spring. We can expect to see ospreys, oystercatchers, ibis, great egrets, laughing gulls, and phoebes to name a few. Leader: Don Riepe. To reserve call (917) 371-8577; e-mail: donriepe@gmail.com. Bus – Q 52/53.

Creepy Crawlies

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Queens

Saturday, March 30

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

The itty bitsy spider is fun to learn about, and the insects are too!

Hear all about creepy crawlies during this interactive family-

friendly program. Bus – Q 52/53.

Explore the Back Woods at Fort Tilden

Fort Tilden, Bldg. 1

Queens

Sunday, March 31

10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Enter the woods with American Littoral Society naturalist Mickey Maxwell Cohen to search for early spring birds, bursting buds and historic fortifications of World War II. Bus Q – 22/35.

April

School Break – Huguenot Library Program

Staten Island

Tuesday, April 2

2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Design your own flower planter and listen to garden stories as we celebrate Earth Month. All supplies are provided call for reservations at (718)354 – 4574.

Naval Aviation Between the Wars, 1919 – 1941

Floyd Bennett Field

Brooklyn

Ryan Visitor Center

Sunday, April 14

2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Join a park ranger for a presentation and discussion of the development of the U. S. Naval aviation between World Wars I and II, and the role that Jamaica Bay played in it. Bus - Q35.

Star Gazing

Floyd Bennett Field

Community Garden

Brooklyn

Friday, April 19

7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Come gaze at the wonders of the night sky over Floyd Bennett Field with the Amateur Astronomers Association. Weather permitting; clear or partly clear skies. Dress for the weather. Telescopes will be provided.

Earth Day Beach Cleanup at Fort Wadsworth

Fort Wadsworth

Staten Island

Saturday, April 20

10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

On the beach along USS North Carolina Rd.

Earth Day Beach Cleanup ♥

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Queens

Saturday, April 20

10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Volunteers wanted! Celebrate the upcoming Earth Day holiday by helping to clean up marine debris.

Dress for the weather, wear long pants and long sleeves, sturdy shoes, and bring work gloves.

Groups welcome. To register, call the refuge visitor center: (718)318 – 4340. Bus – Q 52/53.

Earth Day Bike Ride to the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Canarsie Pier

Brooklyn

Sunday, April 21

9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Join a Park Ranger on a bike trip along the bike path to the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge for a one way trip. Travel at a moderate pace.

Bring water, sunscreen your own bike, helmet and dress for the ride. Space is limited; call (718) 338 – 3799 to make a reservation. (3.5 miles)

Celebrate Earth Day, 2013!

Location TBA

Sunday, April 21

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

All welcome to join with many volunteers to help clean the shorelines of Jamaica Bay. We will provide bags, gloves and water. You bring boots or old shoes/sneakers and enthusiasm.

For more information call (917)

371-8577, or by e-mail:

donriepe@gmail.com

Celebrate Earth Day and National Park Week with a Beach Clean-up

Great Kills Beach Center-
Parking Lot G

Staten Island

Sunday, April 21

1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Join the National Park Rangers for a spring-cleaning of the beach and maritime dune area. Bring gloves and water. Reservations required, call (718)987 – 6790.

Sunset and the Pink Moon ♥

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Queens

Thursday, April 25

6 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Take a sunset stroll along the West Pond Trail with a ranger. Enjoy watching the sun set over Jamaica Bay and the rise of the full moon, called the Pink Moon in folklore.

Bring a flashlight. Rain date, Sunday, April 28 (2.2 miles)

Lantern Tour of Fort Wadsworth

Fort Wadsworth

Staten Island

Thursday, April 25

7 p.m. – 9 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. Bus – S51/81.

The Prepared Paddler

Floyd Bennett Field

Brooklyn

Ryan Visitor Center

Monday, April 29

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Interested in going paddling in Jamaica Bay? Get an overview of paddling best practices. Learn about the skills and equipment you will need, so you can plan your next trip. Space is limited; call (718) 338 – 3799 for reservations.

**NYC Audubon
Spring Migration Workshop**
Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Queens

Sunday, April 28

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Celebrate spring with a walk around the refuge during the spring bird migration. Many species of birds including some warblers, orioles, & grosbeaks should be present. Leader: Don Riepe. To reserve call (917) 371-8577 or e-mail donriepen@gmail.com. Bus – Q 52/53.

May

**7th Annual Earth Day –
Rockaway**

Beach Boardwalk at Beach 59 St.

Queens

Saturday, May 4

12 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Enjoy a day of fun! Free activities will raise awareness of the natural resources along the Rockaway shoreline: live music, kite making, mock dolphin rescue, planting, composting, face painting, water testing, raptor demonstrations and more. See www.rwalliance.org for more information.

Birds in the Web of Life ♥

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Queens

Saturday, May 11

9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.

What wild birds help prevent people from getting sick? What birds act like farmers? Hear how common birds of the refuge benefit humans and the rest of the ecosystem on this family friendly bird walk. We'll have binoculars available to borrow, please bring your own if you have them. (1 mile.) Bus – Q 52/53.

Bike Floyd Bennett Field

Floyd Bennett Field

Ranger Station

Brooklyn

Saturday, May 11

10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Join a Park Ranger and enjoy the sites of Floyd Bennett Field. Travel at a moderate pace. Bring water, sunscreen, your own bike, helmet and dress for the ride. Space is

limited; call (718) 338-3799 for reservations. (4 miles)

**2nd Annual Rockaway
Bike Parade**

Ferry Landing, Beach Channel
Dr. and Beach 108 St.

Queens

Saturday, May 18

11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Look for Gateway Rangers in the parade. This year the parade route will travel along Shorefront Parkway from Beach 108 Street to Beach 73rd Street. Individuals, schools, civic organizations and businesses are all encouraged to participate in the parade and "Best of Show" competition. For more information contact Rockaway Waterfront Alliance at www.rwalliance.org.

**Lantern Tour of
Fort Wadsworth**

Fort Wadsworth

Staten Island

Thursday, May 23

7 p.m. – 9 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. Bus – S51/81.

Sunset Ecology Cruise

Sheepshead Bay, Pier 4

(Emmons Ave. & Bedford Aves.)

Brooklyn

Saturday, May 25

5 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Join us aboard the "Golden Sunshine" for our annual cruise along the backwaters of Jamaica Bay. See nesting egrets, herons, ibis, peregrine falcon and osprey. Cost: \$55 includes 3-hour narrated tour plus wine & cheese, fruit and snacks. To reserve for this special cruise call (917) 371-8577, or e-mail: donriepen@gmail.com. Leaders: Mickey Cohen, Don Riepe. This is a partnership program with Gateway NRA, NYC Audubon and the American Littoral Society.

**Red Knots and
Horseshoe Crabs**

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Queens

Sunday, May 26

9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Come see the annual mating ritual of the horseshoe crabs as they come ashore to lay eggs. Also present will be red knots, sanderlings, ruddy turnstones and other shorebirds to feed on them. Learn about the history, ecology and medical value of the ancient 'crab'. Kids welcome! Meet at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge visitor center and carpooling to the ball field beach at the south end of Broad Channel. Leaders: Mickey Cohen, Don Riepe. Bus – Q 52/53.

**Memorial Day Weekend –
Stories**

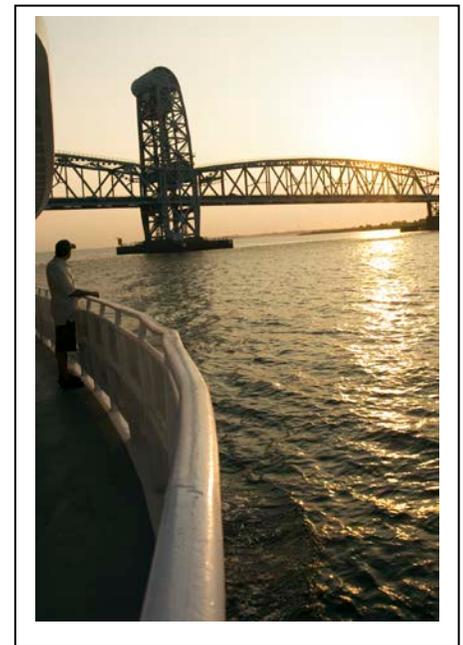
Fort Wadsworth Campground-
Camp Hudson

Staten Island

Sunday, May 26

2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Develop a short story along with Park Rangers and create a short video of your park experience. Reservations required, call (718)354-4574, or (718)354-4655.



Continuing Programs

Awesome Osprey

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Queens

March 24 – May 31

2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Saturdays, Sundays, and
Holidays

Stop by to observe our South Marsh osprey pair as they prepare to raise a family. Hear the remarkable stories of their annual long-distance migrations and their recovery in the US. Spotting scope provided for up-close views of these majestic birds of prey. Bus – Q 52/53.



Be a Bird Detective

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Queens

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 newcomers 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. Bus – Q 52/53.

Partnering For Our Future: The Arrowhead and Maple Leaf Hold Hands

In July 2012, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg and Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar signed an unprecedented agreement between the National Park Service and the City of New York Department of Parks of Recreation – spelling out ways the two agencies will cooperatively manage 10,000 acres of federal and city-owned parks in and around Jamaica Bay to promote visitation, education programs, scientific research and recreational opportunities. By allowing the NPS and NYC Parks to work on each other's property, combine resources and undertake joint planning, this innovative new partnership will serve to better connect urban communities to the natural beauty and history of Gateway National Recreation Area and adjacent city park lands. Stay tuned for news about new and improved Park offerings coming to you this summer! For more information, visit www.nps.gov/gate or call 311.



NYC 'Parks Department'

The City of New York Department of Parks and Recreation "Parks Department" takes care of the city's park system, its ecological diversity of the city's natural areas and providing recreational opportunities to the city's residents. The department maintains over 1700 parks, playgrounds and recreational facilities over the five boroughs. There are over 950 playgrounds, 700 sports fields, 550 tennis courts, 35 major recreation centers, 30 outdoor pools, 14 miles of beaches, 13 golf courses, seven nature centers, six ice rinks, 2000 greenstreets and four major stadiums. They also care for the park flora and fauna, community gardens, historic houses, statues and monuments and more than 2.5 million trees.

Marsh Restoration Planting

Join the Littoral Society and Jamaica Bay Ecowatchers for a special marsh planting project this April/May. This is a cooperative venture with Gateway NRA. For more information contact the Littoral Society at (917) 371-8577 or check www.littoralsociety.org

Designation of National Park Units

Did you know there are some eighteen designations of units that are included in the National Park System? These include National Park, National Monument, National Historic Site, National Memorial, National Recreation Area (NRA) and others. Gateway was designated in its original legislation as an NRA. There are a total of twenty NRAs in the system; twelve are centered on large reservoirs and emphasize water-based recreation. Other NRAs are located near major population centers. Such urban parks combine scarce open spaces with the preservation of significant historic resources and important natural areas in location that can provide outdoor recreation for large numbers of people. Gateway was the first urban park the others are Cleveland, (Cuyahoga River Valley); San Francisco, (Golden Gate); Atlanta, (Chattahoochee River) Los Angeles, (Santa Monica Mountains); Boston (Boston Harbor Islands).

The National Park Service encompasses approximately 83.6 million acres in 398 units, of which more than 4.3 million acres remain in private ownership. The largest area is Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, Alaska. At 13,200,000 acres it is 16.3 percent of the entire system. The smallest unit in the system is Thaddeus Kosciuszko National Memorial, Pennsylvania, at 0.02 of an acre. Gateway comes in at 26,603.63 acres.