



Visitor Programs and Events, Spring 2012

Jamaica Bay Unit

Gateway – Jamaica Bay Partner Programs

Visit our partner's websites, to find out what programs they're offering this season!

American Littoral Society Northeast Chapter

The society's mission is the study and conservation of the marine and coastal environment, including wetlands, estuaries and associated upland buffers. We accomplish this through education, restoration, partnership, and advocacy. For program and field trip information: www.alsnyc.org; (718) 318 – 9344, or e-mail: donriep@gmail.com

Floyd Bennett Garden Association

Have a "Green Thumb?" Learn at public gardening workshops. Find out about the Floyd Bennett Garden Association: www.fbga.net/

Rockaway Artist Alliance

Enjoy artist exhibitions and events. See the 2011 Calendar: www.rockawayartistsalliance.org

Rockaway Theatre Company

Have a night at the theater in Fort Tilden. See the 2011 Calendar: www.rockawaytheatrecompany.org/

Junior Ranger Programs

**Floyd Bennett Field
Jacob Riis Park (Beginning May 26)
Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Daily, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

Kids ages 7 – 12 can pick up their Junior Ranger booklets, to have fun discovering the wonders of Jamaica Bay, and earn their junior ranger badge!



Ryan Visitor Center Grand Re - opening! *Celebrating Gateway's 40th*

**Floyd Bennett Field
Ryan Visitor Center
Saturday and Sunday, May 5 & 6
9 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

Just in time for Gateway's 40th Anniversary, and after a 3 year restoration, Gateway's William Fitts Ryan Visitor Center is ready to re – open to our visitors! Step into the historic airport terminal lobby, and be taken back to the "Golden Age of Aviation." The new exhibits, and the interactive "Discovery Room," tell the story of Floyd Bennett Field as a municipal airport, naval air station, and as an urban national park.

Also, a full – scale replica of Wiley Post's Lockheed Vega, the "Winnie Mae," will be unveiled. Built by the volunteers from Historic Aircraft Restoration Project, this hand built model is the product of over 5 years of meticulous research and construction.

Fun activities for all ages, will be available all weekend. Call (718) 338 – 3799, or visit www.nps.gov/gate, for more information.

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. Let Gateway pump you up!

Beach Campfire Program

**Jacob Riis Park
Bay 14 (Boardwalk &
Beach 169 St.)
Friday, May 25
7 p.m. – 10 p.m.**

Kick off summer, and the Memorial Day Weekend with a traditional National Park Service campfire program. Learn about the park from a ranger, then stay for an old fashioned sing-along. Bring an instrument, if you play one, and marshmallows!

Continuing Programs

Family fun, all spring long!

Be a Bird Detective!

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Sundays, 1:30 p.m. – 2 p.m.
(Daily, during school break)

Many different birds make their home here. Some are just visiting. Learn how to use binoculars. Then, follow the clues to find out what birds do.

Historic Aircraft Restoration Project

Floyd Bennett Field
Hangar B
Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Bring the family, and observe park volunteers, as they restore vintage aircraft. People with an interest in aviation or history are encouraged to join in this volunteer effort. Call (718) 338-3799 for more information or to schedule a group tour.

Junior Ranger Programs

Floyd Bennett Field
Jacob Riis Park (Beginning May 26)
Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Daily, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Kids ages 7 – 12 can pick up their Junior Ranger booklets, to have fun discovering the wonders of Jamaica Bay, and earn their junior ranger badge!

P.A.R.C.S. Model Aircraft

Floyd Bennett Field
Radio Controlled Flying Field
Open Daily

Join the Pennsylvania Avenue Radio Control Society at their “mini-airport in an airport.” Enjoy the antics of these pilots as they show off their flying skills with model planes, jets and helicopters.

Touch Table for the Curious

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
(Daily, during school break)

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 newcomers to Jamaica Bay.

March

Paddling Trip Leader In – Class Training

Floyd Bennett Field,
Jamaica Bay Unit Headquarters
Monday, March 5
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Learn best practices for planning a kayak adventure. Participants will plan their own excursion in this fun interactive class. Space is limited; please call (718) 338 – 3799, to make a reservation.

Exploring the Upland Trail

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Sunday, March 11
2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Embark upon a journey through the wondrous fields of the Upland Trail along with Interns Chris and Ravin. Be prepared to observe and discover a variety of plant species

The Flying Irishman – Douglas “Wrong Way” Corrigan

Floyd Bennett Field – Hangar B
Sunday, March 18
1 p.m. – 2 p.m.

In honor of St. Patrick’s Day, come learn about Douglas Corrigan’s famous flight from Floyd Bennett Field to Ireland, and how he got the name “Wrong Way.”

Receive this Program Guide Electronically

This program guide is published four times a year. If you are not on our email list and wish to receive this publication and notices of special programs and events, please email Charles.Markis@nps.gov, put “program guide” in the subject line to request addition to our list.

Where Do Baby Turtles Go?

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Sunday, March 25
2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

We know about turtles laying nests, eggs incubating, hatching, and little ones leaving the nest. But what happens next? Where do they go? This 40 minute talk will be presented by Dr. Russ Burke, Professor of Biology, Hofstra University.

NYC Audubon

Early Spring Bird Walk ♥

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Saturday, March 31
10a.m. – 1 p.m.

Take a hike around the West Pond and gardens to look for egrets, American oystercatcher, osprey, phoebes and many other early spring arrivals. Leader: Don Riepe. *1 ¾ miles*. To reserve, call (718) 318 – 4340.

April

Woodcock Watch ♥

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Sunday, April 1
6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Timberdoodle, bogsucker, mudbat - all these nicknames fittingly describe the strange and wonderful woodcock. Join a park ranger for a twilight walk through the refuge to seek out the unusual courtship display of this elusive bird. To reserve, call (718) 318 – 4340. *1 mile*

Paddling Trip Leader In – Class Training

Floyd Bennett Field,
Jamaica Bay Unit Headquarters
Monday, April 3
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Learn best practices for planning a kayak adventure. Participants will plan their own excursion in this fun interactive class. Call (718) 338 – 3799, to reserve.

Exploring the Upland Trail

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Sunday, April 8
2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Embark upon a journey along the Upland Trail along with Interns Chris and Ravin. Be prepared to observe and discover a variety of plant

Earth Day Shoreline Cleanups

Various locations around
Jamaica Bay
**Saturday, April 21 &
Sunday, April 22
10a.m. – 1 p.m.**

Join with Gateway Rangers, American Littoral Society, NYC Audubon and other groups in removing debris from the shoreline at Plumb Beach and Dubos Point in Jamaica Bay, or along the bike path on Cross Bay Blvd. For the shoreline cleanup, call Don Riepe for details (718) 318-9344, or, by e-mail: donriepe@gmail.com. For the bike path cleanup, call the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge at (718) 318 – 4340. Dress for the weather, and wear sturdy shoes. Bring water, and work gloves. Wear bright colors for visibility near a busy road. Groups welcome!

NYC Audubon Spring Migration Bird Walk ♥

**Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Saturday, April 28
10a.m. – 1 p.m.**

Hike around refuge trails to look for migrating warblers, orioles, tanagers and many other species. Leader: Don Riepe. Call the refuge at (718) 318-4340 to reserve. *1 ¾ miles.*

Tour the Tip at Breezy Point ♥

**Fort Tilden, Bldg. 1
Sunday, April 29
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.**

Join Mickey Maxwell Cohen, American Littoral Society naturalist, on a three-mile trek around the wild western tip of the Rockaway Peninsula. Participants will carpool to the site. This program is suitable for families and is heart-stimulating.

May

Ryan Visitor Center Grand Re - opening!

**Floyd Bennett Field
Ryan Visitor Center
Saturday and Sunday, May 5 & 6
9:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

Visit this world class rehabilitation of the historic airport terminal lobby and enjoy “Golden Age of Aviation” exhibits and the interactive “Discovery Room.” Also, a full – scale replica of Wiley Post’s “Winnie Mae,” built by the volunteers from HARP, will be unveiled. Fun activities for all ages, all weekend. Call (718) 338 – 3799 for more information.

Exploring the Upland Trail

**Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Sunday, May 13
2 p.m. – 3 p.m.**

Embark upon a journey through the wondrous fields of the Upland Trail along with Interns Chris and Ravin. Be prepared to observe and discover a variety of plant species.

5th Annual NYC Wildflower Week: Invasive Plant Removal

**Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Wednesday, May 16
10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

Celebrate National Urban Biodiversity Week by getting your hands dirty with NYC Audubon, and Gateway NRA! Help give native plants room to grow, by cutting back on invasive species, like Oriental Bittersweet. Wear comfortable shoes, and long sleeves. Also, you may want to bring water, gloves, and pruners.

Celebrate the Beach Plums in Bloom at Plumb Beach ♥

**Plumb Beach Round House
Saturday, May 19
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.**

Enjoy the profusion of beach plum flowers while exploring the intricacies of this dynamic maritime habitat with Mickey Maxwell Cohen of the American Littoral Society. This program is suitable for families and is heart-stimulating. *1 ½ miles.*

Horseshoe Crabs and Red Knots ♥

**Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Sunday, May 20
8:30 a.m. – 11a.m.**

Hike along shoreline to see horseshoe crabs and shorebirds and learn about their behavior biology and migration. Leaders; Mickey Cohen, Don Riepe. Call the refuge to reserve at (718) 318-4340. *1 ¾ miles.*

Beach Campfire Program

**Jacob Riis Park
Bay 14 (Boardwalk & Beach 169 St.)
Friday, May 25
7 p.m. – 10 p.m.**

Kick off the Memorial Day Weekend with a traditional National Park Service campfire program.

Jamaica Bay Sunset Cruise

**Sunday, May 27
5 p.m. – 8 p.m.**

Leave from Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn aboard the "Golden Sunshine" for a narrated tour of Jamaica Bay. Learn about the history, ecology, wildlife and management of the refuge and see egrets, herons, osprey, peregrine falcon, terns, shorebirds and waterfowl. Cost: \$55 includes tour, wine & cheese, fruit, drink, snacks. Call (718) 318 – 9344; e-mail: donriepe@gmail.com. (With Gateway NRA, NYC Sierra and NYC Audubon.)

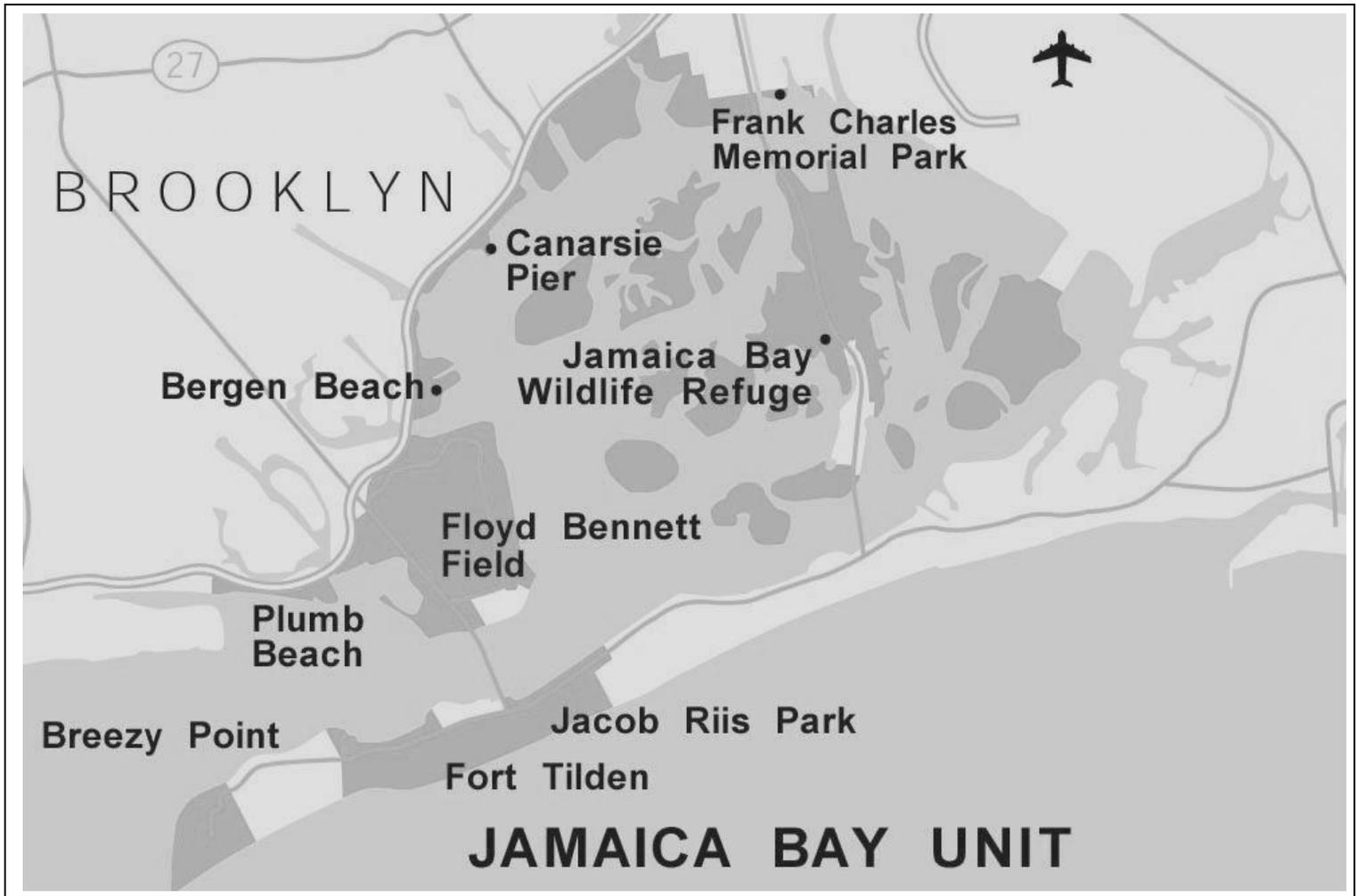
Exhibits

“Naturalmente” New York

**Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
March 1 – April 29
9 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

A photographic exhibit that explores the relationship of people, urban life and the natural world in Gateway. Works by Francesca Simondi and Sebastiano Privitera.

Getting to Jamaica Bay



Floyd Bennett Field

By Mass Transit: IRT #2 (also #5 at rush hours) subway to Flatbush Avenue. Transfer to Rockaway Park - bound Q - 35 bus. Ask driver to let you off at the park entrance.

By Car: From the north (Brooklyn.) Take the Belt Parkway to Exit 11S; follow Flatbush Avenue south to main entrance, which is at the 4th traffic light. Turn left into the park.

Fort Tilden and Jacob Riis Park

By Mass Transit: IRT #2 (also #5 at rush hours) subway to Flatbush Avenue. Transfer to Rockaway Park - bound Q - 35 bus. Or take IND A subway to Rockaway Park, then transfer to Q - 35 or Q - 22 bus.

By Car: Belt parkway to Exit 11S; take Flatbush Avenue south across the Marine Parkway Bridge. Follow signs to either Fort Tilden or Jacob Riis Park. Or use the Cross Bay Bridge to Beach Channel Drive west.

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

By Mass Transit: Subway: IND "A" to Broad Channel Station. Proceed by walking west on Noel Road to Cross Bay Boulevard, where you can transfer to a northbound Q - 21, or Q - 53 bus, which will take to the refuge entrance. Or, when you reach Cross Bay Boulevard, turn right and walk north about three quarters of a mile to the Refuge Visitor Center.

Bus: Q - 21 from Liberty Avenue (Queens) or Beach 116th Street (Rockaway) to the Refuge, or the Q - 53 bus from 61st Street & Roosevelt Avenue. (Queens) to the refuge.

By Car: Belt Parkway to Exit 17 S; take Cross Bay Boulevard south across the Congressman Joseph A. Addabbo (North Channel) Bridge. The Refuge entrance is approximately 1 1/2 miles past the bridge on the right. Or, take the Cross Bay Bridge from Rockaway to Cross Bay Boulevard. Proceed north through Broad Channel. The Refuge entrance is approximately 1 1/2 miles from the bridge on the left.

For mass transit information, schedules, and changes, visit:
<http://www.mta.info/schedules/>