



## Visitor Programs and Events, Winter 2011 – 2012

### Jamaica Bay Unit

#### Gateway – Jamaica Bay Partner Programs

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

#### Floyd Bennett Garden Association

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

[www.fbga.net/](http://www.fbga.net/)

#### Rockaway Artist Alliance

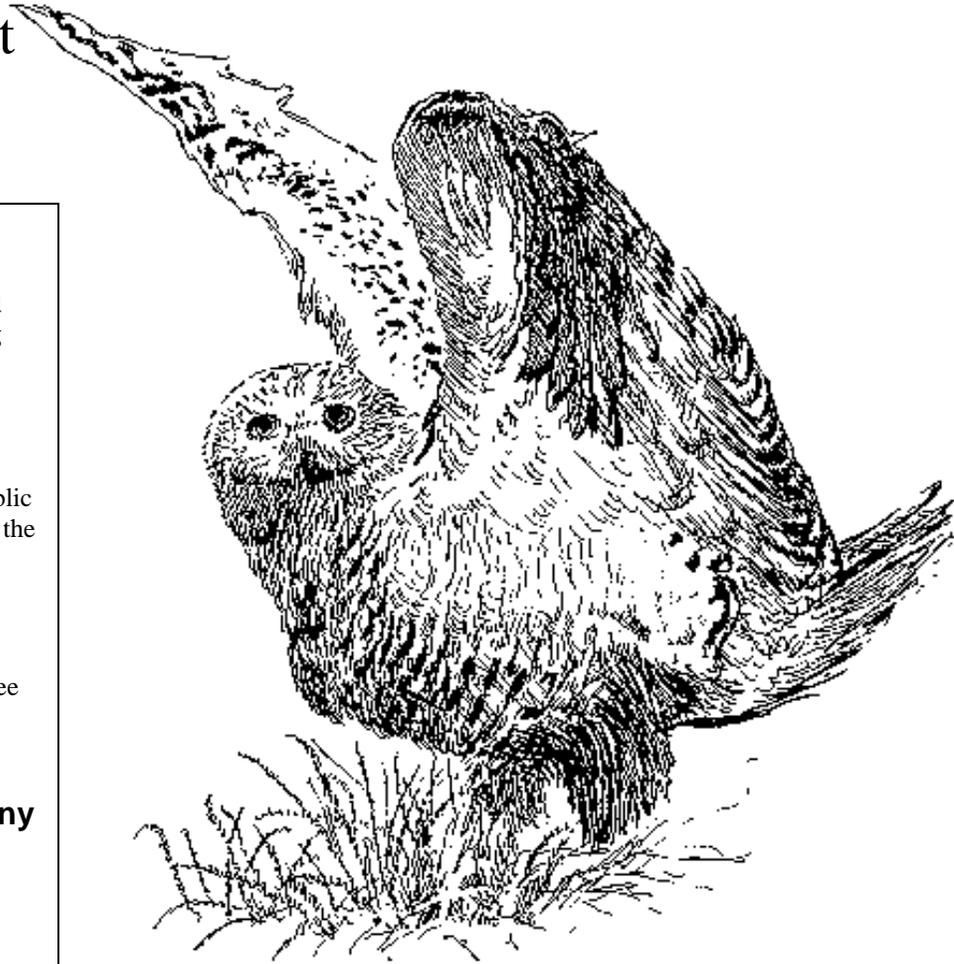
Enjoy artist exhibitions and events. See the 2011 Calendar:

[www.rockawayartistsalliance.org](http://www.rockawayartistsalliance.org)

#### Rockaway Theatre Company

Have a night at the theater in Fort Tilden. See the 2011 Calendar:

[www.rockawaytheatrecompany.org/](http://www.rockawaytheatrecompany.org/)



#### Discover Gateway During Winter Break!

Just because the weather has gotten colder, that doesn't mean that you can't enjoy your national park. Gateway's Jamaica Bay Unit offers four seasons of discovery and fun, for the whole family! While the children are out of school, they can discover nature all around them, with the Touch Table at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, or by taking part in the Junior Ranger Program. When the snow falls, cross country skiing is available at Floyd Bennett Field. Or, just enjoy a hike along the park's many trails.

This winter, take a break...at Gateway's Jamaica Bay!

#### Touch Table for the Curious

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge  
Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.  
Sundays, 1:30 p.m. – 2 p.m.

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.

#### Junior Ranger Programs

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge  
Tuesday, December 27  
Tuesday, February 21

1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

During the break from school, kids ages 7 – 12 can join a park ranger to have fun discovering the wonders of Jamaica Bay, and earn their junior ranger badge!

#### 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 and volunteer projects 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!

All park visitor centers and offices will be closed on December 25, and January 1. Park grounds will be open.

## December

### Star Gazing

Floyd Bennett Field  
Radio Control Flying Field  
Friday, December 2  
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. Telescopes will be provided.

### Padding Trip Leader In-Class Training

Floyd Bennett Field  
Building 69  
Monday, December 5  
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Learn paddling best practices for trip planning and group management.

### Whither the Grasslands

Floyd Bennett Field  
Main Entrance Ranger Station  
Saturday, December 10  
9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

At the very center of Floyd Bennett Field, lies rare natural habitat in New York City; the Grassland Restoration and Management Project Area, a habitat for many open-land birds. This open country also provides opportunities for birders to spot birds flying between the wooded areas of Floyd Bennett Field. We hope to see American Kestrels, Northern Harriers, Meadowlarks and Horned Larks among other birds. The trip leader carries a scope on tripod for closer views of birds. Easy walking on open runways of the Field; dress warmly. 2 miles

### Winter Birds in Jamaica Bay ♥

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge  
Sunday, December 11  
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Take a hike around the West Pond and gardens with naturalist Don Riepe, to look for winter birds and other wildlife. To reserve, call (718) 318 – 4340.

### Navigation for Beginners

Floyd Bennett Field  
Building 69  
Monday, December 12  
6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Be ready for Spring paddling. Prepare your chart so you can navigate easily from your kayak deck. Space is limited; please call (718) 338 – 3799 to make a reservation.

### Experience the Year's Lowest Tide ♥

Fort Tilden  
Building 1  
Saturday, December 24  
1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

The sun, moon and earth are in position to create one of the year's lowest tides, often referred to as "King Tides." Explore the intertidal zone and walk the sea floor with American Littoral Society naturalist, Mickey Maxwell Cohen. 2 miles

### Junior Ranger Program

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge  
Tuesday, December 27  
1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

During the break from school, kids ages 7 – 12 can join a park ranger to have fun discovering the wonders of Jamaica Bay, and earn their junior ranger badge!

## January

### Annual New Year's Day Beach Walk ♥

Fort Tilden Flag Pole  
Sunday, January 1  
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Start off 2012 with a brisk hike along Fort Tilden's beach and woods with the American Littoral Society. Enjoy refreshments afterwards at the Rockaway Artist's Alliance, Studio 7.

### Give Me Shelter: Winter Waterfowl in Dead Horse Bay ♥

Floyd Bennett Field  
Main Entrance Ranger Station  
Sunday, January 8  
9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Dead Horse Bay provides sheltered waters for winter waterfowl. In the past, up to 40,000 Greater Scaup have wintered in the bay. Raptors may be spotted in the upland areas on the trail to the bay. The trip leader carries a scope on tripod for closer views of birds. Dress for the weather, and moderately difficult walking if there is snow and ice on the trail. Rugged footwear is recommended. 2.25 miles

### Padding Trip Leader In-Class Training

Floyd Bennett Field  
Building 69  
Monday, January 16  
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Learn paddling best practices for trip planning and group management.

### Explore Dead Horse Bay ♥

Floyd Bennett Field  
Main Entrance Ranger Station  
Sunday, January 22  
1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Hike the trails and beach at Dead Horse Bay with American Littoral Society naturalist, Mickey Maxwell Cohen, author of *Exploring the Trails of Dead Horse Bay*. Wear sturdy footwear. 2 miles

### Snow Birds in a Winter Wonderland ♥

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge  
Visitor Center  
Saturday, January 28  
2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Photography workshop with Johann Schumacher. Discover how the soft light of winter illuminates Jamaica Bay. Look for song birds and waterfowl in the winter landscape while you explore the West Pond trail.

## February

### "Craftsmen of Black Wings" African – Americans in Aviation in the 1930's

Floyd Bennett Field  
Hangar B  
Sunday, February 12  
1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Join a park ranger for this Black History Month talk and slide show on the pioneering African – American pilots of the 1930's. Afterwards, visit the aircraft being restored by the Historic Aircraft Restoration Project in the hangar. The hangar is not heated, so dress warmly.

All park visitor centers and offices will be closed on December 25, and January 1. Park grounds will be open.

## **Ocean Waterfowl and Loons ♥**

**Fort Tilden – Flag Pole  
Saturday, February 18  
9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

Layers of insulation enable waterfowl to ply our ocean front in winter, impervious to the frigid water and air. We will be looking for long-tailed ducks, surf, black and white-winged scoters, common and red-throated loons. The trip leader carries a scope on tripod for closer views of birds. Dress warmly. *2 miles*

## **Junior Ranger Program**

**Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge  
Tuesday, February 21  
1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

During the break from school, kids ages 7 – 12 can join a park ranger to have fun discovering the wonders of Jamaica Bay, and earn their junior ranger badge!

## **The Winter Woods in the North Forty Natural Area ♥**

**Floyd Bennett Field  
Main Entrance Ranger Station  
Saturday, February 25  
9 a.m. – 11 a.m.**

The North Forty Natural Area can become a Winter Wonderland. Fallen leaves expose World War II era military bunkers, and lairs of urban wildlife. Search for wintering birds on the freshwater pond and along the shore of Mill Basin. Meet American Littoral Society naturalist, Mickey Maxwell Cohen and carpool to the site. *2 miles*

## **Continuing Programs**

### **Cross Country Skiing**

**Floyd Bennett Field Aviator Sports  
First Snowfall**

Follow the cross country ski trail through the North 40. A National Park Service Ranger will cut a track at first snow. Call (718) 338 – 3799 for trail conditions.

### **GeoCache**

**Floyd Bennett Field  
Ranger Station  
Daily**

**9 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

Use a GPS to discover off the beaten path historic sites. Figure out site specific answers and receive a Gateway memento.

Call (718) 338 – 3799 for more information.

## **Historic Aircraft Restoration Project**

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

Weather permitting, 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.

## **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.  
Sundays, 1:30 p.m. – 2 p.m.**

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.

## **Rockaway Artists Alliance**

### **kidsmART**

### **After – School Program**

**Fort Tilden  
Building T-149**

**November 7, 2011 - May 4, 2012**

**Mondays – Thursdays**

**2:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.**

A typical day at kidsmART features academic assistance; a snack; and a choice of hands-on visual and performing art workshops, games and more. Workshops begin with discussion of the medium and subject; introduction to supplies and materials; examples of completed projects and demonstration of technique. A project can be confined to one session or it may span several sessions.

## **Exhibits**

### **Abstract Point of View**

**Fort Tilden**

**Building T-6**

**From January 15 – February 19**

**Saturdays and Sundays**

**12 p.m. – 4 p.m.**

### **Second Annual Rockaway Artist Alliance on Jamaica Bay Visitor Center**

**Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge  
Through February 5, 2012**

This exhibit celebrates Jamaica Bay in various media and features an eclectic group of local artists. Open daily, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

### **Channel View School for Research Presents – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge: The Natural World Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center**

**November 17, 2011 –**

**January 16, 2012**

**Open daily, 9 p.m. – 5 p.m.**

The Channel View School for Research’s Environmental Science Team has visited the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge for two years documenting the wildlife and changes of the seasons. They have come to appreciate the quiet beauty of this urban oasis and hope others will too. This work was produced under the guidance of teacher/mentor Marianne Williams by Channel View School for Research’s Environmental Science Team: Ivonne Aguiar, Christopher Carr, Heather Cirulnick, Catherine Montalvo, Ravin Pahladsingh and Ronney Rozario.

### **“Naturalmente”**

### **New York**

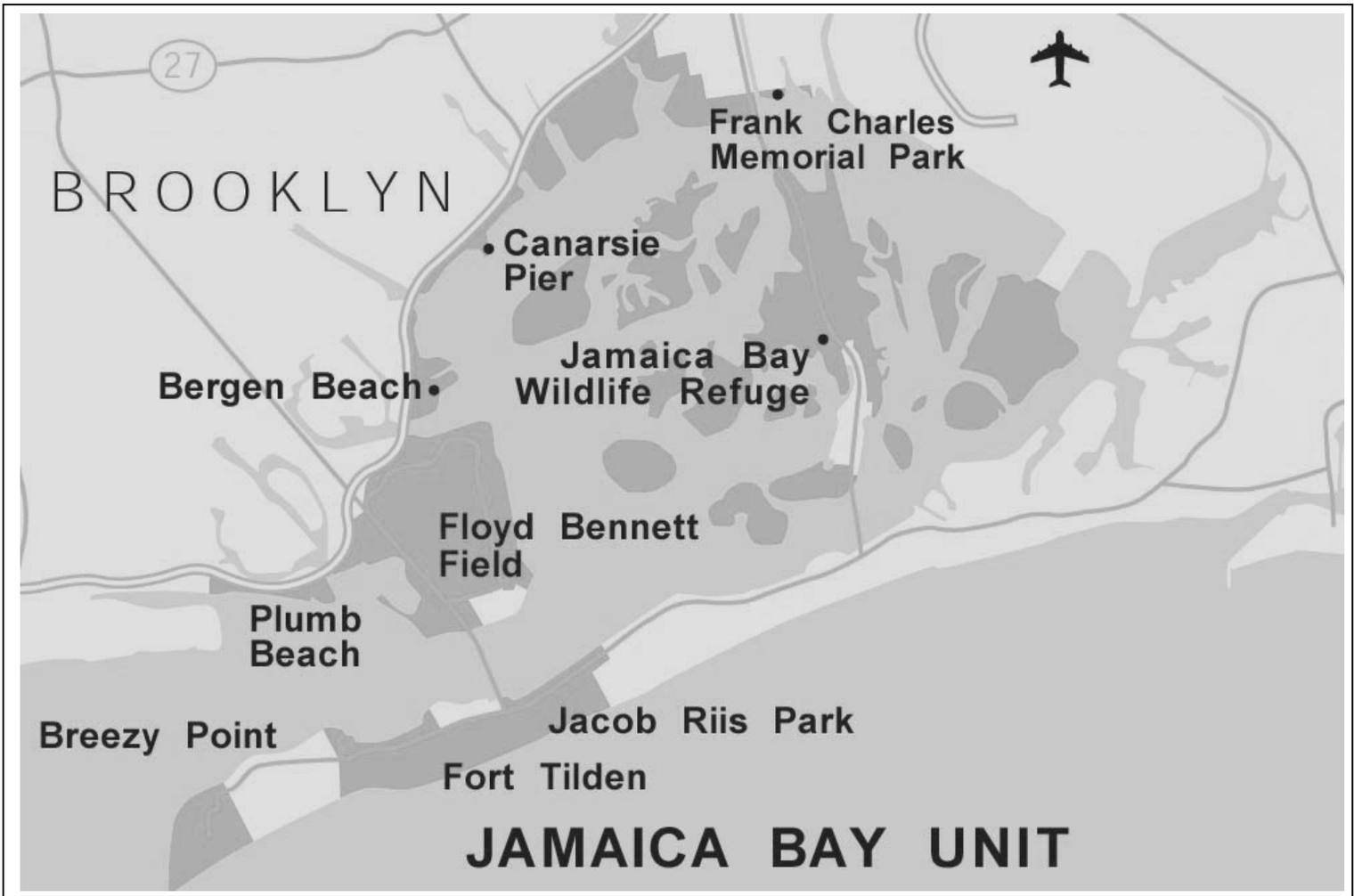
**Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center**

**February 11 – April 29, 2012**

**9 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

“A Study in Contrasts,” a photographic exhibit that explores the relationship of people, urban life and the natural world in Gateway, works by Italian Intern, Francesca Simondi and Sebastiano Privitera will be shown. Meet the artists at the exhibit opening on Wednesday, February 11, 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

# 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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.