



# Fact Sheet

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of Interior  
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## Sandy Hook Unit Gateway National Recreation Area *Gateway to Opportunity*

**Established:** October 27, 1972 as a unit of Gateway National Recreation Area

**Location:** Situated along the northern end of the New Jersey Atlantic shoreline

**2006 Gateway (Jamaica Bay, Sandy Hook and Staten Island Units) Visitation:** 9,788,710

**Overview:** Sandy Hook features ocean beaches, salt marshes, historic Fort Hancock, Sandy Hook Lighthouse, and some of the best bird habitat in New Jersey. Sandy Hook offers a range of recreational and educational opportunities throughout the year.

Fort Hancock provided coastal defense for New York harbor from 1895 until 1974; over 100 buildings and fortifications remain. Sandy Hook Lighthouse is America's oldest operating lighthouse and it has guided ships into New York harbor since 1764. Spermaceti Cove Visitor Center is a former U.S. Lifesaving Service Station, houses exhibits and a bookstore. Sandy Hook Museum and History House, a restored 1898 lieutenant's residence along "Officers Row," features exhibits and historic displays. Battery Potter is the oldest gun battery built on Sandy Hook. There is also a holly forest that extends 64 acres along the east coast. This is the only holly forest in Gateway National Recreation Area.

### Visitor Centers/Exhibits/Tours:

**Sandy Hook Visitor Center:** The 1894 Spermaceti Cove Life-Saving Station serves as the park visitor center. Trails lead to salt marshes and a maritime holly forest. Open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Features exhibits and a bookstore.

**Fort Hancock:** Visit the Fort Hancock Museum, Battery Potter, parade ground, and History House, a restored officer's home. Seasonal hours call general visitor information number below for details.

**Sandy Hook Lighthouse:** Lighthouse tours offered on weekends from April through September.

**Sandy Hook Bird Observatory:** New Jersey Audubon Society operates a center on Officers Row for birding information. Open Tuesday – Sunday year-round. Closed Monday.

**Superintendent:** Richard Wells

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**Visitor Information:** (732) 872-5970