



Gateway National Recreation Area

Join us at one of these Open Houses

for an informal opportunity
to meet our planning team,
get more information
about Gateway and to share
your ideas and comments.

JULY

Tuesday, July 21, 2009
10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Lot D/Sea Gull's Nest
(approximately 1.5 miles from
the entrance booths)
Hartshorne Drive, Sandy Hook, NJ

Wednesday, July 22, 2009
11:00 am to 4:00 pm

Great Kills Beach Center
Buffalo Street (off Hylan Boulevard)
Staten Island, NY

Saturday, July 25, 2009
11:00 am to 3:00pm

Riis Park, Bay 9
Rockaway Point Boulevard
Queens, NY

Saturday, July 25, 2009
4:00 am to 8:00pm

Aviator Sports @ Floyd Bennett Field
Flatbush Avenue
(before Gil Hodges Bridge)
Brooklyn, NY

Sunday, July 26, 2009
11:00 am to 4:00pm

Fort Wadsworth Visitor Center
New York Avenue & Drum Street
Staten Island, NY

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday, September 22, 2009
3:00 to 8:00 pm

Fort Wadsworth Visitor Center
New York Avenue & Drum Street
Staten Island, NY

Wednesday, September 23, 2009
3:00 to 8:00 pm

Ranger Station, Floyd Bennett Field
Flatbush Avenue
(before Gil Hodges Bridge)
Brooklyn, NY

Thursday, September 24, 2009
3:00 to 8:00 pm

Fort Hancock Chapel
(approximately 4.5 miles
from the entrance booths)
Hartshorne Drive
Sandy Hook, NJ
No public transportation available

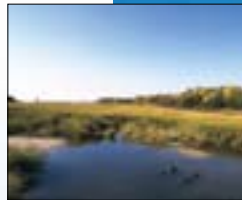
Saturday, September 26, 2009
1:00 to 5:00 pm

World War Veterans Park
at Miller Field
New Dorp Lane
Staten Island, NY

Sunday, September 27, 2009
3:00 to 8:00 pm

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Visitor Center
Cross Bay Boulevard
Queens, New York

**For information
on public transportation
and driving directions
to each of these sites
please go to page 7.**



Help Plan the Future!

Dear Friends:

Contrast the beauty and simplicity of nature at the edge of the most densely populated place in the nation, the greater New York and New Jersey metropolitan area. This is Gateway National Recreation Area.



See an osprey swoop down to catch a fish for dinner. Cast for your own meal from a breezy shore. Enjoy a peaceful boat ride among thousands of acres of islands and open water. Visit miles of beautiful beaches. View

the oldest continuously operating lighthouse in the nation. Tour the former harbor defense system that dates back to the 19th century. Walk an historic runway built in 1930. Imagine what it was like to pilot a simple aircraft like the ones used by Emilia Earhart or Howard Hughes.

Bike, hike, breathe, reflect and recreate. These experiences are what the United States Congress had in mind when it created a national park in the New York and New Jersey metropolitan area in 1972. In fact, Gateway was the first unit of the National Park System specifically intended to be within easy reach of urban residents.

Today, Gateway National Recreation Area is at a crossroads, one that needs your input. We are writing a new General Management Plan. We will use the foundation this national park was built upon with the knowledge we have gained over the last thirty years to develop this new plan. This General Management Plan will be our roadmap to guide us for the next twenty years. These are your national park lands and waters. This is your opportunity to help shape a vision for their future.

The first General Management Plan for Gateway was finished in 1979. Since then we have a much better understanding of the natural and cultural significance of Gateway's resources. We understand and acknowledge there are threats to park resources. In addition, the needs of our visitors are very different today than they were a generation ago. Considering all this, it is time to look to

the future and determine how best to protect, improve and sustain the health of our natural and cultural resources.

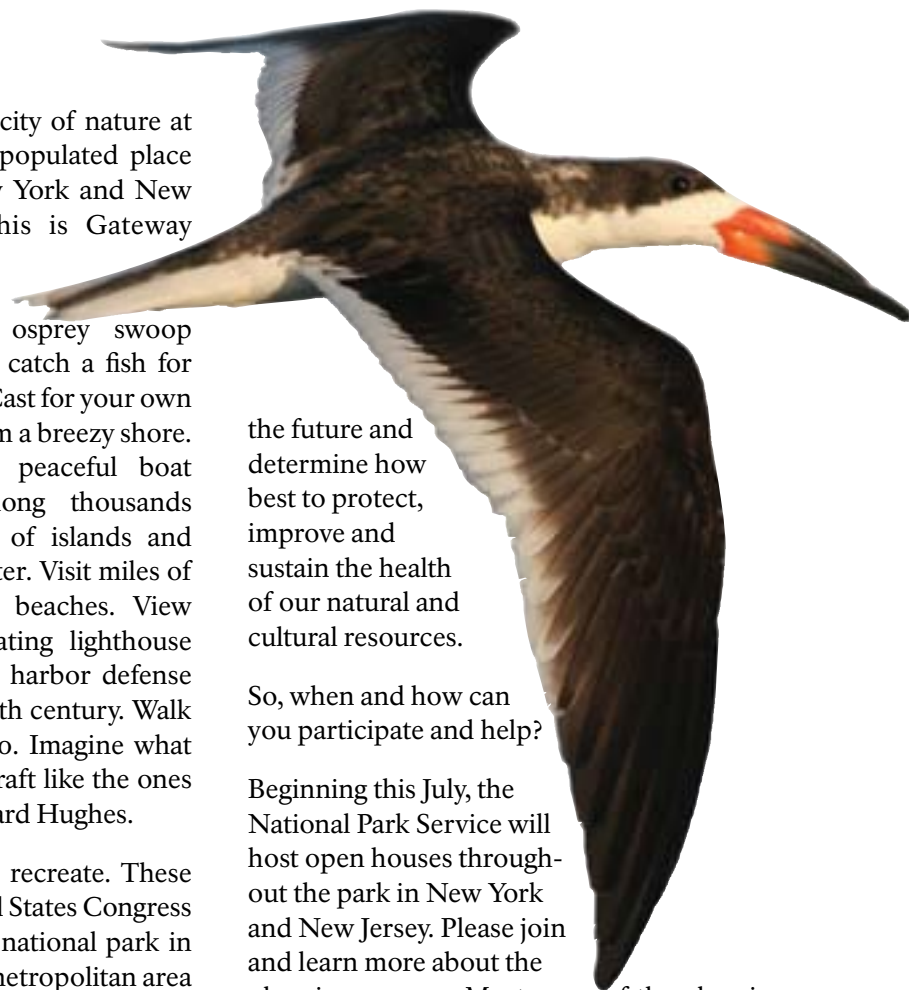
So, when and how can you participate and help?

Beginning this July, the National Park Service will host open houses throughout the park in New York and New Jersey. Please join and learn more about the planning process. Meet some of the planning team and share your observations, concerns, and ideas about your national park. These open houses are just a first step. Please see page 7 for locations of these gatherings and learn how to join our mailing list, submit comments and stay informed as the plan progresses.

In order for Gateway National Recreation Area to reach its full potential we must combine National Park Service expertise with the life experience of our visitors. I look forward to working with each of you as we create a shared vision for our wonderful resources.

Sincerely,

Barry T. Sullivan
Superintendent,
Gateway National Recreation Area



Gateway to the National Park Experience

Located in the heart of urban America, Gateway National Recreation Area brings National Park Service programs closer to more people than ever before. It is truly a “gateway” to the national park experience. When Gateway National Recreation Area was added to the National Park System in 1972 it brought a new concept of national public lands. National parks weren’t just ‘out west’ anymore, they were right here at the doorstep of the country’s largest city.

Gateway covers more than 40 square miles in New York and New Jersey. That’s an area nearly twice the size of the island of Manhattan. The park attracts over 9 million visitors a year—making it the third most visited National Park in America. Why does Gateway attract so many people?

The woods, waters and beaches at Gateway are the perfect place for ocean swimming, nature walks, sailing, bicycling, bird watching, camping, astronomy and fishing. In the middle of these natural areas, you can stroll through an historic aircraft hangar or tour forts that reveal important stories in our nation’s history.

All of this natural beauty is surrounded by a metropolitan area that is the nation’s center for media, finance, education and medicine; and it is home to the largest, most diverse population in the United States. Because of this setting, Gateway offers a premiere national park experience to millions of people and engages a multitude of people as partners and stakeholders in the great challenges of the new century. We hope you will join us as we shape the Gateway journey for the next generation.



WHY PLAN?

National parks exist in increasingly complex environments with competing and varied demands placed upon them. The U.S. population is growing older and more diverse, children are spending less time outdoors, and technology is bringing rapid changes. The National Park Service is challenged to stay relevant in a fast paced and ever changing environment. The new General Management Plan will help us build common ground to navigate the years ahead.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

There are almost 400 national parks in the United States and the diversity of these parks is reflected in the variety of titles given to them. These include such designations as national park, national preserve, national recreation area, national historic site and national monument, to name just a few. Gateway is designated a national recreation area. These are lands and waters set aside for recreational use by acts of Congress and now includes major areas in urban centers, like Gateway National Recreation Area.

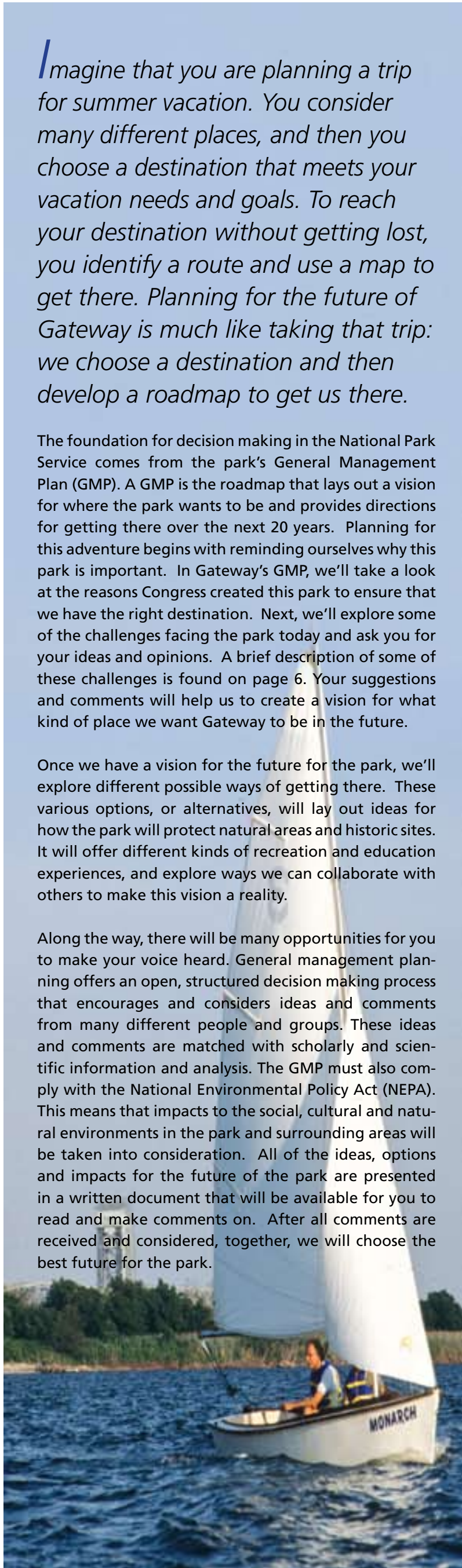
The Gateway General Management Plan: Roadmap to the Future

Imagine that you are planning a trip for summer vacation. You consider many different places, and then you choose a destination that meets your vacation needs and goals. To reach your destination without getting lost, you identify a route and use a map to get there. Planning for the future of Gateway is much like taking that trip: we choose a destination and then develop a roadmap to get us there.

The foundation for decision making in the National Park Service comes from the park’s General Management Plan (GMP). A GMP is the roadmap that lays out a vision for where the park wants to be and provides directions for getting there over the next 20 years. Planning for this adventure begins with reminding ourselves why this park is important. In Gateway’s GMP, we’ll take a look at the reasons Congress created this park to ensure that we have the right destination. Next, we’ll explore some of the challenges facing the park today and ask you for your ideas and opinions. A brief description of some of these challenges is found on page 6. Your suggestions and comments will help us to create a vision for what kind of place we want Gateway to be in the future.

Once we have a vision for the future for the park, we’ll explore different possible ways of getting there. These various options, or alternatives, will lay out ideas for how the park will protect natural areas and historic sites. It will offer different kinds of recreation and education experiences, and explore ways we can collaborate with others to make this vision a reality.

Along the way, there will be many opportunities for you to make your voice heard. General management planning offers an open, structured decision making process that encourages and considers ideas and comments from many different people and groups. These ideas and comments are matched with scholarly and scientific information and analysis. The GMP must also comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This means that impacts to the social, cultural and natural environments in the park and surrounding areas will be taken into consideration. All of the ideas, options and impacts for the future of the park are presented in a written document that will be available for you to read and make comments on. After all comments are received and considered, together, we will choose the best future for the park.



Get Involved with the GMP Now

One of the goals of the GMP is to create, build and nurture long-lasting relationships among the park’s diverse communities. Your ideas, expectations and concerns about the future of this park, as well as those expressed by other interested individuals, organizations and agencies, are important to us. We look forward to hearing from you and welcome other ideas that you believe the GMP should consider. Suggestions and comments will be collected at the Open Houses, through the website, and by sending a comment form to the park’s address. Other ways to keep involved with the GMP include:

- Stay connected to the project by visiting <http://www.nps.gov/gate> where you can also sign up for news alerts, read newsletters and find related reading materials.
- Attend open houses and other park events.
- Share your ideas, questions and comments in person or online.
- Encourage your neighbors and friends to visit Gateway and to also become involved.

Planning Process for the General Management Plan		
Estimated Time Frame	Planning Activity	Ways to Be Involved
Summer 2009	Scoping —identify ideas, expectations, and comments related to the park with the public, government agencies and other stakeholders.	Review newsletter and send us your ideas and concerns. Attend an Open House, learn about the project and voice your ideas and concerns.
Summer 2010	Develop and Present Preliminary Alternatives —Outline different possible options for the park and provide opportunities for review and comment by public, partners, government agencies and other stakeholders.	Review newsletter and send us your ideas and concerns. Attend an Open House and comment on the preliminary alternatives.
Spring/Summer 2011	Prepare and Distribute a Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement —Review and comment by public, partners, government agencies and other stakeholders.	Attend an Open House and voice your ideas and concerns. Review the Draft GMP/EIS and provide written comments.
Winter 2012	Revise Draft Plan and Prepare a Final General Management Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement	Review the Final GMP/EIS.
Summer 2012	Implement the Approved Plan —Prepare and issue a “Record of Decision” and implement plan as funding allows.	Work with Gateway to implement the plan.



The Starting Gate: Where the Journey Begins



There’s a first step at the beginning of every journey. The first step in a park’s general management planning effort is creating a Foundation Statement. The Foundation Statement is used to guide current and future planning and management of Gateway National Recreation Area. This Statement is grounded in the park’s legislation and provides a shared understanding of what is most important about the park.

The Foundation Statement defines each of the following elements:

Park Purpose

The park purpose is a specific reason why Congress and/or the president established the park as a unit of the national park system. The purpose statement provides the most fundamental criteria against which the appropriateness of all planning recommendations, operational decisions, and actions are tested. The purpose of each park is based in the enabling legislation and legislative history.

Park Significance

Guided by legislation and the knowledge acquired through management, research, and civic engagement, statements of significance define what is most important about the park’s resources and values. Each area of the park contains many significant resources, but not all these resources contribute to why the park was designated. The purpose and significance statements are used to guide planning and management decisions to ensure that the resources and values that Congress and the president wanted preserved are the first priority.

Fundamental Resources and Values

The National Park Service works to ensure that those resources and values that are fundamental to maintaining the park’s purpose and significance are preserved for public enjoyment. Understanding the fundamental resources and values that support each significance statement will provide managers and their staff with a focus on what is truly most important about each park. If the fundamental resources and values are degraded, then the significance of what is most important about the park may be jeopardized.

Other Important Resources and Values

Many resources and values are determined to be important in their own right even though they are not related to the park’s purpose and significance. These resources are particularly important to park management and planning and will be considered during the GMP process.

Park Purpose

Gateway National Recreation Area provides a national park experience in the country’s largest metropolitan area. The park preserves a mosaic of coastal ecosystems and natural areas interwoven with historic coastal defense and maritime sites around New York’s Outer Harbor. Beaches, marshes, waters, scenic views and open space offer resource appropriate recreational opportunities to a diverse public, recognizing the importance to preserve these special places and leave them unimpaired for future generations.

Gateway was established “in order to preserve and protect for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations an area possessing outstanding natural and recreational features.” Legislation was signed into law in October of 1972 and signified the culmination of many years of effort by citizens, planners, activists, the National Park Service, and members of Congress. The park was created a full century after the establishment of Yellowstone, the nation’s first national park. The national recreation area was a reflection of an on-going evolution of the national park concept; from a system of parks preserving the natural wonders and scenic masterpieces in relatively remote and secluded areas, to a system that included the development of several urban-edge parks that balanced natural and cultural resources with appropriate recreational opportunities.

In the 1960’s, Congress recognized that a majority of the nation was living in urban areas, where many outdoor recreation opportunities were too distant for regular use. The ability to bring “parks to people” was assisted by a shift in federal policy allowing for the appropriation of federal money to acquire shoreline area for park designation. The coastal zone lands that make up Gateway were New York and New Jersey state and municipal lands, Army and Navy installations, and some privately owned lands. Park access via public transportation was an important element, and it was estimated that 10 percent of the U.S. population lived within a 2 hour drive from a Gateway site. Each year millions of visitors experience this urban recreation area by participating in the recreational, natural, and cultural opportunities that exists at the park’s wildlife refuge, holly forest, beaches, marshes, waters, and open spaces that stretch throughout three New York City boroughs and into northern New Jersey.





Significance Statements

Significance Statement I: Gateway contains an assemblage of coastal ecosystems formed by natural features, both physical and biological, that include barrier peninsulas, estuaries, oceans, and maritime uplands. The habitats that comprise these ecosystems, so rare in such highly developed areas, support a rich biota that includes migratory birds, marine finfish and shellfish, plant communities, and rare, threatened, and endangered species. These features provide opportunities to restore, study, enhance, and experience coastal habitats and ecosystem processes.

Fundamental Resources & Values Related to Significance Statement I

- Beaches/dune system at Bergen Beach, Breezy Point Tip, Great Kills, Jacob Riis Park, Plumb Beach and Sandy Hook
- Natural Areas at Breezy Point Tip, Crooke’s Point, Floyd Bennett Field, Great Kills, Hoffman & Swinburne Islands, Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge and Sandy Hook
- Jamaica Bay waters including inlets, submerged lands, Dead Horse Bay
- Sandy Hook Maritime Forest
- Beach experience including access to ocean surf
- Direct sensory experience with natural elements
- Public access to bay and ocean shorelines
- Experience of being out on the water
- Darkness and night sky

Significance Statement II: The park includes one of the largest and most complete collections of military installations and fortifications in the country, dating from the Revolutionary Era through the 20th century. These installations served as the military defense of New York, America’s largest city. This long period of military presence has yielded one of the most extensive collections of historic military architecture in the national park system.

Fundamental Resources & Values Related to Significance Statement II

- Coastal defense resources at Fort Hancock, Fort Tilden and Fort Wadsworth including batteries, gun emplacements, buildings, collections and other associated structures
- Connections of national history

Significance Statement III: The maritime resources of Gateway include the first federally sponsored lifesaving station in the country and the oldest working lighthouse in the United States. These resources served to protect ocean commerce and enhance the safety of the busiest American seaport.

Fundamental Resource Related to Significance Statement III

- Maritime resources at Sandy Hook including the Lighthouse and Life Saving Station

Significance Statement IV: The vast and diverse park resources at the gateway to the most densely populated region of the United States provide an abundance of outstanding recreational and educational opportunities.

Fundamental Resource & Values Related to Significance Statement IV

- Historic landscape at Jacob Riis Park including the beaches, boardwalk, bathhouse and back beach area
- Feelings associated with open space in high density area
- Views of the frame of the Outer Harbor
- Undeveloped open space that is safe, designated and managed
- Parks to People story – federal government role and numbers of people in area
- Recreation experience including:
 - Nature observation such as bird watching, contemplation of physical environment, quiet, astronomy
 - Water-based such as surfing, boating, fishing and swimming
 - Walking/hiking, biking and horseback riding on trails
 - Picnicking
 - Visiting of historic sites

Other important cultural resources not related to the purpose of the park

- Civil and military aviation history resources at Floyd Bennett Field and Miller Field
- Archeological resources

We’re Interested in Hearing From You

- What are your ideas for how NPS can best protect these special natural areas and resources?*
- Who do you think should help protect the woods, wildlife and waters at Gateway?*
- What do you think should be the park’s role in helping people get to these different places at Gateway?*
- What kinds of experiences do you think should be available for people of different ages?*
- What place does new technology have in connecting the park with new audiences?*
- What do you enjoy most about the activities at the park now?*
- What types of activities should continue in the future?*

Planning Challenges

In the early stages of a GMP, NPS staff discuss the most pressing challenges they feel the GMP should address as well as ideas for making the park a better place. Sharing these assumptions and ideas with you is a critical first step in ensuring that we are on the right track. Here are some of the topics that we are interested in hearing from you:

Something for Everyone

- One of the reasons that Gateway was created by Congress was so you could enjoy many types of recreational activities for play and relaxation in natural settings. Over the years, these activities grew into new and different uses beyond natural areas, sometimes creating conflicts among people and groups and damaging these places.
- What do you enjoy most about the activities at the park now?
 - What types of activities should continue in the future?



Help Us Get Visitors Here From There

- There are three different areas of the park in New Jersey and New York that are separated by many miles. People visit these places by different forms of transportation—bus, ferry, train, car, and boat. Sometimes when people arrive at these places, they can be confused about what to see and do and how to move to another park area.
- What do you think should be the park’s role in helping people get to these different places at Gateway?
 - When you arrive at one of these sites, how should NPS greet you and explain the many options for enjoying the place?



Keys to Protection

- Gateway has many kinds of natural resources such as wildlife, beaches, marshes, and woods. Sometimes these resources experience changes from natural events, such as hurricanes. Everyday activities of people and industries nearby also have daily impacts that can accumulate over the years. If there are too many negative changes or activities, these natural places and the wildlife in them experience stress that may cause lasting problems.
- What are your ideas for how NPS can best protect these special natural areas and resources?
 - Who do you think should help protect the woods, wildlife and waters at Gateway?

Share Your Stories and Experience Cultures

- There are many fascinating stories that can help people understand the different areas at Gateway. Many people who visit the park live in the New York/New Jersey metropolitan area, a region with great diversity. The technology of the web literally has the world also at our fingertips. The support of the next generation is fundamental to securing the next twenty years and beyond of national park stewards. Youth engagement programs seek to connect children from all walks of life to the park and to empower them as caretakers of their park lands.
- What kinds of engaging, educational and exciting experiences do you think should be available at the park for people of different ages and backgrounds?
 - How do you think people who are unable to physically visit the park can learn about and experience this place?
 - What place does new technology have in connecting the park with new audiences?



Help Gateway Go Green

- Every day, NPS staff works hard to maintain hundreds of historic and modern structures throughout the park, some of which are unused and in poor condition. At the same time, Gateway is working to be a leader in keeping the park “green” by using less energy and fuel.
- What do you think the park should do with all these buildings and structures?
 - What ideas do you have for helping create a more “green” park?

Open House Transportation & Driving Information

Lot D/Sea Gull's Nest

Hartshorne Drive, Sandy Hook, NJ
(approximately 1.5 miles from the entrance booths)

- **Summer Direct Ferry Service to Sandy Hook:** Beginning Memorial Day Weekend, there is direct service to Sandy Hook from Manhattan daily with shuttle bus service from the Fort Hancock Ferry Landing to North Beach, Gunnison Beach and Beach Area E. Ferry service is provided by Seastreak (1-800-BOATRIDE) from Pier 11 and East 35th St. Please note: a \$10.00 parking fee is required to enter the park by car. Please tell the attendant that you are going to the open house and the fee will be waived.

Great Kills Beach Center

Buffalo Street (off Hylan Blvd), Staten Island, NY

- **Ferry:** Staten Island Ferry to St. George Ferry Terminal then S78 bus to Hylan Boulevard and Buffalo Street. Walk approximately 1.5 miles down Buffalo Street to Beach Center, across from marina.
- **Bus:** S78 or S79 bus to Hylan Boulevard and Buffalo Street. Walk approximately 1.5 miles down Buffalo Street to Beach Center, across from marina
- **Subway:** BMT R to 86th Street Station, Brooklyn to S79 bus to Hylan Boulevard and Buffalo Street. **Walk:** approximately 1.5 miles down Buffalo Street to Beach Center, across from marina.
 - Alternate: Subway:** MTA Staten Island Railway to Bay Terrace Station. **Walk:** approximately four blocks (blocks are of unequal distance) down Bay Terrace to Hylan Boulevard, turn left approximately eight blocks to Buffalo Street, and turn right into Beach Center, across from marina.

Riis Park, Bay 9

Rockaway Point Boulevard, Brooklyn, NY

- **Subway:** IRT #2 (also #5 at rush hours) to Flatbush Avenue, or IND "A" to Rockaway Park / Beach 116th St. Take Q35 bus from either stop to park, or Q22 from Beach 116th St.
- **Bus:** Connect with the Q35 bus along Flatbush Avenue beginning at the intersection of Nostrand Avenue. After the bridge, ask driver to let you off at either Ft. Tilden or Riis Park.
 - Alternate:** Q21 or Q53 to Beach 116th Street, then Q22 or Q35 to the park.

Please note: a \$5.00 parking fee is required to enter the park by car.

Aviator Sports @ Floyd Bennett Field

Flatbush Avenue (before Gil Hodges Bridge), Brooklyn, NY

- **Subway:** IRT #2 (also #5 at rush hours) to Flatbush Avenue, or IND "A" to Rockaway Park / Beach 116th St. Take Q35 bus from either stop to park.
- **Bus:** B41 to Nostrand Avenue, then Q35 to park.
 - Alternate:** Q21 or Q53 to Beach 116th St., then Q35 to the park.

Fort Wadsworth Visitor Center

New York Ave. & Drum St., Staten Island, NY

- **Ferry:** S51 from St. George Ferry Terminal to the park entrance on Bay Street.
- **Subway:** BMT R to 86th Street Station, Brooklyn, then S53 to McClean Avenue/Lily Pond Avenue, transfer to S51/S81 via Fort Wadsworth (only every other bus takes this route) or walk up McClean Avenue two blocks to entrance booth into Fort Wadsworth (may be unoccupied), street becomes Battery Road. Continue on Battery Road to New York Ave. Make a left on New York Ave. to Visitor Center on right, next to parking lot. Total distance approximately .6 mile
- **Bus:** S53 to McClean Avenue/Lily Pond Avenue, transfer to S51/S81 via Fort Wadsworth (only every other bus takes this route) or walk up McClean Avenue two blocks to entrance booth into Fort Wadsworth (may be unoccupied), street becomes Battery Road. Continue on Battery Road to New York Avenue. Make a left on New York Avenue to Visitor Center on right, next to parking lot. Total distance approximately .6 mile.

Hangar 4, Floyd Bennett Field

Flatbush Avenue (before Gil Hodges Bridge), Brooklyn, NY

- **Subway:** IRT #2 (also #5 at rush hours) to Flatbush Avenue, or IND "A" to Rockaway Park / Beach 116th St. Take Q35 bus from either stop to park.
- **Bus:** B41 to Nostrand Avenue, then Q35 to park.
 - Alternate:** Q21 or Q53 to Beach 116th St., then Q35 to the park.

World War Veterans Park at Miller Field

New Dorp Lane, Staten Island, NY

- **Ferry:** Staten Island Ferry to St. George Ferry Terminal then S78 bus to Hylan Boulevard and New Dorp Lane. Walk down New Dorp Lane past the high school to the park.
- **Subway:** BMT R to 86th Street Station, Brooklyn to S79 bus to Hylan Boulevard and New Dorp Lane. Walk down New Dorp Lane past the high school to the park.
 - Alternate: Subway:** MTA Staten Island Railway to New Dorp Station to S76 bus to Hylan Boulevard or walk down New Dorp Lane past Hylan Boulevard and the high school to park.

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center

Cross Bay Blvd, Queens, NY

- **Subway:** IND "A" to Broad Channel Station and walk on Noel Road to Cross Bay Boulevard. Turn right and walk about three quarters of a mile to the Refuge Visitor Center.
 - Alternate:** IND E, F, V; BMT G, R to Jackson Heights/ Roosevelt Avenue Station or IRT 7 to 74th Street-Broadway Station, then Q53 bus to refuge visitor center
- **Bus:** Q21 along Cross Bay Boulevard beginning from Liberty Avenue or 116th Street and Rockaway Point Boulevard visitor center.
 - Alternate:** Q53 bus beginning from 61st St. & Roosevelt Avenue or Beach. 116th Street and Beach Channel Drive to the refuge visitor center.

Gateway to Your National Park Experience.



Connect.



Inspire.



Enjoy.



Protect.

This newsletter is a publication of the National Park Service, Gateway National Recreation Area. For additional information please contact:
Superintendent
Gateway National Recreation Area
210 New York Avenue
Staten Island, NY, 10305;
by email at gate_gmp@nps.gov;
or call 718.354.4657.
Visit us on the web at www.nps.gov/gate.

US Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Gateway National Recreation Area
210 New York Avenue
Staten Island, NY 10305

