



Gateway State of the Park 2011

Foreword

What an exciting year to be the superintendent of America's first urban national park! Interior Secretary Ken Salazar challenged the National Parks of New York Harbor, which includes Gateway National Recreation Area, to meet his vision of a great urban park in the New York City area. That means engaging new audiences, even communities that have always been our neighbors.

When I think of national parks, I think of camping. Yes, you can set up your tent in Brooklyn and see the stars. Since the Fourth of July weekend, our campground at Floyd Bennett Field has expanded from three campsites to 41 — and there will be more! Urban camping offers visitors a full national park experience without leaving New York City. Pitch a tent or park an RV and hike, bike, kayak, fish or see our collection of historic aircraft. Of course, campers can also hop on a bus to the beach at Jacob Riis Park or catch a Broadway show in Manhattan. When rehabilitation of the former airport terminal building is complete and the art deco Ryan Visitor Center is reopened to the public, campers will be able to explore the Golden Age of Aviation.

By working with other agencies and organizations, Gateway can and will improve visitor experiences despite these tough economic times. For decades, city parks and areas of Gateway have shared borders, but little else. Why not work together to serve visitors and preserve our shared natural resources? This fall, Secretary Salazar signed an agreement with New York City so that the National Park Service can collaborate more fully and frequently with NYC on shared resources and services. Friends organizations, such as the National Parks of New York Harbor Conservancy and Sandy Hook Foundation help Gateway in many ways, from creating pilot education programs, helping us connect to diverse communities, educating people about the importance of Jamaica Bay and helping us keep swimmers safe with new lifesaving equipment. Public-private partnerships are also key to preserving endangered historic structures such as Sandy Hook's Fort Hancock.

Now it's your turn to challenge Gateway. In 2012, the park will resume public meetings concerning the revision of our General Management Plan. What should be the core mission of this great urban park? How can our resources best meet the needs of your community? Please attend these meetings and share with us your vision of Gateway's next 20 years. This was indeed an exciting year, but the next several years will be even better.

Linda Canzanelli
Superintendent



Above: Gateway Superintendent Linda Canzanelli.
NPS PHOTO.

Cover: Camping at Floyd Bennett Field with ¡Tu Parque, Tu Salud! Photo by Sebastiano Privitera, volunteer.

Connecting People to Parks



Urban camping draws new audiences

Gateway National Recreation Area has given visitors a new reason to come to New York City: camping. Floyd Bennett Field has expanded from five to 41 campsites and plans are underway to have 90 sites within the next two years. Each site has a fire pit, grill, picnic table and room for two small tents.

Since the Fourth of July weekend, almost 1,500 visitors have pitched tents or parked their RVs overnight at Floyd Bennett Field in Brooklyn. If camping continues to prove popular, the number of campsites could expand dramatically.

Overnight camping at Floyd Bennett Field advances Interior Secretary Ken Salazar's vision of a great urban park in New York City and President Obama's America's Great Outdoors initiative. Superintendent Linda Canzanelli wants Gateway to create a model for a new generation of Great Urban Parks. Canzanelli wants all New Yorkers, especially youth, to have easy access to outdoor recreation and exercise at Gateway.

But how do visitors gain the skills and comfort level to go camping on their own? *Explore The Urban Outback* offered inexperienced campers free overnight programs that teach families what to do while camping. Rangers led campers on trail and kayak excursions and demonstrated how to set up a tent and how to start and extinguish campfires.

The reaction of the public and international media has been overwhelmingly positive. Stories about the campground have appeared on German radio and in Irish, British and Italian newspapers.

In the future, Gateway hopes to make camping available at other areas of the park as well, including Staten Island and Sandy Hook.

Camping encourages youth to appreciate nature, become stewards of parks

We have built it. Now they are coming.

Outdoor Nation, an organization that empowers youth to exercise and recreate in the outdoors, held one of its five regional meetings at Floyd Bennett Field in June. Nearly 200 youth camped overnight.

The Great Urban Outdoor Event drew 500 youth to clean up Floyd Bennett Field and care for trees planted last year by MillionTreesNYC. The event was co-sponsored with the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation and the National Parks of New York Harbor Conservancy. More than 100 stayed through the night to camp out, see historic aircraft at Hangar B, sing songs and gaze at the stars — something impossible to do in most parts of New York City.



Above: Children make s'mores at Floyd Bennett Field campsite. Photo: Francesca Simondi, Fondazione CRT.

Right: Over 500 volunteers attended The Great Urban Outdoor Event, co-sponsored with NYC Parks. Youth and adults cleaned up Floyd Bennett Field. Over 100 stayed overnight to camp out. NPS PHOTO.



¡Tu Parque, Tu Salud! translates into a healthy summer for Spanish-speakers

This past summer, Gateway partnered with the American Heart Association and the National Parks of New York Harbor Conservancy to create *¡Tu Parque, Tu Salud!* (*Your Park, Your Health!*) The pilot initiative encourages Spanish-speaking New Yorkers to lead healthy and active lives by using their nearby national park lands for recreation and exercise.

All of the activities are based on the American Heart Association’s *Life’s Simple Seven Goals*: to eat better, stop smoking, control cholesterol, get active, reduce blood sugar, manage blood pressure and lose weight. Five bilingual interns dedicated their summer to learning outdoor recreation skills such as camping, kayaking and sailing. Then they designed and led programs for the public, inviting people from nearby Latino communities — who may have never before ventured through park gates — to participate.

The pilot program, which can be replicated at parks across the nation, has received strong positive responses from the Latino community. It was showcased at AHA’s Latino Summit in New York City this fall, with NPS Director Jon Jarvis calling the interns “trusted advocates” for the NPS and for healthy activities at national parks.



Above: A camper enjoys healthy exercise. PHOTO: Sebastiano Privitera, volunteer.

Top: Intern Sasha Jimenez goes sailing in Jamaica Bay. PHOTO: Francesca Simondi, Fondazione CRT (Italy).

Bottom right: A citizen makes a point during an information session on Great Kills Park. NPS PHOTO.

Great Kills Park cleanup continues

Gateway continues to follow federal law in the slow but thorough cleanup of radiological waste found at Great Kills Park. Since 2009, more than 200 acres of the park have been closed due to contamination issues. This year, working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the National Park Service hired Cabrera Services to help fulfill requirements in the CERCLA (Superfund) law. Cabrera is formulating a Community Involvement Plan and designing an extensive survey of the entire closed area by early 2012. Radioactive contamination will be removed and sampling conducted to fully identify possible risks. Once completed, the NPS will review cleanup options for correcting the problem. The best option will be presented in the Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis Report.

In October, Gateway hosted an information session about the current and future plans for the cleanup of Great Kills. The Education Field Station was at capacity crowd with several citizens asking questions. Public disclosure is not only required by federal law, but also helps the park make better decisions regarding the cleanup of the site.

Gateway looks forward to the day when all of Great Kills Park will be reopened to visitors. Until then, the park’s first priority is the safety of visitors and employees, both now and in the future.



"*Treasure Your Island* helps families learn about all the things they can do together right here on Staten Island, including visiting Fort Wadsworth."
--Park Ranger Steve Salgo

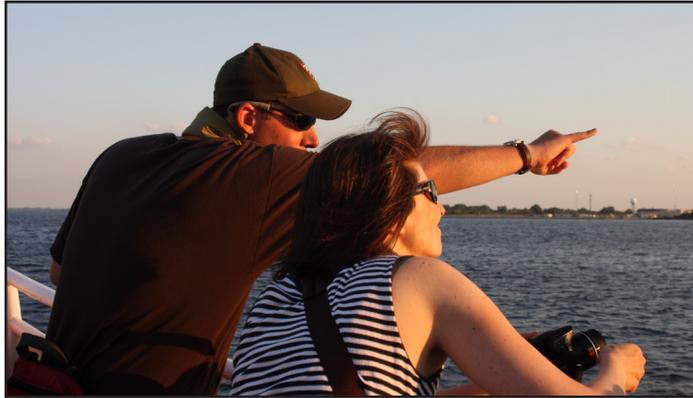


Top: Eco-cruises reveal Jamaica Bay.
PHOTO: Jerry Kasten, volunteer.

Above: Volunteers clean up North Channel Beach.
NPS PHOTO.

Runners stretch before the start of the NYC Marathon at Fort Wadsworth.
PHOTO: Sung Won Kim, volunteer.

Right: The dance troupe Red Storm at *Treasure Your Island*.
NPS PHOTO.



Park events attract history enthusiasts, nature lovers, music fans

This year, Gateway hosted a wide variety of programs for visitors, most of them free: concerts on the beach, kayaking, sailing, military recreations and nature walks and cruises.

The best way to see Jamaica Bay is by water. Since visitors cannot land on salt marsh islands, eco-cruises allow visitors to appreciate this threatened habitat without disturbing wildlife. Rangers on board highlight what the National Park Service and its partners are doing to preserve the bay as well as the human history of using the bay and shoreline. For those who prefer smaller watercraft, kayaking and sailing programs continued to draw visitors to Floyd Bennett Field.

For Earth Day, more than 100 volunteers cleaned the beaches at the Congressman Joseph P. Addabbo (North Channel) Bridge. This is the third Earth Day where the local Hindu community has partnered with Gateway to clean up the beach, which is used for rituals by Hindus and others.

In April, Sandy Hook hosted Ocean Fun Day, presented by New Jersey Natural Gas in partnership with New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium. Coastal Defenses Day, which took place the same day, included the grand opening of the Mortar Battery. The Sandy Hook Foundation hired a trolley to take visitors to the various sites.

The Foundation continues to help keep Sandy Hook events new and innovative. This year, they sponsored a summer beach concert series that drew a record of nearly 50,000 visitors. They also assisted in programs featuring Loyalist soldiers at the Lighthouse; Armored Cavalry at History House; and, tours of the Mortar Battery.

In 2011, Gateway observed the 350th anniversary of the Dutch settlement of Staten Island by working with SI350, a consortium of over 30 organizations. The park helped to plan and host lectures and activities, including military recreations.

Almost 50,000 runners gathered at Fort Wadsworth in November for the start of New York City's annual Marathon.

Treasure Your Island raises community awareness on Staten Island

Over 3,500 visitors attended the third annual "Treasure Your Island Community Awareness Day" April 10 at Fort Wadsworth. This is the first time Fort Wadsworth has hosted the event. Visitors learned about 28 Staten Island community and cultural organizations and enjoyed music and dance from several performers and five different public schools on Staten Island— P.S. 3, 36, 65, 59 and Susan Wagner High School. Historic reenactors from the Army Ground Forces Association traced the island's founding by Europeans in 1661 through its military history to the present day.



Advancing the NPS Education Mission



Above: A Park Ranger focuses a microscope for a new Junior Ranger. NPS PHOTO.

Top: Staten Islanders learn how to compost at Naturefest. NPS PHOTO.

Teachers gather data at Sandy Hook. PHOTO: New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium

Right: Teacher-Ranger-Teacher Tracy Hall helps gather beach plums. NPS PHOTO.



Hands-on programs make learning fun

Thousands of elementary and middle school students from New York City neighborhoods visited Great Kills Park, Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge and Dead Horse Bay this fall to participate in *Operation Explore*. The multi-agency program, now in its 37th year, fosters knowledge of natural science and hones students' observation skills. Gateway partners with other organizations for events such as *Clean Ocean Action Student Summit*, where 900 students visit Sandy Hook for hands-on science, and *A Day in the Life of the Hudson River*, where schools up and down the Hudson test water quality.

Encouraging today's youth to participate at parks inspires children to be lifelong learners and park stewards. Thanks to the President's *Let's Move Outside* initiative, Junior Rangers now hike, kayak and even learn firefighting skills. Sandy Hook's *Junior Junior Ranger* program caters to children ages 2-4. *Crustacean of the Day* allows young, diverse groups of visitors the chance to see and touch several crab species. Great Kills Park hosted *Naturefest*, an annual event that introduces families to nature and science organizations on Staten Island.

NPS Teacher-Ranger-Teachers work at national parks for a summer. During the school year, they share their experience with students and integrate park resources into their lesson plans. Gateway doubled its involvement with the Teacher-

Ranger-Teacher Program this summer. Patrick Mohamed, who teaches earth science in Rockaway Park, worked at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. Tracy Hall, who teaches fifth grade in Willingboro, New Jersey, worked at Sandy Hook.

Partners help pilot education programs

In Red Bank, New Jersey, middle school students will go to Sandy Hook to learn geoscience using inquiry-based learning, integrated science topics and hands-on technology. The New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium, Rutgers University, Brookdale Community College and the Sandy Hook Foundation are piloting an education program funded by the National Science Foundation. The curricula was developed and piloted with teachers and administrators from Red Bank Middle School. Once finalized, lessons will be available to all schools.

A cooperative effort between Gateway, university partners and Sandy Hook Foundation will bring the study of climate change and coastal habitats to Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge as well. Thanks to a 2011 Environmental Leadership Grant from Unilever, a walkway will be built so that students can get closer to a salt marsh for hands-on learning. Signs and posters will describe the effects of climate change on Gateway's Great Kills Park, Jamaica Bay and Sandy Hook.

At Floyd Bennett Field, Brooklyn College Professor Mike Schoenfeld and two graduate student interns worked with NPS staff over the summer researching and writing a series of sixth grade lesson plans about Floyd Bennett Field, and conducting oral history interviews of people who had earlier connections to Floyd Bennett Field.



"Sandy Hook is a secret, wild world in the shadow of New York City... We always find surprises here."

--Tim Dillingham, Director, American Littoral Society



BioBlitz counts Sandy Hook species

Sandy Hook, one of the few barrier coastal environments in New Jersey, hosted its first BioBlitz September 16-17. Nearly 150 citizen scientists identified approximately 450 species during the 24-hour wildlife survey. Species included birds, terrestrial plants and invertebrates. Data collected will help the National Park Service make better decisions about how to integrate wildlife preservation with history and recreation.

Beachgoers depend on Sandy Hook's natural systems as well. During Hurricane Irene, sand dunes held together because plants such as beach grasses, goldenrod and even poison ivy held the beach in place. These plants depend on pollinators such as bees and bats. As sea level rise and climate change alter our world, the data collected at BioBlitz will help the NPS determine how to protect these dynamic habitats.

The American Littoral Society (ALS), one of several natural science organizations with offices at Sandy Hook's Fort Hancock, co-hosted the event. Students and scientists from several organizations participated, including the Marine Academy for Science and Technology (a high school located within the park), Rutgers University, Brookdale Community College, NOAA, Georgian Court University and New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium.



Top and above:
Scenes from Sandy Hook's BioBlitz.

PHOTO: Francesca Simondi, Fondazione CRT (Italy).

Bottom right:
Researchers record data concerning Jamaica Bay's salt marsh islands. NPS PHOTO.

State of the Bay symposium focuses on solutions for Jamaica Bay

Over 250 scientists, students and environmentalists attended State of the Bay--Revisited: Past, Present and Future. The day-long symposium took place on October 20 at Brooklyn College, which cosponsored the event along with the New York City Department of Environmental Protection and New York Sea Grant.

Although Jamaica Bay was hit hard by urbanization in the 20th century, the state of the bay is much better than it was when Gateway was founded in 1972. Key to this success is the collaboration and sharing of data among federal, state and city agencies as well as citizen action groups. Scientists and activists discussed how to help the bay recover even further by restoring deteriorated salt marshes, using algae to clean wastewater, planting eelgrass and piloting new oyster reefs, among other subjects. The next day, registrants took a tour of Jamaica Bay to visit key research sites relating to the previous days presentations. Researchers and project leaders provided on-site information and background while also addressing questions from the audience.

In her keynote address, Professor Denise J. Reed of the University of New Orleans challenged participants to reframe the issue of estuarine habitat restoration. Wetland restoration will be more likely to gain public support when it can be shown to help solve other problems as well. For more information from the symposium, visit <http://www.nps.gov/gate/naturescience/stateofthebaysymposium.htm>.



Preserving America's Special Places



Gateway recovers from Hurricane Irene

Gates weighing 300 pounds each blew off their hinges. Offices became oversized sandboxes. Basements flooded when Hurricane Irene hit Gateway August 27 during high tide. Three days later, most of the park had reopened to visitors, thanks to prior planning and hundreds of employees shoveling, sweeping and mopping up.

To date, the park estimates \$33 million in damages related in whole or in part to the storm. The largest cost, repair of the Riis Park parking lot, is \$25 million. Several beaches experienced significant erosion, including Great Kills Park,

Above: recovery at Jacob Riis Park meant moving tons of sand back onto the beach by Labor Day weekend.
NPS PHOTO.

Right, clockwise from top: An office at the Riis Park bathhouse; water flooding the walkway to Gunnison Beach, Sandy Hook; erosion at Great Kills Park, Staten Island.
NPS PHOTO.



Plumb Beach and Jacob Riis Park. Hazardous road conditions and flooding kept both Fort Tilden and popular Gunnison Beach closed for weeks.

Jamaica Bay sustained the most damage. The bathhouse at Jacob Riis Park was hit hard; its glass doors were blown in, permitting four feet of sand to fill its interior. Tons of sand had to be moved back onto the beach. Riis Park reopened in time for Labor Day weekend. Superintendent Linda Canzanelli thanked staff for their rapid and safe response and teamwork.

The advance preparations of Gateway staff kept employees, families and visitors safe during and after the Category 1 hurricane. Despite the treacherous weather, no accidents or injuries took place during the storm. Social media played a new role as well, providing timely information about safety concerns and quick responses to visitor inquiries concerning when areas might reopen to the public.



Protecting species and habitats



Jamaica Bay salt marsh islands lose between 15 and 35 acres per year. Restoration of these habitats is critical for the species that depend on them. Gateway is working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in planning and monitoring salt marsh restoration. Federal funds are matched in part by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) to restore these dwindling areas. Clean sand from Rockaway Inlet and Ambrose Channel will be added to Yellow Bar Island once USACE dredges the channel this winter, with grading and planting of about 42 acres to occur in 2012. Projects for the restoration of Plumb Beach in Brooklyn and Rulers Bar and Black Wall islands in the bay are in their final planning stages.

A thriving Jamaica Bay would also include eelgrass and a healthy oyster and bay scallop population. Bay scallops, which filter bay water, normally attach to eelgrass in their early life stages. Gateway is partnering with Cornell University Cooperative Extension and NYCDEP to test eelgrass survival in Jamaica Bay. In November a new high-density plot of 8,000 eelgrass plants was installed on the bay side of Breezy Point tip. This pilot plot will be monitored to see if further plots are feasible.

Before the NPS can place new genetic varieties of oysters, bay scallops and eelgrass into the bay, scientists must figure out if remnant, locally-evolved species survive there now. This fall, about two dozen students at Urban Assembly New York Harbor School, located on Governors Island, are donning SCUBA gear to search for evidence of oysters or bay scallops. Led by teachers Joe Gessert and Liv Dillon, students have found two adult bay scallops so far. Their work will continue next spring.



The threatened piping plover flies all the way from the Caribbean to spend its summers at Gateway. The park provides protection to these nesting shorebirds, building exclosures to keep nest sites safe from predators and closing off segments of the beach to protect them from human disturbance. The result: Gateway's population of the threatened birds is steady in the long term. This year, 16 breeding pairs fledged 16 chicks at the Jamaica Bay Unit. At Sandy Hook, home to about 40% of New Jersey's piping plover nesting pairs, 49 breeding pairs fledged 77 chicks.

Hungry goats preserve military history

Goats returned to Fort Wadsworth this summer to preserve Fort Wadsworth historic structures by doing what they do best — eat. The goats feast on weeds that grow in the cracks of Battery Duane, undermining its structural integrity. They can eat up to ten pounds of weeds per day, providing a green alternative to weed removal and can easily climb steep structures where humans and gas-powered machines cannot go. They are also popular with visitors, but do not pet them unless you want to get poison ivy, which goats love to eat!



Above: Goats stand atop Battery Duane, Fort Wadsworth.
NPS PHOTO.

Above: These bay scallops were found in Jamaica Bay.

Top: High school students get ready to dive into Jamaica Bay. BOTH PHOTOS: Urban Assembly NY Harbor School.

Right: A piping plover finds a meal at Breezy Point.
PHOTO: Shervin Hess, volunteer.

"You feel emotional ownership of this place. Yes, it belongs to everybody, but you get to know it like you'd know a friend."
 --*Shervin Hess, Volunteer*



Top: Volunteers from Bloomberg LLC and the American Littoral Society hoist an osprey platform.
 NPS PHOTO.

Above: Volunteers from the Church of God haul heavy lumber. PHOTO: Don Riepe, American Littoral Society.

Volunteer Shervin Hess (right) with Park Ranger Tony Luscombe. PHOTO: Irene Roxanne Hess.



For years, volunteer Shervin Hess has helped protect piping plover nests at Breezy Point. Last year, he wanted a bigger challenge. Park Ranger Tony Luscombe suggested the cleanup of Breezy Point's salt marsh, sometimes called Rocky Point.

For the next year, Hess visited the salt marsh almost every week, clocking in about 500 hours. The salt marsh was clogged with decades of debris, mainly lumber washed up from the harbor. Hess, a TV director and producer by trade, called on his friends and fellow NPS volunteers with the piping plover program. Luscombe provided logistical support.

For the heavy lifting, Hess reached out to Don Riepe of the American Littoral Society. Riepe steered larger groups, such as churches and businesses, to volunteer for a day at the marsh. Approximately 600 volunteers have helped out by removing tons of lumber over the past year.

Clearing debris allows marsh waters to ebb and flow. This attracts wildlife, from mussels to shorebirds, back to the area. For Earth Day, volunteers hoisted an osprey nest platform built out of materials salvaged from the marsh. Wood duck and bat boxes were also built with salvaged materials.

In the fall Hess moved to his hometown of Portland, Oregon, with his wife Irene and newborn son. Volunteer-in-Parks Kim-Nora Moses will coordinate the cleanup of the western half of

the marsh and will update the blog with photos, and videos. Visit <http://marshmakers.blogspot.com>.

(Below: four seasons of progress at Rocky Point. Photos by Shervin Hess.)



Making Gateway safer, cleaner, more fun

Areas throughout Gateway received renovation or restoration through numerous maintenance projects. Jacob Riis Park in Queens received several capital improvements this year: automated operation of the kiddie water park, renovated play areas, repaired basketball hoops, painted light poles and repaired fencing at baseball fields.



At nearby Riis Landing, the breakwater was rebuilt this year. This landing area accommodates public ferries, NPS watercraft and U.S. Park Police rescue boats.

Several structures at Floyd Bennett Field were repaired or renovated. The Ryan Visitor Center is in the final stages of its transformation back to its glory days in the 1930s when it was the city airport's main terminal. It will reopen by spring 2012. The roof of the Environmental Study Center was repaired.



Top right: Renovated play area at Jacob Riis Park. NPS PHOTO.

Above: Labor from New Jersey's Department of Corrections cleaned 50 tons of debris off Sandy Hook beaches. NPS PHOTO.

Solar compactor trash bins at Great Kills Park.
NPS PHOTOS.

Right: workers seal historic buildings at Fort Hancock.
NPS PHOTO

American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) funding helped Gateway correct several longstanding maintenance issues. Outdated, dangerous high voltage switchgear and breakers were replaced at Floyd Bennett Field with safer modern equipment. A new HVAC system was installed in Hangar B, home to Gateway's collection of historic aircraft.

At Sandy Hook's historic Fort Hancock, the park tackled longterm safety and maintenance issues. Asbestos and other



hazardous materials were removed from the Mortar Battery and Battery Gunnison. Broken windows and leaky roofs on Officers Row were sealed to the weather, thanks to seed money from the Sandy Hook Foundation.

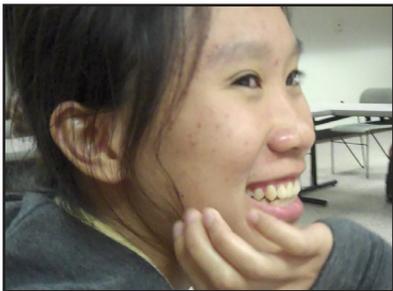
Fans of Sandy Hook's popular Multi-Use Path (MUP) can look forward to new improvements. New exercise equipment has been placed just off the MUP near the lighthouse, to promote healthy living in America's national parks. Equipment was purchased by the Sandy Hook Foundation. Phase III of the MUP will extend the path to Nine-Gun Battery and connect Gunnison Beach Center with Guardian Park.

An ongoing partnership with the Sandy Hook Foundation and the state of New Jersey's Departments of Corrections and Environmental Protection keeps Sandy Hook beaches clean. More than 50 tons of debris were removed from ocesanside beaches this February. Bayside beaches are cleaned in the fall.

Gateway's garbage goes green

In the spring, Gateway installed six BigBelly® Solar Compactor trash and recycle bins at Frank Charles Park and Jacob Riis Park in Queens and Miller Field on Staten Island. Solar power compacts the trash inside, which reduces the frequency of collections. It is expected that the overall savings in labor costs will more than pay for the initial purchase. If this is the case, look for more "high tech" trash bins throughout Gateway.

Enhancing Organizational Excellence



Top: YIP and YCC students heave-ho on board the *Friendship*.
NPS PHOTO.

Above: YCC students trim vegetation at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. *NPS PHOTO.*

YIP intern Eve Pan enjoying weekly group discussions. *NPS PHOTO.*

Right: YCC interns work at NPS sites throughout New York Harbor. *NPS PHOTO.*



Youth pull together at Harbor Parks

Two programs—the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) and Youth Internship Program (YIP)—expose local youth to a variety of career choices at the National Parks of New York Harbor. YCC staff visit visitor centers, herd goats at Fort Wadsworth, give informal tours, assist with public programs and help repair historic airplanes at Hanger B.

YIP, now in its second year, takes YCC students to the next level. College students agree to work multiple summers at NPNH sites, including Gateway, where they work, receive educational training and gain leadership skills.

This year, YIP grew from six to 12 interns, who were placed not only at NPS sites in New York but at partner and affiliate work sites as well: the Battery Park Conservancy, Sea Streak and the Lower East Side Tenement Museum. Interns developed and delivered educational presentations and trainings, coordinated and planned trips.

In August, YIP interns assisted their brethren from Lowell National Historical Park in a Youth Summit that took place on board the *Friendship*, a replica of a ship from the 1800s. This was followed by an overnight campout at Ecology Village in Floyd Bennett Field with YCC and YIP employees throughout the Northeast Region of the NPS.

NPS Missions Guiding Principles steered the 38 enrollees and interns throughout the summer. Daily discussions incorporated the Guiding Principles into trips, training and weekly group activities.

At the end of the summer, a recognition ceremony at Federal Hall honored their achievements. Enrollees interpreted NPNH sites through dance, interpretive talks, skits and PowerPoint presentations.



"As many times as first responders administer CPR, they seldom get to see the results. To be part of this person's survival is amazing."
--Fire Chief Tim Regan



Safety guides park operations

Nothing is more important to Gateway than the health and safety of our visitors and employees.

As part of the *America is Your Park* campaign, Coca-Cola donated \$10,000 to the Sandy Hook Foundation to purchase a lifeguard boat. The donation was presented at the 27th annual All-Women Lifeguard Tournament. The event promotes women's contributions to saving lives in a field that remains largely male. More than 150 women competed this year.

This summer, through a National Park Foundation grant, Sandy Hook placed bilingual signs on the bayside beaches to warn visitors of hazardous conditions. These unguarded beaches are popular with many visitors, particularly those who speak languages other than English. Unlike previous summers, no fatalities occurred at any of Gateway's beaches.

Safety requires that all employees know what to do before an emergency occurs or, better yet, how to prevent emergencies from taking place. In addition to Operational Leadership training, maintenance employees received training in chainsaw safety, while firefighters took training in fighting wildland fires and fires in structures. Training in the handling of hazardous materials was offered as were classes in CPR, using a defibrillator, defensive driving and basic first aid.

Employees, quick as lightning, save lives

On August 1, the quick actions of Sandy Hook personnel helped save the life of a swimmer struck by lightning. After being warned about an approaching storm, the visitor was coming ashore at Beach Area B when he was struck by the lightning bolt. He immediately went into cardiac arrest.

The first responders at the scene were two seasonal Emergency Medical Technicians, Dan Evankow and Dan Palvino, who used a defibrillator to restart his heart. Rangers Jestin Fisher and Matt Popores took turns administering CPR in the parking lot until he was rushed to Monmouth Medical Center by Sea Bright First Aid. After spending several days in a medically induced coma, the man was revived and later discharged with no apparent medical issues.

Monmouth County awarded a Unit Citation for Meritorious Service for the combined efforts of seven SHU employees who saved three persons from drowning in June 2010. The employees are: Kevin Heuser, Ted Johnson, Alex Krstevski, Rob Loudon, Tim Regan, Pat Strang and Pete Tortorell.



Top: Contestants carry a surfboat at All-Women Lifeguard tournament. Photo by Mary DiBiase Blaiich.

Above: A \$10,000 donation from Coca-Cola will help save lives. Photo courtesy of Coca-Cola.

Right: Sandy Hook rangers receive a citation from Monmouth County for lifesaving efforts. NPS PHOTO.





National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Gateway National Recreation Area
210 New York Avenue
Staten Island, New York 10305

First Class Mail
Postage and Fees
PAID
City, State
Permit No. xxx
