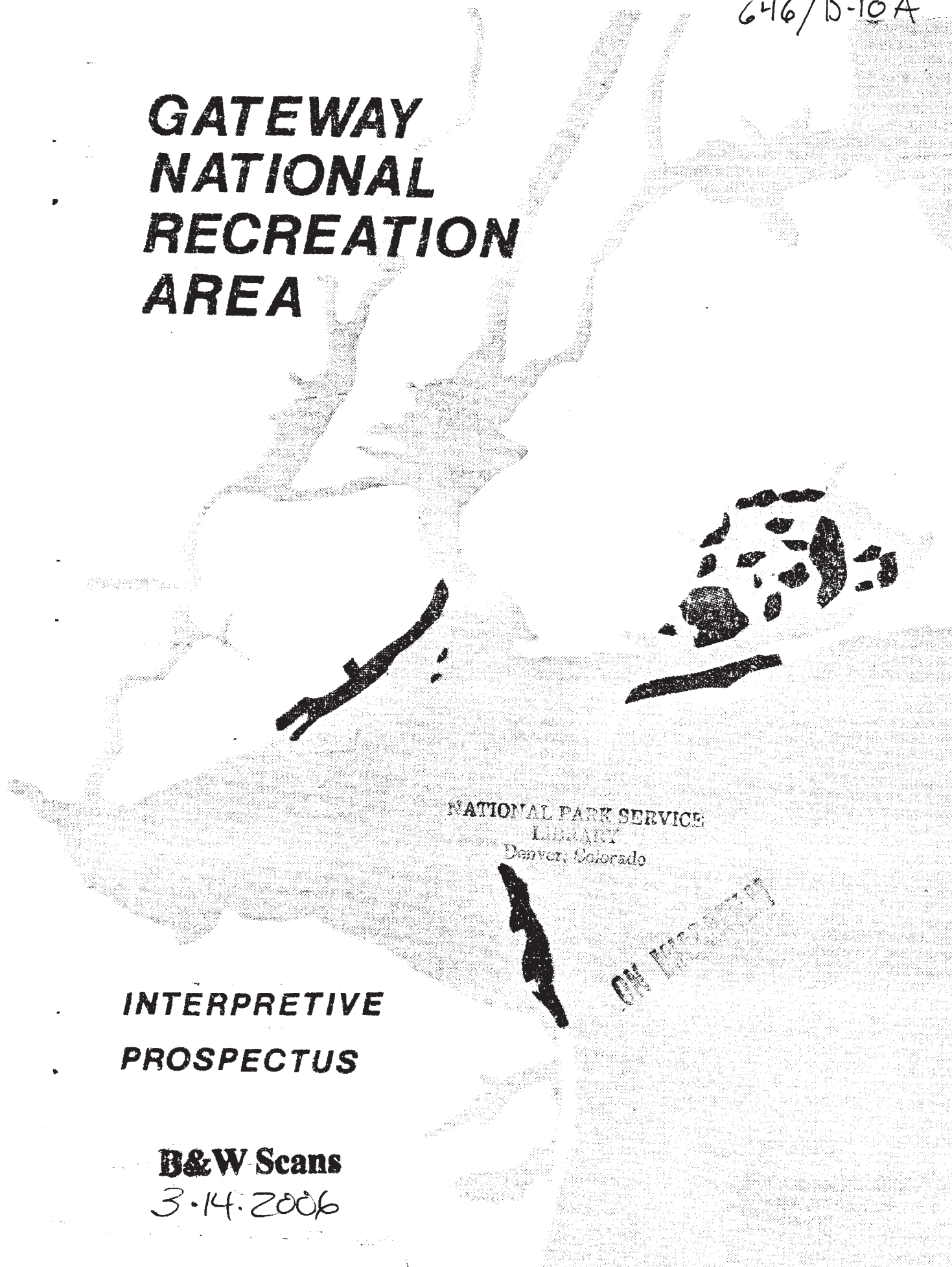


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GATEWAY NATIONAL RECREATION AREA



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ON MARCH 14 2006

**INTERPRETIVE
PROSPECTUS**

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3.14.2006

GATEWAY NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

Jamaica Bay Unit
Breezy Point Unit
Staten Island Unit
Sandy Hook Unit

INTERPRETIVE PROSPECTUS

NEW YORK - NEW JERSEY

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
LIBRARY
Denver, Colorado

Recommended by Supt. Herbert S. Cables, Jr.
memo of June 26, 1978

Approved by Deputy Regional Director
Denis P. Galvin memo of July 18, 1978

ON MONITOR

LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

All actions proposed in this plan must comply with the provisions of Section 106 of the 1966 Historic Preservation Act and Executive Order 11593 as codified in the Procedures of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (36 CFR Part 800). Prior to a decision to implement any provisions of this plan, these procedures require that all cultural resources in or near the project areas must be identified and evaluated in terms of the National Register Criteria of Eligibility. The evaluation must be done by appropriate professionals for the Regional Director in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer. Additionally, the Criteria of Effect and the Criteria of Adverse Effect (36 CFR Part 800.8 and 800.9) must be applied by appropriate professionals for the Regional Director in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer and the Advisory Council Procedures completed as appropriate.

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DEFINITION STATEMENT

This Interpretive Prospectus is the first phase of the interpretive planning effort for Gateway. The Prospectus is a short-range media prescription that will be used as a programming tool for an interim interpretive effort for all Gateway units. The Prospectus is basically a media prescription from which hardware and software -- indoor exhibits, outdoor exhibits, audiovisuals, and publications -- are produced. The Prospectus identifies themes, selects media, and establishes the interpretive objective of each theme/media proposal.

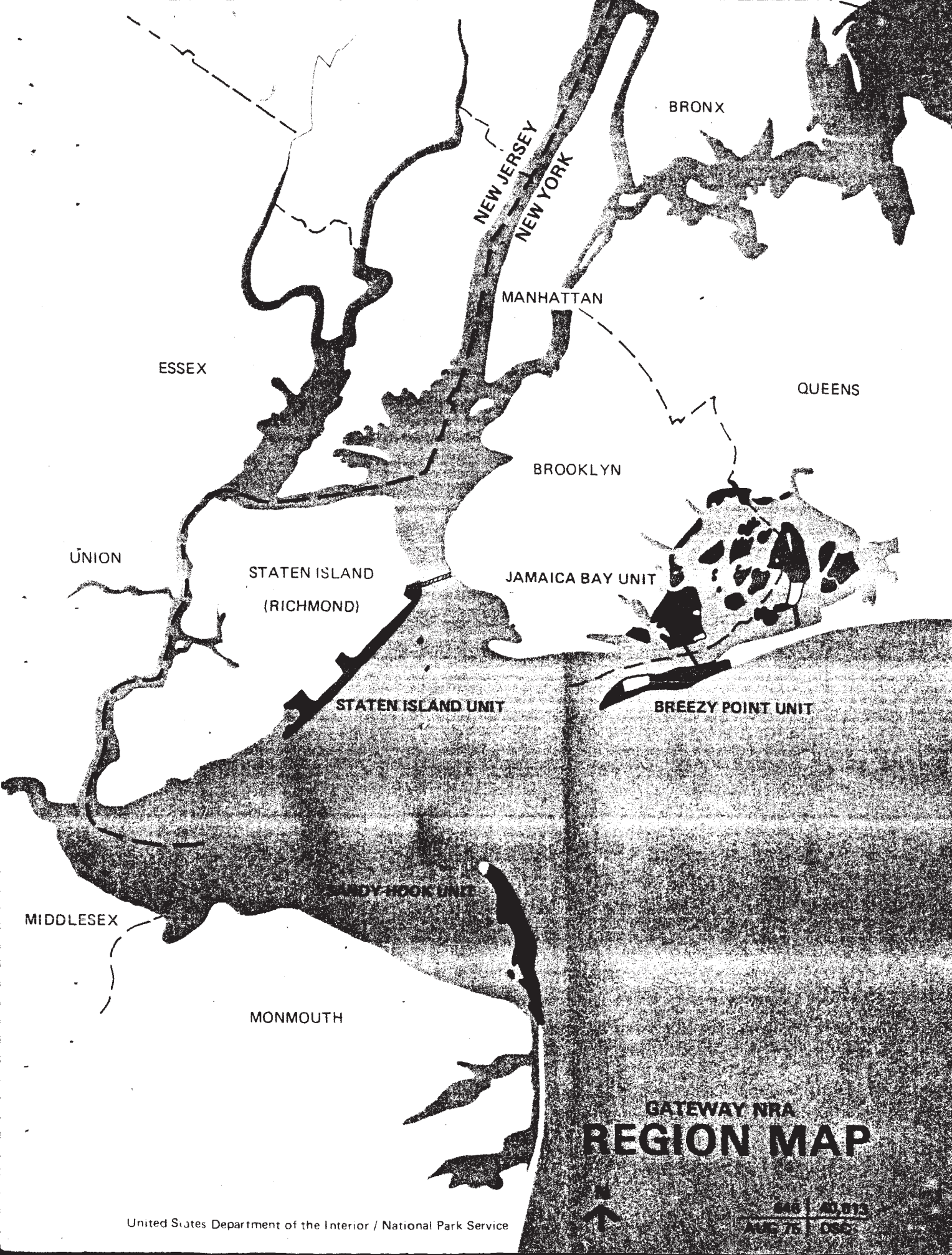
THE INTERPRETIVE PROSPECTUS SOLVES INTERIM NEEDS

AND IS AN INTERIM DOCUMENT.

The Interpretive Plan is the second phase of the interpretive planning effort for Gateway and will begin following the approval of the General Management Plan (GMP). The Interpretive Plan is an expansion of the concepts put forward in the GMP and is directly dependent on the existence of an approved GMP. The Interpretive Plan has far reaching implications and sets the stage for Gateway's interpretive future. This Plan is also a media prescription, however, it addresses itself to the long-range concepts as defined by the GMP. As the long-range interpretive concepts (Interpretive Plan) replace the interim media proposals (Interpretive Prospectus), the products from the latter will be shifted to

secondary uses. The nature of the Gateway planning process suggests that the Interpretive Plan will be a continually evolving document.

It is recommended that an Interpretive Planner with consultant support (if required) be responsible for preparing the Interpretive Plan and for monitoring its stages of development.



BRONX

NEW JERSEY
NEW YORK

MANHATTAN

ESSEX

QUEENS

BROOKLYN

UNION

STATEN ISLAND
(RICHMOND)

JAMAICA BAY UNIT

STATEN ISLAND UNIT

BREEZY POINT UNIT

SANDY HOOK UNIT

MIDDLESEX

MONMOUTH

GATEWAY NRA
REGION MAP



INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE

Gateway National Recreation Area, by its enabling act of October 27, 1972, (Public Law 92-592, 85 Stat. 1308), was established to "preserve and protect for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations an area possessing outstanding natural and recreational features..."

Bordering the greater New York/New Jersey metropolitan region, this park encompasses some of the last remaining open space surrounding New York Harbor and could potentially accommodate more visitors than any other unit of the National Park System.

The paradox of Gateway, and of its potential as a recreational resource, is that the advantages of location are largely offset by the severe environmental stresses that the park's lands and waters have undergone because of their proximity to this densely populated and highly urbanized area. However, even with these severe environmental stresses, Gateway's barrier beaches, marshes, upland forests and bay provide an unparalleled experience with a natural coastal system.

Thus, although the stated purpose of Gateway is to preserve outstanding natural and recreational features, inherent in this purpose is the need to revitalize the natural landscape so that it can be enjoyed by present and future visitors, and also to encourage new and harmonious expressions of urbanism throughout the greater metropolitan area that will allow the perpetuation and use of Gateway's unique resources.

SIGNIFICANCE

Gateway's most obvious and important attribute is its proximity to the greater New York/New Jersey metropolitan region -- and therefore, to literally millions of people in need of recreational open space. In spite of the fact that its lands have been altered, its ocean and bay waters polluted, and its wetlands heavily impacted, the park preserves vestiges of the once-expansive natural coastal zone and includes some of the most significant natural, recreational, and educational resources in this highly urbanized region. The wildlife refuge and the holly forest within Gateway provide unusual opportunities for nature study. The fortifications clustered on the tip of Sandy Hook and at Fort Wadsworth illustrate the story of harbor defenses -- from primitive cannon to massive masonry to missile sites. Various other sites suggest a variety of human history related themes - aviation, the life saving service, the telegraph and an industrial port. And the more than 14.5 kilometers of ocean beaches, 19.3 kilometers of bayside beaches, vast amounts of open space, and numerous abandoned military structures make Gateway a priceless recreational resource.

EXISTING CONDITIONS BRIEF

When all lands have been transferred, Gateway will include approximately 10,844 hectares of land and water adjacent to New York Bay. Various lands within Gateway's designated boundary have not been turned over to the National Park Service. Four management units have been designated

at the park, which correspond to the geographically separated land areas joined by that bay:

The Jamaica Bay Unit, encompassing approximately 6,267 hectares of drylands, marshlands, and waters in and adjacent to Jamaica Bay, includes the lands and facilities of the former naval air station at Floyd Bennett Field (the present headquarters site), the existing parklands at Dead Horse Bay, Frank Charles Memorial Park, Plumb Beach, Hamilton Beach Park, and Canarsie Pier Park, and the important Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge.

The Breezy Point Unit, south of Jamaica Bay on the western end of Rockaway Peninsula, contains about 1,130 hectares and 7.2 kilometers of ocean beaches, including the popular Jacob Riis Park, the lands and facilities at Fort Tilden, and the shoreline up to and beyond the Breezy Point Cooperative including Breezy Point Tip.

The Staten Island Unit, extending along the eastern shore of Staten Island, includes Great Kills Park, Oakwood Beach, South & Midland Beach, Miller Field, and a historic Fort Wadsworth, as well as two small manmade islands, Hoffman and Swinburne -- a total of more than 1,403 hectares. Presently, only Miller Field and Great

Kills Park are in National Park Service jurisdiction.

The Sandy Hook Unit contains nearly 1,897 hectares along the largely undisturbed peninsula at the northern end of the New Jersey coast. Included are 10.5 kilometers of ocean beaches and sheltered bayside coves, hundreds of acres of ecologically significant barrier-beach vegetation, and -- at the northern-most tip -- the lands, facilities, and fortifications of the Fort Hancock complex.

A detailed description of the resource and an existing development analysis are presented in the Statement for Management and Environmental Assessment April 1976, the General Management Plan - Discussion Draft September 1976, and the Environmental Impact Statement April 1978. A historical and archeological overview of the resource is presented in the Statement for Management and Environmental Assessment April 1976 and in the General History of Jamaica Bay, Breezy Point, and Staten Island Units by Tony Wrenn - October 1975. These planning and resource documents can be obtained from the Superintendent's Office - GNRA.

GENERAL STATEMENT - VISITOR PROFILE

Gateway's lands may be divided for analytical purposes into areas of developed and traditional park use (particularly the beaches and public places of Jamaica Bay, Riis Park, Great Kills, and Sandy Hook) and areas that may be termed "urban wilderness" because of the range of unplanned public uses that occur there. The "free beach" and the high-rise skeletons, the tip of Breezy Point, the marshlands of Jamaica Bay, and Crookes Point at Great Kills are places where anything can happen and often does.

Gateway's 9 million plus visitors in 1977 established the park as one of the most popular recreation areas in the National Park System. Its high-volume use, the socioeconomic composition of its visiting public, and attempts by the park staff to qualitatively expand visitors' recreational experiences may correct past inequities in overall national park visitation.

Gateway tends to draw most heavily from the blue-collar and lower-middle-class segments of the metropolitan population. While the mean household income of visitors to Great Kills, Sandy Hook, and Riis Park averaged about \$12,500 per year, 44 percent of the respondents from Great Kills and Riis Park reported incomes in excess of \$16,000. The mean of reported household incomes for visitors to Jamaica Bay areas, approximately \$10,500, is significantly lower than for visitors to the other park units. Indeed, 7.3 percent of the respondents from Jamaica Bay

areas reported a total income of \$3,999 or less, a figure that represents almost abject poverty for adult New Yorkers.

Reported total annual incomes of less than \$4,000 for visitors to Sandy Hook, Staten Island, and Breezy Point were 5.2 percent, 3.6 percent, and 4.1 percent respectively. Thus, even at Gateway the poor are underrepresented.

Gateway presently serves as a series of local parks for adjacent communities. For example, most visitors to Sandy Hook come from Monmouth County; most visitors to Riis Park and the Jamaica Bay Unit come from Canarsie, Howard Beach, and other proximate areas of Brooklyn and Queens; and the vast majority of visitors to the Staten Island Unit are Staten Islanders. Visitor use, therefore, tends to decrease with increased distance or travel time to the park. But the park plays host to a larger public as well, and has a diverse clientele of regular park users. Riis Park, for example, is frequently occupied by non-family groups and individuals from as far away as upper Manhattan and the Bronx, while Great Kills accommodates family groups from Staten Island and New Jersey. It is the visitors who repeatedly use the same spaces singly or in groups -- like the old folks at Canarsie Pier -- who call into existence well defined territories. One result of this phenomenon

is the self-segregation of visitors by age, sexual propensity, race, and ethnicity, and the creation of group norms and informal social orders.

Communities adjacent to Gateway Units in general have lower percentage of blacks and other non-whites than other metropolitan communities, are somewhat younger in terms of population and older historically with a close relationship to the sea or bay. The Jamaica Bay Unit of Gateway is ringed by white communities which are in turn ringed by a number of densely-settled black communities.

Presently, the automobile is heavily relied upon as a means of access to Gateway. Heavy reliance on the automobile will probably continue until more direct and efficient forms of mass transit are developed. With improved transportation systems, Gateway's visitor profile will be expanded to include more people from the tri-state area. When Gateway reaches its full potential, it is expected to draw both the national and international visitor.

Gateway and its surrounding communities are constantly plagued with severe forms of air, water, and noise pollution. Gateway will hopefully bring attention to and help promote solutions for this environmental crisis of the big city.

(Statement for Management and Environmental Assessment April
1976, General Management Plan - Discussion Draft September

1976 and the Gateway Reports - Cooperative Research Unit
CUNY Graduate Center, New York).

GENERAL GATEWAY THEME IDENTIFICATION
AND
INTERPRETIVE DIRECTIONS STATEMENT

"But to demand a clean-minted urban image from the work of a single architect, or even a single generation, is to misunderstand the essentially cumulative nature of the city ... its development requires many collective life times."

The Urban Prospect/Lewis Mumford, 1956.

At first glance, GNRA seems to represent only scattered parcels of land, thrown together with no exact purpose in mind. For some, even at second glance, the assortment of old buildings, deserted bunkers, garbage dumps and a polluted bay provide little hint to any unifying statement about this urban park. However, for millions of people, GNRA harbors the fragile remnants of a natural system composed of upland forests, barrier beaches, marshes, and a bay, all rich in the history of man's endeavors. Gateway was created from the leavings of a throw-away society, and it is these remnants that suggest we stand on the threshold of a distinct new era with regard to the national park idea.

The national park idea began in response to the needs of the time-preserving American wilderness. Yellowstone was born of an idea of preserving pieces of primitive America in which man is a visitor. Gateway is in response to the needs of 20th Century man -- providing open space for "recreation" within the boundaries of man's everyday environment. Gateway hopefully will demonstrate that man is an integral part of the environment. Gateway, if successful, will symbolize the beginning of what might be termed a value revolution.

This broad theme statement establishes a beginning direction for what will be an ongoing and continually evolving process. Much of the meaning associated with this new urban park is yet to be realized.

It might be said that Gateway is presently more potential than park.

An incremental movement toward a final interpretive concept for Gateway will involve constant experimentation. All concerned should avoid the temptation of committing all our resources prematurely.

The various forts and military fortifications that comprise Gateway stand as monuments to ideas that became obsolete even before the last stone was in place. The interpretive effort for Gateway should avoid this potential pitfall. The rehabilitation of existing structures for interpretive use, all interpretive hardware, all interpretive and environmental education programs should begin as modest proposals to achieve an initial level of stimulation and experimentation.

The first category for this short-range interpretive effort will focus on existing identifiable natural and human history theme topics. This topical theme presentation will extend beyond the identification format and will encourage the visitor to view himself as an important element in the ecological balance of this urban landscape. The second category for this short-range interpretive effort will be directed toward energy conservation. All program and development proposals for Gateway will consider all possible alternative energy sources and will encourage

energy conservation measures. It is hoped that all of Gateway will be an exhibit that will reflect an energy conservation theme.

The long-range interpretive concepts that will move Gateway toward its final goal, "a value revolution," will evolve when more is known about the historical, natural and ecological nature of this resource and the aspirations of the diverse population it serves. If Gateway is to present a meaningful "man and environment" theme, and if this urban park is to symbolize "man's struggle to live with himself," we must recognize that if such a goal is achievable, it will be achieved through a gradual process of experimentation. We cannot move society toward a value revolution unless we have the patience to constantly monitor society's pulse with relation to our efforts. It is this pulse rate that serves as an indicator that we are moving in the right direction. Rome wasn't built in a day and the same can be said for Gateway and the evolution of this urban park interpretive concept.

GATEWAY

THIS PARK IS, IN MANY RESPECTS, AN EXPERIMENT, BY THE RESULTS OF WHICH THE WELFARE OF VAST NUMBERS OF PEOPLE IN OTHER GREAT CITIES THAN NEW YORK CANNOT FAIL TO BE AFFECTED ...

Central Park/Frederick Law Olmsted, 1873.

GATEWAY, THIS ENTRANCE TO NEW YORK HARBOR, PROVIDED
A NEW WORLD AND A NEW BEGINNING FOR MANY DIFFERENT
PEOPLES. TODAY, NEW YORK CITY -- THE SO CALLED
"MELTING POT" -- IS A CITY OF MANY LANGUAGES, POSSESSING
SOME OF OUR RICHEST CULTURAL TRADITIONS. GATEWAY NATIONAL
RECREATION AREA WILL REFLECT THIS CULTURAL PLURALISM.

AS AN INITIAL EFFORT, ALL MEDIA PRODUCTS FOR GATEWAY
GENERATED FROM THIS INTERPRETIVE PROSPECTUS WILL CONVEY
THEIR RESPECTIVE MESSAGES IN BOTH ENGLISH AND SPANISH.
ALL PRELIMINARY MEDIA PROPOSALS AND PRICE ESTIMATES FOR
INDOOR EXHIBITS, OUTDOOR EXHIBITS, AUDIOVISUALS AND
PUBLICATIONS WILL REFLECT PLANNING AND PRODUCTION COSTS
FOR A BILINGUAL FORMAT.

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THE PLAN

GATEWAY-WIDE

Do the scattered properties that constitute GNRA have any unifying meaning? A theme which runs through them is the shrinking of the world through technology and growth, a shrinking which, paradoxically, places the city-dweller farther from the opportunity to experience nature. New York is so apt a place to demonstrate the necessity of dealing with the problem that Gateway was perhaps inevitable. New York was the natural entry into the New World, where ideas and people of the Old World were transformed by the experience of the raw continent, as they transformed it. From this toehold on the continent, with the ocean behind and the wilderness ahead, they radiated westward while the city swelled into a great metropolis, remaining the reference point and measure of what was to take place beyond. In the attitude of the times, it was the City, the essence of man's work, which meant refuge and order, while all else was wilderness, confusion, and danger.

Almost before we knew it, the City had become too much with us, to the point where it is now sometimes perceived as the jungle, the place of confusion and danger, while what remains of the wilderness is seen as the place of order and refuge -- the last hope. But for millions, a journey to such a place is for one in a lifetime - or never.

Gateway was created from the leavings of the throw-away society; it is born of obsolescence. Forts and airfields, left in the dust-bin of advancing technology, were tossed out with the refuse of the city. With these remnants, and the seeds of forgiving nature, we stand at the threshold of a distinctly new era, when it is clear that there is no longer enough to throw out, and no place to throw it. These remnants offer, not so much an escape from the city, in the larger sense of the world man has built, for better or worse. They offer mainly a perspective. Stand on Sandy Hook or Jamaica Bay. From here, space, water, sky, and morsels of the world that was here before it all began -- these dominate. The city, magnificent still, inevitable, but less overpowering, waits in the distance for one to return, renewed. (Clifford Soubier)

An Identity for Gateway

The 1973 Gateway film emphasized the fact that few people were aware of Gateway National Recreation Area. Today, Gateway is still not a "household" word in the New York/New Jersey region. If the term Gateway does have any association, it is probably even now, only identified with Riis Park. No one is suggesting that Gateway join the mainstream of billboard competition associated with the cultural entertainment mecca of the Big Apple. However, it would be unfortunate if people were not informed about the different types of activities that are available for them at all four of the Gateway units. Gateway's identity could be strengthened to create a mental awareness of its geographical location; to establish its presence as a four unit system of the National Park Service; and to symbolize an association with quality recreational and educational activity experiences. A coordinated visual system for Gateway would provide a beginning for strengthening the park's identity. The coordinated visual system would utilize specific graphic lines or borders (simple in design to necessitate easy reproduction), letter types and spacing to generate a "family resemblance" among all park related media/information products.

It is recommended that a competent commercial/graphics design firm assist in the development of this proposal. Possible uses for the coordinated visual system are included in Appendix A.

The "family resemblance" concept might also be extended to include various architectural design elements relating to benches, kiosks, drinking fountains and sun shades.

Although not directly related to the use of the visual system, radio spot announcements and a telephone activity "hotline" could also increase Gateway's visibility in the regional area. The existing monthly Gateway Newsletter provides the public with one source of information concerning events and programs.

Exhibit Format

At several locations in the park, the plan suggests the use of an orientation/information exhibit package. This type of exhibit package varies but basically suggests the following - a changeable calendar of events, an information desk, a Gateway orientation map, a decorative exhibit theme treatment and in limited cases, the inclusion of an audiovisual device.

For both efficiency and continuity, it is recommended that the various orientation/information exhibit packages be lumped together in both design and production stages. Costs can be reduced by packaging these media proposals (both audiovisual and exhibits) that are subject to duplication. A coordinated system would speed production, provide a mechanism for distributing activity information, and would lend a hand in strengthening Gateway's identity as a "national park."

Audiovisual Format

For this interim effort, the plan would concentrate on reaching as many people as possible within a reasonable budget range. A new film with a complement of new slide sound programs could provide quality theme presentations in the short term. It is hoped that these initial proposals in this prospectus would be supplemented by audiovisual presentations produced by students and other sources of local talent in the region. What better way to discover how the regional community perceives its own park.

Both films and slide sound presentations would be converted to video tape cassettes and shown on television monitors to ensure wide distribution. The television monitor approach would be used in the park at various applicable locations, in the proposed mobile interpretive and environmental education vans, in the proposed outreach program, and in the environmental education program. The products could also be requested for use by schools, senior citizen centers, special education classes, and local civic organizations. Eventually, a Gateway video tape cassette library would provide both the park and region with an easily accessible source of quality audiovisual presentations.

It is recommended that most films be in a 16mm format for use with both static and portable projectors to ensure a wide range of viewing locations: a formal auditorium, a classroom, an overnight campsite on

Floyd Bennett Field or in a World War II bunker. This versatile system of moderately priced audiovisual products would provide a quality presentation for the wide range of visitor audiences including the elderly, the handicapped, and those who are deprived of easy access to the park.

All media products and media facility proposals in this prospectus would be incorporated into and made available for all environmental education and outreach programs as well as being part of the standard bill of fare for the general visitor. However, the true measure of success for the environmental education and the outreach program will rest with the effectiveness of personal services. It will take both a talented ranger and a visitor with more than thirty minutes of spare time to explore the intricate environments of Gateway, to discover its rich history and to understand its purpose as a working model for man's achieving a balance between the urban and natural system. The proposals in this prospectus would benefit the outreach program, the environmental education program, and the general visitor by providing an initial stimulus for encouraging all types of visitors to explore Gateway.

During the summer season, the proposed mobile environmental education and the mobile interpretive vans would circulate within the park providing programs for both structured groups and the general public. During the winter, the same vans could serve the outreach program by visiting regional schools, senior citizen centers, and other various community

groups. The proposed video cassettes and portable exhibit theme panel displays could be easily duplicated and distributed to benefit both the environmental education and outreach programs.

Teachers now take part in a learning workshop to equip themselves for guiding their own students toward an understanding of the natural and human history of Gateway. This activity reduces the load on an already overburdened staff. It is recommended that a series of instructional video tapes be used to give teachers a better understanding of the resource and to instruct them in their responsibilities when visiting Gateway.

Gateway Film

A quality film, 28 minutes in length, would convey the main interpretive theme for this interim effort. The film would tell the visitor, what it (Gateway) is, where it is and would present a character profile of this new urban park. The film should be designed to encourage the visitor to discover Gateway.

The film would explore the meaning of "Gateway" and establish its role as America's first urban national recreation area. Since Gateway does represent a new idea with respect to "national parks," it would be appropriate to briefly place Gateway into context with other landmarks historically associated with the parks movement in this country. From this perspective, the film would focus directly on Gateway National

Recreation Area. The various segments of Gateway would be identified in a panoramic format, establishing their locations within the region. The film would then concentrate on an overview of the natural, historical and cultural elements (the harbor as a body of water and the harbor as something to defend) that thematically tie the scattered parcels of land now referred to as Gateway. For example, the film might also illustrate certain stages in the development of this landform (both physical and cultural relationships) that best exemplify this particular man/land relationship. Jamaica Bay might be put into a visual context of what it was - a bay teeming with shell fish surrounded by a rural Dutch settlement; what it could have been - an industrial port; what it is today - America's first urban national park; or what it might become - a functional demonstration that urban and natural systems can work together. Although events and personalities would play a significant role, the film would stress an overview perspective of the accumulative factors that have today produced a crisis between urban and natural systems. "Gateway is an extraordinary demonstration of one of the first positive confrontations between a natural and an urban system" (F. Clark, A Gateway to Gateway, 1977). The Gateway film would emphasize the interdependence of natural and man-made environments and would create a visual impression, depicting man's attitudes and values toward the landscape he inhabits. In essence, Gateway is about "an urban conservation ethic."

The film (front throw) would be used as an introductory piece for presentation at each of the units' interim interpretive contact centers. The film would be part of the program for both the general visitor and structured groups (special tours, environmental education groups and the outreach program). The film would be converted to video tape cassettes for showing in other areas of the park and at various off-site locations. For areas without video tape capability, portable projectors could easily be used for the film presentation. The length of the film (28 minutes) would also make it adaptable for a television presentation.

Mobile Environmental Education Vans (MEEV)
And The Mobile Interpretive Vans (MIV)

meev

To learn about the various environments of Gateway, one must travel to many different locations within this "sprawling" 10,844 hectare recreation area. Rather than build a series of shelters or structures for outdoor classrooms, it is recommended that three mobile field classrooms (Jamaica Bay/Breezy Point, Staten Island and Sandy Hook) be used to supplement the environmental education program. As mentioned previously, the mobile units could be used for the Outreach School Programs during the winter months. The necessary facilities could be attractively designed and organized into a specially modified motor home. This unit would contain all necessary materials needed to conduct on-site classes in marine biology, soil sampling, and all other related field ecology subjects. The MEEV would provide a complete participation type of experience. Recommendations for the various components that might be made part of the mobile classroom are included in Appendix B. Various site locations for the meeV units are included in Appendix C.

miv

Definite use patterns already exist within the park since many areas were previously part of the city or state parks system. Many people travel to and from their one area of interest without realizing that many other opportunities are available. The purpose of the Mobile Interpretive Van (MIV) would be to "bring the park to the people." The MIV would be

primarily a media event - a traveling personal services/audiovisual presentation with a few orientation exhibit props.

As with the MEEV, the necessary facilities could be attractively designed and organized into a specially modified mobile van. Three MIVs would serve primarily as a mobile contact/interpretive center for Jamaica Bay/Breezy Point, Staten Island, and Sandy Hook. These self-contained units would provide on-the-spot interpretation (with special emphasis to beach areas) to small groups of perhaps as many as 15-20 people. the MIV would have video tape capability for showing the proposed orientation/theme audiovisual presentations and any other cassettes from private sources. Portable graphic design props would provide the visitor with the current event happenings (current events calendar). The success of each unit would, however, depend on the ranger's ability to involve and motivate the visitor. Various demonstrations could be provided to involve the visitor directly with Gateway's history or some current events issue such as energy conservation. At various times, the MIVs might be used as public involvement vans to monitor people's concerns about particular park issues. During off-season periods, the units could visit schools, community groups, and various public gathering locations. The MIVs would increase Gateway's visibility and make the general visitor knowledgeable about the opportunities associated with this recreation area. The MIVs are different in concept and intent from the MEEVs described previously. The exterior of

both the MIVs and the MEEVs could incorporate the use of the coordinated visual system (page 19) to add another dimension to Gateway's visibility in the regional area. Experimental prototypes of both the MIV and MEEV would be developed prior to general production.

Energy Demonstrations

One of the recommendations in the Discussion Draft - General Management Plan is to make Gateway a working example of an energy conservation system. The interpretive effort for conveying the analysis of Gateway's energy effort would probably be presented in the proposed Man & Environment Center (proposed by the Draft GMP). While these long range goals will bring Gateway to its full potential as a working energy exhibit, this prospectus recommends some short range energy conservation actions. Each unit would provide a working example, fully exhibited to the public, of at least one energy conservation technique. Sandy Hook already provides a precedent with its windmill. The force of the wind's energy is converted to electricity to operate the small visitor center and a few electrical maintenance vehicles. An outdoor exhibit is presently being designed for this windmill site. Once the park develops the other energy sites, one exhibit would be designed to complement each of the first four developments. It is hoped that numerous energy conservation measures will be made part of the Gateway system. However, it is not our intention to provide exhibits for all sites. A small logo (symbolic of the sun or wind) might provide a subtle but effective means of identifying

alternate energy sites. Some possible ideas for sites are included in Appendix D.

Ferry System

A tour of Gateway National Recreation Area by automobile contributes little to an understanding of why this "park" is called "Gateway." One can spend hours on the road, traveling from one unit to the other, with only a partial view of the harbor. Gateway was created from various remnants of land scattered along the harbor's interior shoreline, and protective fingers of land that enclose this body of water. To grasp the idea of Gateway and the history it represents is to visually place these lands into context with the harbor. The ferry system proposal (long range General Management Plan Proposal) will provide the best opportunity for this experience. Once on the ferry, visitors will be visually bombarded by the harbor's skyline. With a constant kaleidoscope of images passing before them and with the relatively short duration of the trip, it would be difficult to move the visitors' eye toward films, exhibits, or publications while on the ferry. A good audio system and a talented ranger would provide the best method for weaving the visuals of this harbor landscape into a meaningful interpretive experience. It is recommended that a detailed resource script be prepared and used for these personal service presentations. The rangers would use this as an information base to prepare their own personalized interpretive presentation. This information base would cover from pre-history to the

present, allowing an infinite variety of topic presentations, all cast in the individual personality of the interpreter.

The exterior hull of the ferry could be graphically designed to incorporate the use of the proposed coordinated visual system. A large map and decorative graphics would be used on board to reinforce Gateway's location within the harbor complex. A large calendar of events (monthly) display could also apprise the visitor of the various opportunities available to them. This exhibit/graphics proposal could constructively capture those few moments prior to departure and unloading.

During the off season, the ferry system would provide the Environmental Education and Outreach Programs with a new means of exploring Gateway. Both the general public and specialized groups would benefit from this waterborne experience.

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JAMAICA BAY UNIT

The Halcyon Returns

Not long after the Wright Brothers challenged the birds' exclusive dominion, airstrips in and around New York became the scene of a series of great leaps forward in aviation history, many record-breaking flights originating from Floyd Bennett Field. The world shrank at a greatly accelerated pace in those days, as flight-time (a newly-established method of measuring the globe) was halved and then halved again. These were the fervid days of aviation when the names of individual heroes were celebrated with each new event. The greatest was Lindbergh, whose flight from Long Island to Paris, coinciding with the passage of man's machines from tinkering to technology, made him the last hero in the old sense. The proper footnote to the age was Wrong-Way Corrigan. The technology of transportation and communication, which had made the world smaller, had at the same time placed human actions on a single world arena in which the individual could seemingly indulge in little more than whimsical gestures.

Lost in the propwash of progress were such places as Jamaica Bay, where delicate sea creatures and birds seemed to stand no chance of subsisting in the face of concrete, sewage, and big plans. Enter an individual with a smaller plan and enormous faith - a belief that nature, with a little help, can forgive enormous insults by her most prodigious progeny. Thus was born Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, a wilderness recreated in the most unlikely place imaginable - largely from the imagination of one man.

Of course, heroes were always mythic. Jamaica Bay was not created by a Hercules any more than Lindbergh flew the Atlantic under his own power. One merely does what one can, and perhaps a vision will catch on. It caught on well enough that, when JFK Airport was to be extended, the cry was heard that man's place in the sky is adequately established. There's room to share it with the original tenants. (Clifford Soubier)

Floyd Bennett Field/Building JB-1

The administration building (Building JB-1: Floyd Bennett Field) would be rehabilitated and adapted for use as an interim interpretive center for Gateway. This initial proposal would utilize most of the first floor and the aviation control tower (entrance foyer and portions of the first floor east and west wings). The interpretive center would serve to

familiarize the visitor with all of Gateway before focusing on the history of Floyd Bennett Field. The proposed film (page 23) would provide the thematic centerpiece for the interpretive center. Gateway's entrance orientation exhibit and theme presentation for the history of Floyd Bennett Field would be treated as important secondary elements.

terrace

The visitor approach to Building 1 would be from the east side to emphasize the visual effect of the airport, runways, and hangar row. Two or three wayside exhibit panels placed along the terrace railing would provide views of the airport as it was in the early 1930's with one or two brief highlights of people and events associated with this colorful period in aviation history.

entrance

The foyer (1st Floor) would be adapted for use as orientation/information area. One purpose of this space would be to visually pull together the various elements of Gateway into an identifiable image. With the geographical identity established, the presentation would highlight the resource components and activity opportunities available at all four of Gateway's units. It is recommended that some type of exhibit map serve as an eye catching centerpiece for this foyer area. A series of continuous slide presentations (no audio) would provide the visual highlights for the four Gateway units.

This information/orientation exhibit area would identify new experiences for visitors and would encourage them to visit the information desk for assistance in planning their park experience. An information/sales (publications) area would be located in the foyer but separate and secondary to the audiovisual exhibit map. A current events calendar would provide a useful backdrop for the information desk operation. From the information desk, the visitor would be encouraged to see the film and exhibit area. Media suggestions for this entrance area are provided in Appendix E.

the auditorium

One large room (1st floor of Building 1) would be adapted for use as an auditorium (80-100 seats). The proposed film (page 23) would be presented in the auditorium and would provide the thematic centerpiece for this interim interpretive center. The exhibit area could be viewed prior to or after the film presentation. The auditorium would accommodate various types of activities (special events) and would be designed for multi-use audiovisual capability.

the exhibit room

The exhibit area (Bldg. 1 - first floor) would combine both exhibits and audiovisuals for presenting a brief history of Floyd Bennett Field with a special emphasis placed on its contribution to aviation history. A three minute (stand-up) film would highlight the decade of the 1930's when Floyd Bennett Field was probably best known for its number of record flights (both transcontinental and transatlantic). Historical

film footage and oral history tapes should be considered for use in this film treatment.

The exhibit room decor should give the first impression of the aviation theme. The exhibits should utilize historical photographs, historical press releases (magazine and newspaper) and possibly model aircraft replicas to add the needed depth to the theme presentation. The fliers, their airplanes, their equipment, and their experiences would dominate the theme presentation for this exhibit area. If located, the original airport register would make a nice centerpiece for this exhibit room.

A visit to this exhibit room should be considered a prerequisite for a tour of the control tower. Without this exhibit room experience, the visitor would not receive the full interpretive benefit from the control tower experience.

the control tower

The Floyd Bennett Field - Building 1 Control Tower is an exhibit in itself. The visitor stands surrounded in a glass enclosure with a 360 degree view that on a clear day includes all four units of Gateway. Approximately 10-15 visitors can stand in this glass enclosure, surrounded by instrumentation. With a view of the runways and a little imagination, each visitor has the opportunity to bring Floyd Bennett Field back to life.

The Control Tower would have to be rehabilitated and refurnished (furnishings plan - interior control tower instrumentation) to suggest the period - 1930's. Two audio devices are recommended for the tower. The visitor could

activate one and hear a "live" present day control tower discussion from John F. Kennedy Airport. The visitor could then activate another and hear a tape of what he or she might have heard during the record flights of the 1930's. As a secondary element, an exhibit technique would be used to tell the visitor that all four units of Gateway can (on a clear day) be viewed from this tower.

the environmental education and outreach room

This exhibit area (Bldg. 1 - first floor) would provide a constantly changing series of exhibits designed to inform and encourage participation in both the environmental education and outreach programs. Harpers Ferry Center would provide an exhibit format; however, it is hoped that locally trained school and community groups would provide the exhibit content. It is recommended that the environmental education program provide credited courses in photography, art, exhibit design, and audiovisual production. These locally produced products would provide attractive exhibits for creating an awareness of the goals, opportunities, and activities associated with these two programs. The exhibit would also give detailed instructions for those who are interested in participating in these two programs. Over a period of time, there could be as many different exhibit presentations as there are schools and communities in the regional area.

special programs and tours

The interim interpretive center would also provide the staging area for special programs and guided tours. Schedule information would be displayed at the information desk.

Hangar Row

One of the hangars near Building #1 (Floyd Bennett Field) would be used to present an exhibit on the theme of "Man and the Urban Environment." The theme would be expressed through the changes that have occurred in the Gateway environments from American Indian times to the présent.

Initially, this would be accomplished by a walk-through display of large scale graphics, artwork and photographs, with associated exhibitable objects where appropriate. Shown would be such subjects as the Indians of Barren Island, the Dutch farms of Jamaica Bay, tidesmill technologies, the early New York fishing industry, the rise of shipping and immigration, the United States Life Saving Service, the growth of urban wastes and landfills, the rise of the resort trade, early aviation, the defense of the city, and the growing importance of urban open space. One portion of the exhibit would provide a summary of the land use theme and would be supplemented with a brief audio message to encourage the visitor to think in more general terms about the changing character of open space. The exhibit would be designed as portable units to allow the hangar to be used for other events when necessary. The immense space in the hangar will also permit the gradual acquisition and fabrication of large scale exhibit pieces such as the first and last planes to use Floyd Bennett Field, a working model of a colonial tidesmill, or an Indian longhouse.

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge Interpretive Center

The present design of this facility does not capture its full potential as an interpretive center. Interior modifications would be necessary to

improve its interpretive capability. Presently the building contains an audiovisual/exhibit room, a maintenance shop, restrooms, offices and a sales desk. It is recommended that the maintenance shop be relocated to another area and that this space be used as the primary audiovisual/exhibit room. The existing interpretive space (north end of building) could then be used exclusively for structured groups (environmental education). Interior modification would also include a redesign of the offices (possibly a reduction in number) and the information/sales desk. The modifications would also result in a different but more effective visitor flow pattern.

the proposed audiovisual/exhibit room (now a maintenance area)

The visitors' first contact with the refuge would be the proposed audiovisual/exhibit room. The room's primary purpose would be to provide creative suggestions as to how the refuge might be experienced. The exhibit would encourage the visitor to use all five senses while exploring this man-made wildlife sanctuary. Both "touch and feel" exhibits and wildlife sounds (audio device) would contribute to sharpening the visitors' perception for an experience with the refuge.

The flat terrain of this landscape and the trail layout make the various environments of the refuge seem distant and almost invisible. Another element (possibly artwork related to four major habitat types) of this same exhibit would bring into focus these "invisible" environments and their respective biological components.

Another segment of the exhibit room might encourage visitors to discover birdwatching, wildlife photography and sketching (wildlife art). Binoculars, art supplies, and associated "how to" publications would hopefully expose the visitor to a new experience and possibly a new hobby.

A secondary purpose of the room would also be to present a brief (stand-up) slide/sound (television monitor system - video tape) history of the refuge, identifying its significance as a positive confrontation between "natural" and urban systems. Media suggestions for this audiovisual exhibit room are provided in Appendix F.

refuge wayside

Upon leaving the proposed audiovisual room, the visitor would be either part of a guided tour or would receive a (proposed) self-guide publication (stake/pamphlet system). The secondary self-guide pamphlet would acquaint the visitor with various aspects (onsite) of the refuge and provide simple illustrations to assist in wildlife identification. Casual observations have shown that many visitors on non-guided tours are apprehensive about what trails to take once they leave the interpretive center. Both the self-guide publication and a proposed trailhead (wayside) exhibit map would assist the visitor in making final decisions as to "what to do," "where to do it," and "how to get there."

information/sales desk

From the refuge trail system, the visitor would return to the information/sales desk. Here the visitor could browse through a variety of publications.

However, more emphasis should be placed on publications that present subjects that are site specific to the refuge. A current events calendar located behind the information desk would provide activity information for the Jamaica Bay Unit and other Gateway areas.

the environmental education work room (north end of building)

This room would be used primarily for structured groups (environmental education program). Television monitors would allow a wide variety of educational audiovisual presentations. Harpers Ferry Center would install the exhibit format and the environmental education program (see page 38) would provide the exhibit content. This type of exhibit system would provide flexibility for meeting the changing needs of the program. The general visitor would be encouraged to browse (if not in conflict with classroom activities) this exhibit/classroom. The general visitor should be able to grasp, from these exhibits, the purpose and activities associated with the environmental education program.

special programs

The two kilometer look trail around the west pond can be fairly uneventful for the novice birder/visitor. The flat wide path consistently keeps the visitor at great distances from the prime attractions. The path also does little to bring the visitor into contact with the various environments represented. It is recommended that an elevated observation walkway be constructed (Environmental Impact Analysis required) to add an element of diversity to the refuge experience. The elevated walkway would be used exclusively for small guided trips. The walkway would bring the visitor

closer to the wildlife and to the various refuge environments. The location would be carefully planned and construction would utilize techniques that would cause the least amount of disturbance to wildlife. Both experiences and studies by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service (Everglades National Park) indicate that wildlife and, in particular, waterfowl can adjust to an elevated walkway system. This special program would provide a unique experience for wheelchair visitors.

A special refuge program for the blind would give this visitor an opportunity to experience the refuge by touching, hearing, and smelling. The various environments could be experienced through touch/feel activities (bay - water; mudflat - bay bottom; marsh - grasses; upland woods - trees). Wildlife specimens (touch and feel) from each environment would help tie the story of this ecological system together. Bird sound identification and distinguishing plants by feel and smell could add other highlights to this refuge experience.

North Channel Bridge

North Channel Birdge is one of the most popular fishing sites at Gateway, and has been successfully used also for Ranger-conducted "Explore the Beach" programs. The former concession stand at the southwest end of the bridge should be studied for its adaptability as a visitor contact/information center and headquarters for future "Explore the Beach" programs.

Canarsie Pier

Canarsie Pier is heavily used by local community groups. Card playing, fishing, eating, relaxing in a car or on a bench are a few of the activities one might notice. The pier was originally part of a grand scheme to turn Jamaica Bay into an industrial port. Floyd Bennett Field and Canarsie Pier were the first and last products of that grand scheme. Robert Moses later included this pier and bay within a park boundary.

Today many of the local visitors use the one building (now a park food concession) both as a fast-food-carry-out and as a screen from the wind. People congregate around the building and tend to move with the sun to break the chill of the bay breeze. This facility is presently a hub for various group activities. To better facilitate group activities, encourage some year-round use and broaden the activity possibilities (environmental education/outreach programs), it is recommended that the building be converted to a type of community activity center. The food concession would be relocated (temporary facility) to another area on the pier and would be expanded to include a fishing/bait concession.

The existing building would be redesigned for use as a community activity center. The interior space would be designed to support multi-purpose functions. On a small scale, plays, classes, demonstrations, games, concerts and crafts would occur both in and around the building. The use of this pier for environment education programs could be expanded.

Rangers have already used the pier for programs that teach kids to fish. What better way is there for kids to learn about the bay?

The center would be equipped with videotape capability (a television monitor system) to allow access to the various Gateway audiovisual products. An outdoor exhibit (three wayside panels) would acquaint the visitor with a brief history of the bay. Three brief images would be presented -- the bay as part of a productive shell fish industry; the bay as an industrial port; and the bay as a park. Another separate panel would present the theme of fishing (identification of the types of fish caught from the pier) with special emphasis regarding man's impact on the bay (water quality).

Frank Charles Park and Plumb Beach

Both buildings at these two locations would be provided with videotape (television monitor system) capability. A wide range of audiovisual presentations could benefit both the general visitor and various environmental education groups.

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BREEZY POINT

The Angle of Repose

Jacob Riis Park was named for a man whose writings and photographs documented the less appealing aspects of America's growth around the turn of the century. Riis observed that many who entered the gateway to the New World could find their way no farther than the slums and sweat shops to which newcomers were assigned. A city is a structure, physical and social, in which the physical circumstances are insistent and seemingly inescapable reminders of the social.

Not far from Riis Park, the skeleton of a high-rise development stands awkwardly interrupted by public protest. It was to be just one more of the thousands that were part of the accustomed growth pattern of the city, each occupant assigned to his level and partition according to the ability to pay for a glimpse of sea and sky - at least until blocked by another of the same. But some people began to insist that there had to be some alternative to this endless structuring of space, to the rigid stratification of every last bit of land and of the people who occupy it.

A possible model for an alternative was near at hand -- Riis Park. The open expanse of sand and water had become a demonstration of casual, but nonetheless vital, grouping of people largely according to voluntary patterns. The barriers to horizontal movement are invisible and impermanent, thus people are free to flow together, if and when they choose. Impromptu games and performances arise, attract a crowd, and disperse, at their own logical pace.

Mostly, the people are just there, being, and letting be. The sea and beach, the common open space, a million shared domains claimed only for a day, then given back to the tide. This is the alternative the people have found to the discrete divisions to which one inevitably returns.

The public protest that generated Gateway began, appropriate enough, at Breezy Point, where the people treasured a respite from the framework of the city. The challenge in creating a park may lie in formalizing responses to needs without imposing another super-structure.
(Clifford Soubier)

Jacob Riis Park

the bathhouse

Jacob Riis Park occupies a sandy strip east of Fort Tilden. The strip of land was formally the site of the Rockaway Naval Air Station.

This air station was built in 1917 and was a testing area for airships, flying boats and navigational instruments. It is best known as the assembly, test, and training site for the NC-4 -- the first flight across the Atlantic. In 1924, this site was transformed into a recreational development and was given the name Jacob Riis Park.

Jacob Riis was a journalist and photographer who wrote and lectured on behalf of the poor in New York. He was author of several books and is considered the father of the vest-pocket-park (community park) idea.

A former concessions site in the northeast portion of the Jacob Riis Bathhouse, facing the ocean, would be developed as an interpretive contact center. Seven garage size "rolling" doors open out to the beach boardwalk. This location would be part of the mainstream of summer boardwalk activities. The center would provide an unstructured browse area for summer recreationists. The primary objective of this space would be orientation/information with a secondary emphasis placed on a presentation of theme highlights. No "heavy" interpretive theme presentation would be attempted at this location.

An exhibit map or some similar technique would be appropriate to strengthen Gateway's identity as a four-unit system of the National Park Service. An enlarged inset map of Breezy Point would assist those

visitors interested in local opportunities. Current events information for Breezy Point and all of Gateway should be made available in an attractive format. One primary exhibit media presentation would create an awareness of the various natural and cultural resources to be discovered at Breezy Point. A decorative exhibit treatment would be used to highlight theme topics pertaining to: dune ecology, marine life, NC-4, Jacob Riis, Fort Tilden, military fortifications, and the Nike Missile installation.

A continuous videotape (television monitors - no audio) would present historical film footage of Jacob Riis Park. Here visitors of the 1970s could compare themselves to visitors of the 1930s and 40s. Styles of swimwear, beach activities and human behavior can be compared to the present day beach environment. The television monitor system also provides access to the proposed video tape library and a host of other audiovisual opportunities for use as special programs.

A special safety theme slide presentation (2-3 minute standup) would alert the visitor to various elements of the resource that can ruin a day at the beach. It might be an interesting approach to blend this safety message with an energy theme. For example, "a sunburn can ruin the day but the sun's energy may save our skin." This interpretive contact center would also provide a perfect opportunity for presenting a "working" energy demonstration unit (Appendix D).

Staff personnel (information desk) would assist in directing visitors to their specific area(s) of interest. The Gateway park folder would

be displayed and provided upon request. This center would be the staging area for guided tours to the Fort Tilden complex. A minibus would provide transportation to and from the site.

the mall

The Central Mall structures flank an open court. Each contains a two-story square-columned building, with one-story sections flaring outward in semicircles on the beach side. A bust of Jacob Riis, now missing, was once located here. Cast-iron light standards, hydrants and call boxes from the early 1930's development survive. One infused object, said to have stood originally on Flatbush Avenue in Brooklyn, is the four-dial post clock manufactured by the Howard Clock Company of Boston.

Large current events panels, visible from the boardwalk, would be placed on the semicircle exterior of the two mall buildings. These panels would welcome the visitor to Gateway-Breezy Point and provide a list of season activities for the unit and all of Gateway. A lower portion of the panel would provide an attractive "rip-off" calendar of events poster for take home use.

The mall provides an appropriate location for the symbolic recognition of both Jacob Riis and the NC-4. The mall should also be considered for the symbolic recognition of the creation of Gateway. The half completed highrise structures (scheduled for demolition), located a mile west of the mall, are symbolic of Gateway's creation. It was the

controversy between development and preservation that led to a decision to establish the first national recreation area.

These exhibit presentations could be an effective but simple outdoor exhibit wayside or they could be more elaborate presentations (Appendix G).

An information kiosk on the mall would provide the visitor easy access to all the necessary information for enjoying a day at Breezy Point. All unit activities would be posted at this location.

Fort Tilden/Building 1

The first floor of the administration building (Building 1 - Fort Tilden) would be rehabilitated and adapted for use as an interim interpretive center for the Breezy Point Unit. The proposed film (page 23) would provide the thematic centerpiece for the interpretive center. The exhibit theme presentation for the history of Fort Tilden and the marine ecology/fishing story would be treated as secondary elements. A small orientation/information exhibit (decorative treatment), an information desk and a calendar of events are recommended for the entrance foyer. The orientation/information treatment should suggest to people that their visit is not complete until they have been on a guided interpretive tour of Fort Tilden. Publications (free/sale) would be provided at this location.

Some modification to the rear loading ramp would make the building accessible for wheelchair visitors.

the auditorium

One large room (1st floor of Building 1) would be adapted for use as an auditorium (30-50 seats). The proposed film (page 23) would be presented in the auditorium and would provide the thematic centerpiece for this interpretive center. The auditorium would accommodate various types of activities (special events) and would be designed for multi-use audiovisual capability.

fort tilden exhibit room

The primary media presentation for this exhibit room would be a stand-up three minute slide sound program. The presentation would trace the transitions of a fort from the creation of the land base it occupies, through three periods in military history (World War I, World War II, and the Cold War), to its present status as a park. The fort's role in the defense of New York Harbor, closely ties this landscape to a peninsula across the bay - Sandy Hook. The symbolic impact of the NC-4 defense weaponry should also not go unmentioned. As is always the case, cultural history cannot be separated from the natural. The ocean, the sand, the creation and evolution of this sandspit are all part of the story. A more detailed theme treatment is suggested in Appendix H.

The exhibit presentation would focus on military hardware of the 20th Century. The visitor may be surprised to learn that a bunker or two and an empty silo represent the only visible remains of this era of defense. Some visitors may even be more surprised to find that the weapons that were once here were never fired in anger. The exhibit

should first answer the question - What did these guns look like?

Other questions to be answered might include: What did they fire (projectiles); what impact would they have had and what might have their targets been? Historic photographs, artwork, graphics, and scale models might be made part of this exhibit presentation.

marine ecology/fishing exhibit room

Breezy Point has long been a favorite spot for fishing. The exhibit would approach a marine ecology theme, using the sport of fishing as bait. The exhibit portion of the room would attempt to capture the visitors' curiosity about fishing. The how, when and where of fishing (identification of major sport fish, gear, bait, location, time of day, and year) Breezy Point would be presented. To fish well, one must understand the habits of fish. From this point, a brief 1-2 minute slide sound (television monitor-video tape) would profile one of the fish previously identified in the exhibit and place it within its environment - the marine ecosystem. The slide sound would highlight a few of the ways man impacts the marine system with a particular focus on New York Harbor.

This exhibit room would also be the distribution point for fishing permits. This dual purpose room might provide an interesting contact point for visitors to mingle with fishermen.

Fort Tilden Guided Walk

Guided tours of the Fort Tilden area would originate at the Fort Tilden interpretive center. One suggestion would be to utilize the existing

path (roadbed) north of the two bunkers for the first half of the walk and the path south of the two bunkers for the last half. This particular route could contribute to an extremely effective blending of natural and human history elements. The view from the northern path suggests only the natural. Here visitors can lose themselves in what seems to be a natural barrier island ecosystem. However, the return trip along the southern path conveys a totally different image. What the visitor had first identified (from the rear) as large natural dune formations suddenly become (from the front) cavernous cement bunkers. The southern path illustrates the penetrating impact of man's use of a natural system.

A designated stop at each of the large bunkers would provide a sheltered area for highlighting these two theme formats. Portable exhibit wayside panels (3-4 for each theme) would provide the necessary props (stored at the bunker and presented on a tripod support) to add to the presentation. The historical theme props would answer some of the more frequently asked questions generated by these abandoned bunkers and associated structures. The natural history props would highlight some of the dynamic qualities of the dune system with special attention given to various types of plants and animals represented.

Nike Missile Site Guided Tour

A guided tour of the Nike Missile site could be included with the guided tour of Fort Tilden or could be presented as a separate function. Few areas in the National Park Service provide an opportunity to explore such a contemporary piece of defense weaponry. Personal Services and a

short film (existing) would provide the format for presenting the Cold War theme. One elevator lift apparatus (launch site) would be made operational. (It is recommended that the U.S. Army be asked to assist in the repair of the Nike launch elevator). As visitors approach the site, there should be no visible indication to suggest a missile site. (Presently, the area looks like a large parking lot equipped with four automotive grease racks). Visitors would be asked to stand on the elevator lift. The elevator would then descend into darkness. When the elevator doors close above the visitors' head, existing film footage (front-throw projection) of a Nike Missile firing sequence would provide the dramatic touch for this interpretive experience. At the conclusion of this brief film, the visitor would be taken on a tour of this underground silo and would be encouraged to examine a Nike Missile hull.

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STATEN ISLAND

The Wall and the Bridge

The distance between Manhattan and Staten Island at the Verrazano Narrows was just right - wide enough for ships to pass into the harbor, but narrow enough to protect with relative ease. It was also far enough to give Staten Island a comfortable sense of separation from the bustle of Manhattan.

At the entrance to the gate stands Battery Weed, a magnificent engineering achievement designed to delineate a distinct boundary. Over it stretches another engineering masterpiece; the Verrazano Bridge, its purpose to link; to destroy time, space, and boundaries. Built only a century apart, they are separated by a millenium in spirit. The total functional modernity of the Bridge seems to mock the medieval vestiges of a time when granite walls could sustain a sense of security.

The world is made only a few miles smaller by a bridge, yet where are any of the boundaries once defensible? Any place on earth is readily accessible to commerce and communication - or to guided missiles, and chemicals discarded in Chicago turn up in the Antarctic, carried by winds and tides which respect no boundaries.

The fort is obsolete, but its spirit remains, in other forms. Mankind has always built both walls and bridges. It would be comforting to suppose that barriers between nations, neighborhoods, and individuals would of necessity crumble by the agents of proximity and mutual dependence. (Clifford Soubier)

Miller Field

park headquarters

The park headquarters building now serves as a center for organizing recreation (information/registration) activities for Miller Field. The entrance foyer of park headquarters should be redesigned to accommodate a small orientation/information exhibit presentation. While the visitor would be made aware of the various units of Gateway, the primary focus would be to provide information (interpretive and recreational) for the

Staten Island unit. A dispenser for free publications (no information desk) would be provided since this exhibit unit would be designed to hold the visitor only a few minutes. One rear screen projection or television monitor (continuous play with no audio) might be used to visually highlight some of more interesting areas of this unit. The visitor should also leave this building knowing that the interim interpretive center for the unit is located at the Great Kills Bathhouse.

seaplane hangars/elm tree light

Miller Field is a 77 hectare open space that is presently used as an intensive recreation area (field sports). The history of the site dates back to British ownership in 1677 with a series of later ownership transfers. One of the last to own the land, prior to military acquisition, was a Vanderbilt. The Vanderbilt farm was transformed into an "air station." Hangars, seaplane ramps and a sod airfield were dedicated to an American pilot named Miller. The field's history is one of "near happenings" with regard to famous aviators; however, it does deserve credit for the number of planes assembled, tested, and evaluated here.

The Elm Tree Light is historically important as a navigational aid for New York Harbor. Although the concrete octagonal tower is of relatively recent construction, it is successor to a beacon in the immediate area that dates back at least to a 1797 elm tree landmark. A large elm tree (1797) standing at the foot of New Dorp Lane was a landmark for vessels entering and leaving New York Harbor.

A series of outdoor exhibit wayside panels (3-4) would use existing historical photographs to present the Miller Field/Elm Tree Light themes. The visitor should have an image of the field both as a farm and as an air station. The exhibits on Miller Field, using the last remaining hangars as reference points, would provide the visitor with an image of Miller Field during its heyday as an airfield. Another exhibit unit would identify the contribution made by the Elm Tree Light to the navigational history of New York Harbor.

It is recommended that some kind of symbolic interpretive treatment be incorporated into the interior redesign of the existing hangar to give the visitor an impression of the building's history.

Great Kills Bathhouse

(The following proposals for the bathhouse provide only interim solutions. A Development Concept Plan is recommended to develop long range design/use functions for this general site).

entrance foyer/auditorium

The entrance foyer would provide an information/sales (publications) desk with a backup current events calendar for Staten Island. A decorative exhibit treatment would highlight some of the theme topics for this unit and provide orientation overview to the other Gateway units.

the auditorium

The primary media presentation for the existing auditorium would be the proposed Gateway film (page 23). A secondary three minute slide sound

would focus on the scattered theme elements of the unit. A sense of continuity could be achieved by placing these pieces together, using the island's local history as an adhesive.

More than any other unit, Staten Island fits the description of a community park. Various theme highlights - fortifications, an airfield, bridges, boardwalks and landfills - could contribute to a history of this island community. The auditorium would also be equipped with a television monitor system for special audiovisual presentations (video tape library). A decorative wall exhibit treatment should also be considered for the auditorium.

fort tompkins/battery weed guided tour

The National Park Service should request permission from the U.S. Army to allow scheduled guided tours of these two fortifications and museum. The guided tour would originate from the interim interpretive center at the Great Kills Bathhouse. A shuttle bus system would take the visitor to the Fort Tompkins Museum for orientation and a brief audiovisual program. An 8-10 minute slide sound would serve as an introduction for the tour.

The slide sound would present the history of "Bluff Point." For 300 years, this geographical location has been recognized for the strategic value of its position as a defense for New York Harbor. Wood, sandstone and granite have all been used to fortify this position. Battery Weed is a granite casemated work, containing placements for three tiers of

guns. It was designed to throw a heavy concentrated fire on vessels approaching or attempting to pass through the narrows. Fort Tompkins served as a rear guard; supplied sleeping quarters; and provided a general maintenance and supply area for Battery Weed. Bluff Point represents a continuum in military history and provides one of the most spectacular views of New York City and its harbor.

The personal services tour of Battery Weed would bring life to the various time periods represented and would provide answers to those questions that can only be generated by an onsite visit. This type of tour also provides latitude in presenting other secondary themes visible from the site -- Verrazano Narrows Bridge, Fort Hamilton, Brooklyn, and Manhattan.

contact center southeast wing of great kills bathhouse

The southeast portion of the bathhouse abuts on one of the more heavily used beach areas. Shade trees, picnic tables and a concession make this southeast portion of the building one of the more popular gathering places. An old entrance way (a former entrance to showers) would be sealed off (temporarily) from the interior of the bathhouse and this exterior space used for a brief interpretive presentation. This area would provide a large walk-in space for casual beach use and could be easily closed after hours. A television monitor (video tape) would present a special safety/energy theme (page 50), alerting the visitor to various elements of the resource that might ruin a day at the beach. The monitor would be incorporated into an exhibit orientation display. A map of Gateway and a current events calendar would serve as useful backdrops to the video

presentation. The monitor would also allow an assortment of other special audiovisual presentations.

environmental education workshops

The portion of the bathhouse now used as an environmental education laboratory should be enlarged to provide a wider range of environmental education activities. Visitors would be encouraged to visit this area where exhibits would acquaint them with the program. Harpers Ferry Center would provide the exhibit format and the environmental education program would provide the exhibit content. This presentation would provide a constantly changing series of exhibits designed to inform and encourage participation in both the environmental education and outreach programs.

contact kiosk

The existing information kiosk near the bathhouse parking lot gives the visitor a better means for planning daily activities. A sign near the parking area should also identify the location of the interpretive center.

amphitheater

Various types of programs have occurred outdoors near the bathhouse parking lot area and have been well received by the general public. It is recommended that a small amphitheater/stage be located in an area between the parking lot and beach to provide a multi-purpose base for park program activities. The amphitheater/stage would incorporate various audiovisual aids.

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SANDY HOOK UNIT

A Balance of Forces

Now an island, now a peninsula, the land form itself shifts and changes, assaulted but not destroyed by the immense power of the sea. Its lifeforms compete yet achieve the dynamic equilibrium which constitute an ecosystem, a balance of natural forces.

There is a similar dynamic balance between human systems. Until war shakes the scales, the balance between nations is maintained partly by military capability. The Sandy Hook Proving Ground illustrates the constant tuning of the mechanism as technology affects the balance.

1898 was a significant turning point in America. At the peak of industrial power, expressing itself in an architectural flamboyance visible in the fort complex, the United States entered dramatically upon the world stage. Defeating an Old World colonial power in the Spanish-American War, the nation's concern for maintaining a posture of force became manifestly global. The technology which had catapulted us to this position of worldwide importance accelerated the need to remain agile in adapting to new disturbances to balance. Even as new forms of fortifications were devised - each obsolete before completion - the day was at hand when no such walls to the sea would be of any use. The airplanes and missiles which were pioneered on our own shores rendered those shores defenseless by such means. The oceans no longer form a barrier between human systems, nor are they large enough to absorb the refuse and shocks of those systems. The investigations of NOAA show that any consideration of balance between nations includes a concern for the oceans which once held them comfortably apart. (Clifford Soubier)

Fort Hancock/Bldg. 36

The former mule stables - (Building 36 (first floor) - would be rehabilitated and adapted for use as an interim interpretive center for Gateway. The interpretive center would familiarize the visitor with all of Gateway before focusing on the history of Sandy Hook. The interpretive presentation would focus on the history of Sandy Hook, its natural and marine systems and the Sandy Hook Gateway Village Community.

A small orientation/information exhibit, an information/sales desk and a calendar of events are recommended for the entrance area. The orientation/information treatment should suggest to people that their visit is not complete until they have been on a guided tour of Fort Hancock.

A small parking lot would be experimentally sited near the building in such manner as to not conflict with the fire station. Other visitors would reach the interpretive center by internal shuttle, bicycle or on foot.

fort hancock exhibit room

The primary media presentation for this room would be an 8-10 minute slide sound program. The program might begin with a brief and simplified explanation of why Sandy Hook has taken on so many different physical shapes. This approach would identify the various forces of energy that affect both the configuration of the landform and the characteristics of the landscape. The flow of the program would move easily from a natural history to a cultural history presentation when the location of the Hook is placed into context with New York Harbor. The program would explain how the "Hook's" strategic location contributed to navigation, communication, and defense. Today the "Hook's" most visible remains lure the visitor on a leapfrogging discovery of fortifications that were obsolete before they were completed. The theme presentation would highlight Sandy Hook's contribution to what in modern day terms is described as "the arm's race." The slide sound presentation would encourage the visitor to participate in a guided tour of Fort Hancock. A more detailed theme suggestion is provided in Appendix I.

The exhibit presentation would highlight the most representative segments of Sandy Hook's 300 year history. A comprehensive theme treatment would be avoided. A series of visual vignettes might best portray the changing

character of this fort, its missions and personnel. The role of the United States Life Saving Service and the U.S. Coast Guard would also be treated here. Historical photographs and objects would provide the basic materials for this exhibit. The exhibit team would make use of any "appropriate" artifacts or exhibits that are now displayed at the Post Jail. Those objects not used would be stored until a detailed evaluation of their significance is made.

marine life exhibit room

The National Park Service, the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Marine Science Consortium would cooperate in planning and production of a marine life exhibit room for Building 36. The visitor should be introduced to a few basic principles relating to marine ecology with specific reference to the Atlantic coastal area. The presentation would stress man's impact on this regional marine system. The respective missions of the two research organizations would be highlighted with an emphasis placed on the presentation of their current research efforts. A television monitor (video tape) might provide a good format for this current events changing presentation. Along with the exhibit and audiovisual format, the exhibit plan might consider both marine and salt marsh aquaria as a centerpiece for this interpretive presentation.

Fort Hancock Theater

The theater is located adjacent to the proposed interim interpretive center. The theater accommodates various types of activities (special events) and provides multi-purpose audiovisual functions. The proposed film (page 23) would be shown in the theater. A schedule for this film presentation would be posted in the proposed interpretive center.

Gateway Village

The Gateway Village concept is yet to be defined; however, it is expected to consist of a variety of activities conducted (using existing structures) under cooperative agreements with other organizations. The various programs will probably include recreation, education and research. One location within this village would provide interpretation for these various missions.

Fort Hancock Guided Tour

From the standpoint of visitor safety and resource protection, the Interpretive Prospectus suggests that all Fort Hancock tours be guided. Various combinations of tours would be provided depending on the visitors' interest and time limitations. Personal services, permanent and portable exhibit panels would provide the main course for this guided tour system. The panels would either be stored onsite or would be portable. In four locations, audiovisual presentations would supplement the personal services presentations. The interpretive objective would be to establish a relationship between the site and the period(s) of history best represented by that particular site. At each site, the media hardware would convey to the visitor those theme segments that best lend themselves to a visual format.

One specific stop would focus on contrasting life styles found on a military fort. Four furnished rooms (a living room or living area from each structure) with an accompanying historical photographic exhibit area (separate room) would provide comparisons of an officer's home, a non-

commissioned officer's home, an enlisted man's barracks and the post jail.
A Furnishings Plan is recommended for this specific proposal (Appendix J).

The following interpretive stops would acquaint the visitor with segments of Sandy Hook's 300 year history:

- rodman gun
- sandy hook lighthouse
- fort hancock
- battery potter
- battery granger
- proving grounds
- mortar battery
- battery kingman
- battery gunnison
- nike missile site
- army life

Detailed recommendations for each site are provided in Appendix J.

The Lifesaving Service Interpretive Center/Spermaceti Cove

The interpretive center at Spermaceti Cove would be adapted and used to present the history of the lifesaving service with particular reference to Sandy Hook. The first floor would provide both an audiovisual/exhibit

room and an information/orientation area. The second floor (crew quarters) would be used as a photographic exhibit space. A permanent (portable) collection would present the theme of "ships and shipwrecks of Sandy Hook". This space would be designed to provide for changing photographic displays to accommodate changing needs. After viewing the photographs, the visitor would be able to use the observation deck (rehabilitation required) for a 360 degree view of Sandy Hook (provided that architectural historians agree that the observation deck be retained).

entrance foyer

The entrance foyer would establish the atmosphere of a historic United States Lifesaving Station, with attendants dressed in U.S.L.S.S. uniforms. An orientation/information area would provide the visitor with activity events related to Sandy Hook. The information desk would also provide sales items. A calendar of events poster would serve as a backdrop for the information desk, alerting visitors to events at other Gateway units. At scheduled times, a mini bus system would take groups of visitors to the Fort Hancock Interpretive Center for a tour of the fort.

audiovisual/exhibit room

The existing exhibits in this room would be moved and used as part of the proposed Fort Hancock Interpretive Center (Bldg. 36 - orientation/information area). The proposed audiovisual/exhibit treatment would present the history of the U.S. Lifesaving Service. Access to the room during the heavy use season would be through the two large "garage" doors. During the winter, visitors would enter through the orientation/information area.

A television monitor system would be incorporated into the exhibit format. A brief 2-3 minute slide sound would tie the various elements of the lifesaving story together. A period film clip and a tape of the various lifesaving demonstrations (living history) could also be shown in the off-season. A historical photographic display would take the visitor back in time. A few historical objects (possibly a surfcar, breeches byou, blocking gear, a Lyle gun) would serve as centerpieces and add a touch of realism to the presentation. The visitor could then tour the photographic exhibits on the second floor. A view from the observation tower would provide a final treat. The exterior platform walk would provide the visitor with an impressive view of both Sandy Hook and the ocean.

Lifesaving demonstrations

It is recommended that the 1849 lifesaving station (a barn-like structure, 4.6 meters high, 4.8 meters wide, 8.8 meters long) be acquired from the Twin Lights Historical Association and placed on or near its original location at Sandy Hook. This historical structure would house a surfboat or lifeboat and associated rescue equipment necessary for living history demonstrations. This location would serve as the center for the lifesaving living history program. A Furnishings Plan would be required for restoring this structure (1849 period).

Beach Centers

Each of the beach centers would be provided with an orientation/information center (no staff). A calendar of events panel and fliers

would make visitors aware of the various activities occurring at both Sandy Hook and the other Gateway units. During the off-season, these beach centers would be converted for use as environmental education classrooms. One beach center per unit would provide audiovisual presentations.

PUBLICATIONS

A new free park folder is presently in production. Six new publications are recommended for this interim effort.

A "Gateway Discovery" publication would be directed toward children (environmental education program). Both natural and human history topics would be included for all Gateway units. Using an elementary format, the publication would highlight man's place in the "scheme of urban things." Portions of the text might encourage children to respond with answers or opinions to the various topics presented.

A four booklet series, one for each unit, would at minimum cost provide visitors with a basic overview publication about both the natural and cultural components represented by the Gateway units. Each publication would have a common introduction. The booklets could be sold separately or as a unit (slip case format). A 40 page - 18 centimeter square format might be considered.

A self-guide publication (stake/pamphlet) for the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge is described on page 41.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION

The usefulness of the proposed Gateway film could be extended if the presentation was adapted for sign language. Since the "park" is itself symbolic of a "Gateway to the New World," the film might also be adapted for translation in both German and French.

Each Gateway unit should begin collecting oral history tapes of various personalities that have contributed to the history of this national recreation area. The Sandy Hook unit has already made some headway in this direction and could provide assistance to other units.

Film footage for archival use should be taken and collected for all four Gateway units. This proposal will document the nation's efforts in expanding the national parks' idea. In fifty years, the film will hopefully show, through contrast of past and present, that man has learned to live with himself.

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Tom Hoffman's condensed versions of Ed Bearss' historical resource studies were extremely helpful in the preparation of this interpretive prospectus. Tom's ideas, enthusiasm, and time (much of it donated) were greatly appreciated.

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GATEWAY NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

Jamaica Bay Unit
Breezy Point Unit
Staten Island Unit
Sandy Hook Unit

APPENDICES

Appendix A: possible uses for the coordinated visual system

Primary Use

Publications - use for mini-folders, brochures, sales publications, activity calendars, environmental education and special event fliers, posters, stationery, and envelopes.

Secondary Use

- . Television Public Service Messages - use spot announcements (12-20 sec) to create public awareness of Gateway.
- . Films/Slide-Sound/Exhibits - used as part of the introductory footage.
- . Proposed Mobile Interpretive and Environmental Education Vans - used as a decorative treatment.
- . Flags, Balloons and Banners - used for special events.
- . Informational/Directional Signage - used (sparingly) along major bus/auto access routes.
- . Posters used for display at other national, state and city parks in the region and use for display in buses, taxis, and subways.
- . Outreach & Environmental Education Programs - use for media products related to these two programs.

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Appendix B: meev component suggestions

- . video tape playback (television monitor) - This system would allow the mobile units to use cassettes produced by other educational institutions as well as those from Gateway's own video library.
- . tent canopy - A parachute, tarpaulin or some form of lean-to would extend the unit's workspace outdoors and would protect students from sun or rain during the field sessions.
- . storage facilities for field and classroom related equipment.
- . small laboratory with water to assist with field experiments.
- . portable exhibit panels - Each mobile unit would have 8-10 portable exhibit panels. These teaching aids would be information specific to each of the Gateway units and would focus on various natural history topics that benefit most from graphic representation.
- . an emergency bathroom facility.
- . energy conservation system (use of solar or wind as an alternate energy source for operation and demonstration purposes).

text reference page 26

Appendix C: meev site location suggestions

A few possible locations for the MEEV might include:

- Breezy Point
 - the tip
 - bayside tidal flat
- Jamaica Bay
 - Plumb Beach
 - Dead Horse Bay
 - Spring Creek
- Staten Island
 - Whiteoak Forest - Miller Field
 - Crookes Point
- Sandy Hook
 - Horseshoe Cove
 - Plum Island

text reference page 26

Appendix D: Energy Conservation Demonstration Suggestions

Wind Power

- Sandy Hook, power for Spermaceti Cove Interpretive Center and electric vehicles and various other electrical devices
- Staten Island, near the Elm Tree Light where a windmill formerly stood to provide electric power for vehicles and other electrical devices
- Breezy Point, possible sites include Fort Tilden, West Beach and Breezy Point Tip to provide pollution-free power for electric vehicles
- Jamaica Bay, possible sites at Floyd Bennett Field and landfills to provide power for electric vehicles

Solar Hot Water Heaters

- Sandy Hook, Bathhouses and YACC Camp
- Staten Island, Great Kills and Auxiliary Bathhouses
- Breezy Point, Riis Park Bathhouse, Fort Tilden residential camping barracks and possibly a solar collector above Riis Park Parking Lot
- Jamaica Bay Unit, the Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center, Floyd Bennett Field Job Corps Center and the Environmental Education Center

Solar Greenhouses

- Sandy Hook, demonstration greenhouse in connection with the community center
- Staten Island, small model greenhouse with community garden at Miller Field
- Breezy Point, Aquaculture and vegetable greenhouse at Fort Tilden
- Jamaica Bay, at the school garden at Floyd Bennett Field

Composting

- Sandy Hook, sludge composting at the sewage treatment plant
- Staten Island, vegetable waste composting at Miller Field community garden
- Breezy Point, vegetable waste composting at Fort Tilden community garden
- Floyd Bennett Field, sludge composting at sewage treatment plant and vegetable waste at community gardens

Recycling

- Recycling at all units with center at Floyd Bennett Field

Methane Recovery

- Recovery at Jamaica Bay Landfills in cooperation with New York City

text reference page 28

Appendix E: floyd bennett field interpretive center - (bldg. 1)
entrance area media suggestions

Four screens (rear screen projection) ^{would} be incorporated into the design of this exhibit map concept (possibly as a backdrop to the map). Each screen would project a continuous series of slides (no sound) for each of Gateway's four units. The various slides would highlight the most representative components (both natural and cultural) of the resource and would identify the activity opportunities available at each unit. All four presentations would be in continuous operation at the same time, allowing the visitor a range of visual options. Special consideration should be given to the size of the map and screens, and the angle of display. With a few minor design considerations, the exhibit map and screens could be viewed from both the first floor foyer and the second floor balcony. The foyer provides a vertical open space that extends from the first floor proper to the ceiling of the second floor. For future consideration, it is hoped that the second floor space would be used to provide more interpretive and educational opportunities.

text reference page 35

Appendix F: jamaica bay wildlife refuge interpretive center -
audiovisual/exhibit room media suggestions

A series of four exhibit panels (artwork) might depict the "invisible" environments (bay, mudflats, low and high grass marsh, lowland woods). Mounted wildlife specimens specific to each environment (adaptation) might provide a close-up (touch and feel) for help with identification. Individual audio systems for each environment panel would provide wildlife sounds specific to those specimen(s) displayed. For variety, the panels, audio sounds and specimens could be changed four times a year to reflect the change in seasons.

A short (stand-up) videotape slide/sound program (television monitors) would present a brief history and significance of the refuge with possible reference to such topics as:

- a man named Moses
- a man-made environment
- a one man show
- the Atlantic flyway
- the refuge is not a zoo
- a refuge for both man and animal
- a managed system
- an airport extension

text reference page 40

Appendix G: jacob riis park mall - outdoor exhibit wayside suggestions

The bust of Jacob Riis was once part of the mall. Also the northern most portion of the mall is near the former site of the Rockaway Naval Air Station - the site of the NC-4 story. The broad cement mall walkways might provide an appropriate setting for an artistic mosaic inlay presentation of these two subjects. A southern portion of the mall walkway would be designated for Jacob Riis and the northern portion for the NC-4. Either terrazzo or tessera could be used for this mosaic treatment.

The half completed highrise structures, located a mile west of the mall, are symbolic of Gateway's creation. It was the controversy between development and preservation that led to a decision to establish the first national recreation area. A decision to create a park stopped the construction of the highrise complex. The demolition (proposed by the General Management Plan) of these highrise structures should be filmed for possible use in the proposed major film (page 23) and archival storage. Some of the rubble from the highrise would provide materials for the creation of a sculpture to symbolize Gateway's beginning. The mall would provide an appropriate location for this sculpture.

text reference page 51

Appendix H: fort tilden interpretive center - slide/sound theme treatment suggestion

The threat of an invasion from the sea had produced an era of weapons technology designed to protect the harbor from enemy ships. Fort Hancock (Sandy Hook), Fort Wadsworth (Staten Island) and Fort Tilden were all part of this defense effort. The first transatlantic flight - the NC-4 - was symbolic of the passing of one era and the beginning of another. From floating ships to airships, the ocean shrank, and the defense of our nation changed drastically. Another type of weapons race was begun. From anti-aircraft guns to the more recently obsolete Nike Missile, the race continues. Now these "silent" forts have been abandoned and our defense posture moved from the coast to the inland silos of South Dakota. These old forts and their surrounding lands, inadvertently saved from development by the military and now surrounded by a dense urban mass, are now part of a new park movement in this country - national urban recreation areas. Here people can still see a piece of nature and have some carefree space in which to relax, recreate, and learn about themselves and the environment in which they live.

text reference page 53

Appendix I: suggestions for sandy hook's interpretive center - slide/
sound theme presentation

The slide sound program might begin with an explanation of the name - Sandy Hook. Noticeable physical changes in many landforms occur only after hundreds or even thousands of years. For Sandy Hook, noticeable physical changes can occur in a matter of hours. This landform provides the most visible evidence of the dynamics of an energy system. Both the shape (landform) and the characteristics of the landscape (dune system) are constantly being altered by the wind, current, tide, and waves. This push pull-tug-of-war has changed the classification of the landscape from island to peninsula several times. The accretion and erosional processes have created a series of leapfrogging "hook" formations that are responsible for its growth pattern as well as its name.

It would also seem that the dynamics of change and leapfrogging affect associated with the physical environment have carried over into the cultural process. Since the early 17th Century, the strategic location of this sandspit has made it the focus of an intense human effort. Before there was a channel in New York Harbor, Sandy Hook became the focus for lifesaving rescue operations. The dredging of Sandy Hook Channel (a few hundred meters from the tip) moved Sandy Hook into an era of harbor defense. In later times, both the Ambrose Channel (central New York Harbor) and technological developments significantly reduced Sandy Hook's role in the defense of New York City.

The purposeful application of navigation, communication, and defense innovations are all part of the "Hook's" past. The slide sound might highlight these various contributions before presenting a history lesson in obsolescence. Today the "Hook's" most visible remains lure the visitor on a leapfrogging discovery of fortifications that were obsolete before they were completed. Sandy Hook is a history lesson in the evolution of weapons, fortifications technology, dating from the early 1800s to the 1970s. The presentation of various technological advances that spurred the phases of defense development represented at the "Hook" would provide answers to many predictable questions. In essence, Sandy Hook's history is part of what today is referred to as the arm's race.

text reference page 68

APPENDIX J

GATEWAY NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

WAYSIDE EXHIBIT PROPOSALS

Prepared by:
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Written by:
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Gateway NRA
Wayside Exhibit Proposals

Introduction

Design Concepts

Wayside exhibits for Gateway NRA will have a continuity of design. This exhibit design "family" will project the unique spirit of the park, and at the same time help establish a much-needed park-wide National Park Service identity throughout the separate units.

All aspects of the design package will address the potential for extreme vandalism in the four units of the park. The Wayside exhibit interpretive panels will be fiberglass-embedments. The light but tough fiberglass surface will minimize marring; provide quick, low-cost, easy replacement, with extra panels on-hand at each unit; and allow flexible use of colors for optimum visual and interpretive impact.

At this stage of exhibit planning we have identified four possible base design concepts: permanent, pre-cast exposed aggregate or textured concrete; portable "modular"; and either wall-mounted metal frame or simple metal base for inside Battery Potter at Sandy Hook.

The majority of the exhibits proposed would have pre-cast concrete bases, a material highly compatible with both the urban setting and the preponderance of gun-emplacement exhibits. In addition, the concrete base would resist all vandalism short of heavy explosives or motorized demolition equipment. To capture the interest of school children, who may become the first generation to take full advantage of this park opportunity, and to avoid visually interrupting or intruding on the target of interpretation, the concrete-based exhibit

would be "low-profile" -- close enough to the ground for almost all ages, but tilted at an angle for easy reading. The exhibit will also be convenient for wheel chair visitors.

In areas where a permanent exhibit might obstruct traffic, or where vandalism is frequent and extreme, a fully portable exhibit design concept may be used. The portable exhibit would be strong enough to resist casual vandalism but light-weight for easy carrying. In appearance these exhibits would be upright, and would provide for easy attachment to permanent fittings at the exhibit sites.

Within Battery Potter at Sandy Hook, wayside exhibits will function mainly as a visual aid to guided tours. The panels will consist of captioned historic photographs, attached to the bunker walls with light-weight framing, or to the floor on a simple metal base.

Exhibit interpretive panels will be attached to the pre-cast concrete bases with vandal-resistant metal framing. For easy panel replacement, the framing design will provide for a special "unlocking" system, which only the park staff could operate. This system will allow a long-range, three-stage response to potential vandalism. Initially the exhibit will function as fully-permanent, with interpretive panels remaining in their frames on a continuous basis. If the level of vandalism becomes too costly for even these inexpensive, vandal-resistant panels, panel replacement will be so easy that they might be placed in the permanent frames in the morning, and removed and stored in the evening.

If vandalism reached a level of continuous, daytime destruction, the panels will be so light-weight that they might be carried by an interpreter and placed on the exhibit bases only as an adjunct to a guided tour.

Site Development

The park will need to accomplish a certain amount of site development prior to wayside exhibit installation. In a few cases, a firm commitment might be necessary prior to further exhibit planning and the letting of a design contract, since some of the proposed exhibits would have little interpretive effectiveness without the specified site development. The details of requested site development are listed with the individual exhibit proposals.

Interpretive Labels

The Draft Interpretive Prospectus, page 16 of the May 1978 version, states that "All media products for Gateway generated from this interpretive prospectus will convey their respective messages in both English and Spanish." We are firmly committed to communicating our wayside interpretive messages to all visitors, and recognize the unique cultural traditions of the area surrounding this park. We must point out, however, the strict design limitations of the wayside interpretive medium. Operating primarily as a visual medium in relation to a physically obvious interpretive target, a wayside exhibit is designed with minimal space for words. The bilingual restriction would double the needed space for label copy, and limit the graphic impact.

We believe there is a more effective solution. To allow maximum exhibit area for interpretive graphics, we propose that bilingual publications be developed

as a guide to the twenty-seven wayside exhibits. A bilingual pamphlet could be keyed to the waysides by small photos of each interpretive panel, and could provide all exhibit label copy. The real value of these publications would be a true breadth of application. Not limited to just Spanish-English, a number of different bilingual combinations could be offered, e.g., French-English, German-English, etc. In this way the exhibits could reach a true majority of people in the metropolitan area.

Gateway NRA
Wayside Exhibit Proposals

Summary

Exhibit	Location	Content
<u>Jamaica Bay Unit</u>		
1.	Floyd Bennett Field, Bldg. 1	Record-breakers of the '30's
2.	Canarsie Pier	The Great Port scheme
3.	Canarsie Pier	Shellfish industry on Jamaica Bay
4.	Canarsie Pier	Dutch and Indian history of Jamaica Bay
5.	Plumb Beach	Trailhead
6.	Wildlife Refuge	Trailhead
<u>Breezy Point Unit</u>		
7.	Jacob Riis Mall	Jacob Riis
8.	Jacob Riis Mall	NC-4
9	Fort Tilden, S. bunker	Harbor defense
<u>Staten Island Unit</u>		
10	Park Headquarters	Miller Field
11	Park Headquarters	Elm Tree Light
<u>Sandy Hook Unit</u>		
12	Parade Ground	Fort Hancock
13	Near Rodman Gun	Rodman Gun
14	Firehouse triangle	Sandy Hook Lighthouse
15	Mortar battery	Mortar batteries
16	On top of Battery Granger	Battery Granger

Gateway NRA
Wayside Exhibit Proposals
Summary

Exhibit	Location	Content
<u>Sandy Hook Unit</u>		
17	Entrance of Battery Potter	Battery Potter
18	Boiler area, Battery Potter	Steam power to operate lift-guns
19	Elevator shaft, Battery Potter	Lifting mechanism
20	Rear gun ports, Battery Potter	The rear guard
21	Gun-loading area, Battery Potter	The loading procedure
22	Loading area, Battery Potter	Loading and firing the gun (audio)
23	On top of Battery Potter	Battery Potter and the Coastal defense system.
24	West end of Proving Grounds	Proving Grounds
25	Between guns at Battery Gunnison	Battery Gunnison
26	Battery Kingman	Battery Kingman
27	Nike Missile Site	Nike Missiles

Gateway NRA
Jamaica Bay Unit

Wayside Exhibit Proposals

Exhibit 1

Location: Floyd Bennett Field/Bldg. 1, on runway near the Control Tower,
but with clear view of Hangar Row.

Subject: Record-breakers of the 1930's, and the heyday of Floyd Bennett Field.

Purpose: To bring to life the special culture of the airspeed record-breakers,
against a perspective of rapid technological advances.

Description: The exhibit will be located on the actual concrete of the airstrip,
allowing people to stand where Wiley Post once stood, to sense the
contrast of the empty asphalt expanse with the (hectic) buzz of
activity in the thirties.

The exhibit base, either low-profile permanent, or portable in response
to traffic problems on today's airfield, will support either one large,
comprehensive graphic panel, or a graphic panel with accompanying
"satellite" panels to interpret subthemes.

Historic photos of the field packed with airplanes, famous pilots before
or after record-breaking flights, mechanics at work in the hangers,
can be used to recreate the exciting atmosphere of the active airport.
An aerial view will provide a perspective of the true extent of the
historic airfield.

Gateway NRA
Jamaica Bay Unit
Wayside Exhibit Proposals
Exhibit 2

Location: Canarsie Pier, along main foot-traffic artery in front of current concession building.

Subject: The Great Port Scheme.

Purpose: To relate the pier's history, as an original part of a grand project to turn Jamaica Bay into a deepwater industrial port.

Description: The exhibit base will be either low-profile permanent, or upright portable panel with capacity to convert to community bulletin-board on the blank side, or to large symbolic graphic.

The exhibit, located so that the visitor looks out across both Pier and Bay, will use a large graphic of the original Port Plan, showing the proposed complex of piers and docks -- the shape the Bay might have taken.

This exhibit, and exhibits three and four, may be positioned in a semicircle, one exhibit centered in front of the concession building, and the others to either side.

Gateway NRA
Jamaica Bay Unit

Wayside Exhibit Proposals

Exhibit 3

Location: Canarsie Pier, along the main foot-traffic artery in front of current concession building.

Subject: The shellfish industry on Jamaica Bay.

Purpose: To interpret the history of the shellfish industry in terms of the water quality of Jamaica Bay.

Description: Exhibit base will be either low-profile permanent, or upright portable panel.

Once there were five hundred shell fishermen making a living on Jamaica Bay. But the clam beds closed. What happened?

The exhibit will use historic photographs of shellfisher boats to recreate a thriving Jamaica Bay industry. Pollution changed the scene, but clean-up efforts may allow the shellfish to return.

Gateway NRA
Jamaica Bay Unit

Wayside Exhibit Proposals

Exhibit 4

Location: Canarsie Pier, along main foot-traffic artery in front of current concession building.

Subject: Dutch and Indian History of Jamaica Bay.

Purpose: To interpret the impact of aboriginal Indians and the first European settlers on the Bay, in contrast to the current scene.

Description: Exhibit base will be either low-profile permanent, or upright portable panel.

Silkscreened art of Indians fishing the natural bay, and photo or graphic of a Dutch tidemill, will present the very early history of Jamaica Bay.

Gateway NRA
Jamaica Bay Unit

Wayside Exhibit Proposals

Exhibit 5

Location: Plumb Beach

Subject: Trailhead. Dune and marsh habitats

Purpose: To establish certain themes for the unmarked discovery trail.

Description: Before this trailhead exhibit can become a reality, the park must build and establish the trail.

Exhibit base will be either low-profile permanent, or upright portable panel. Since this area is at the park's East entrance if approaching on the Belt Parkway from Staten Island or Manhattan, an exhibit here is crucial to establish NPS identity, and to introduce the wayside exhibits that will help visually tie together the separate units of the park.

The exhibit panel will indicate the route and length of the trail with a simplified trail map, and will suggest things to look for: tracks in the sand, certain animals and vegetation to be found in dune and marsh environments.

Gateway NRA
Jamaica Bay Unit

Wayside Exhibit Proposals

Exhibit 6

Location: Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge Interpretive Center.

Subject: Trailhead. Orientation and habitats.

Purpose: To orient people to the refuge trail system, and to alert them to significant aspects of the environments they will enter.

Description: Exhibit base will be "permanent", but should be constructed for possible relocation.

Trail information such as length of walk will accompany a map of the West Pond loop trail. Graphics of each habitat -- upland, freshwater pond, marsh, shore -- using typical flora and fauna, may relate to graphics of special activity areas. The trailhead's theme will be man cooperating with nature so that these varied habitats might thrive (an urban park concept).

Gateway NRA
Breezy Point Unit

Wayside Exhibit Proposals

Exhibit 7

Location: Jacob Riis Mall

Subject: Jacob Riis

Purpose: To commemorate Jacob Riis and his contribution to the city.

Description: The exhibit will consist mainly of a large mural graphic of Jacob Riis, between the columns of the south building on the Central Mall. A label plaque will refer to Riis's significance as journalist, photographer, and father of the community park concept.

The park will investigate urban examples of silkscreening on ceramic, toward creating a vandal-resistant mural.

An optional approach would be a group of upright, portable panels creating a kind of photo-gallery, using Riis's own photographs to depict images of the inner city contrasted with children in the outdoors.

Gateway NRA
Breezy Point Unit

Wayside Exhibit Proposals
Exhibit 8

Location: Jacob Riis Mall

Subject: The NC-4

Purpose: To commemorate the NC-4 and the first flight across the Atlantic.

Description: The exhibit will consist mainly of a large mural graphic of the NC-4 flying boat, between the columns of the north building on the Central Mall. Label copy will refer to this area as the assembly, test and training site of the NC-4, and the significance of the historic flight. Smaller additional graphics -- historic photos -- may supplement the story. By showing NC-4 with crew and people around it, its surprising size will become apparent.

As with Exhibit 7, an optional approach using portable panels might be followed if the mural concept proves unfeasible.

Gateway NRA

Breezy Point Unit
Wayside Exhibit Proposals

Exhibit 9

Location: Fort Tilden, South Bunker

Subject: Defense of New York Harbor

Purpose: To recreate the look of the fully armed and manned bunker, and to relate this gun emplacement to the entire harbor defense system.

Description: The exhibit base will be low-profile permanent.

Historic photographs will transform the empty concrete cavern into a bunker bristling with gun and crew. The exhibit will explain the rails running through the heart of the structure (tracks to ammo sheds), and will refer to the historic defense system of New York Harbor. An additional graphic may indicate the strategic relationship between this location and Sandy Hook across the bay.

Gateway NRA

Staten Island Unit
Wayside Exhibit Proposals

Exhibit 10

Location: Park Headquarters, on lawn in front of building.

Subject: Miller Field

Purpose: To depict the Miller Field air station.

Description: The exhibit base will be low-profile permanent, oriented toward the hangar and lighthouse.

This exhibit and exhibit 11 will be either side-by-side, or satellite panels on a common base. A central graphic -- an aerial panorama showing the hangar, lighthouse, observation tower, former seaplane ramp site, etc.--will orient people to the most significant historic features on the landscape.

A historic photograph will show Miller Field in its heyday.

Gateway NRA
Staten Island Unit

Wayside Exhibit Proposals

Exhibit 11

Location: Park Headquarters, on lawn in front of building.

Subject: Elm Tree Light, and the navigational history of New York Harbor.

Purpose: To tell the evolving history of navigational landmarks, and to indicate the difficulties of entering New York Harbor.

Description: The exhibit base will be low-profile permanent, physically related to Exhibit 10.

The exhibit will highlight three eras:

- 1) The 1797 elm tree landmark, possibly illustrated with a 1797 map;
- 2) The mid-nineteenth century towers constructed all along this shore;
- 3) The 1890's, when a new channel was created and the modern site was developed.

Gateway NRA
Sandy Hook Unit

Wayside Exhibit Proposals

Exhibit 12

Location: Near Parade Ground, near Headquarters, or near Army Reserve parking lot.

Subject: Fort Hancock, a historical summary.

Purpose: To provide a general orientation to the Fort Hancock area, and possibly to serve as Trailhead for a guided or self-guided tour.

Description: Exhibit base should be low-profile permanent. Location, to be determined by the park, should be chosen to provide general view of the historic structures, to allow adequate parking, and to serve as a logical starting point for a tour of the fort.

The major graphic should be an aerial view of the Parade Ground and the entire fort, with tour stops, and main structures identified if possible. Interpretation will outline the entire history of the fortification of this area, mentioning the section of old fort now crowned with a water tank.

Gateway NRA
Sandy Hook Unit

Wayside Exhibit Proposals

Exhibit 13

Location: Near Rodman Gun

Subject: Rodman Gun

Purpose: To depict the Rodman Gun in action, and to interpret its significance.

Description: Exhibit base will be low-profile permanent. Location should be to the right of the gun, at a great enough distance to have a perspective of the gun's enormous size.

The graphics should include an historic photograph showing the actual carriage, gun crew, and all necessary firing tools. Since the Rodman was the largest muzzle-loading smooth-bore cannon, Rodman's unique casting process could be illustrated with a cutaway of the gun, indicating the huge proportion of powder explosive.

As the largest coastal defense gun of its time, the Rodman Gun had a longer range for firing on ships. Developed as a larger cannon than any of Europe's weapons, it was in a sense a forerunner of the modern "arms race." Yet the Rodman Gun was never used in a war, impractical despite successful test firings.

Gateway NRA
Sandy Hook Unit

Wayside Exhibit Proposals

Exhibit 14

Location: On firehouse triangle

Subject: Sandy Hook Lighthouse

Purpose: To interpret the significance of the light, the dynamics of the "Hook", and the New York Harbor lifesaving story.

Description: Exhibit base will be low-profile permanent. Location will be subject to development of adequate parking space.

Graphics of historic shipwrecks and disaster stories might illustrate the need for this, the oldest operating lighthouse in America, and also tie in with the lifesaving story to be told in the Lifesaving Station.

Since the lighthouse once stood at the tip of the peninsula, the sand accretion and the dynamic nature of this environment can be clearly illustrated.

Sub themes and minor graphics might include the Fresnel lens; photoelectronic activation of the light; the Hook's relationship to New York Harbor and its navigation problems; a cross-section of the thick lighthouse walls.

Gateway NRA
Sandy Hook Unit

Wayside Exhibit Proposals

Exhibit 15

Location: Mortar battery

Subject: Mortar batteries

Purpose: To depict an armed and manned mortar battery, and to interpret the significance of this method of defense.

Description: Exhibit base will be low-profile permanent. The greatest interpretive benefits can be derived if the exhibit is located within the actual battery. The park will investigate approval for attaching the exhibit base to the historic structure.

Graphics should be historic photographs showing an aerial view of the four sites, and what the pit looked like when filled with people and guns. Additional graphics might be a series of photos showing how the battery was constructed.

Since a ship's deck had lighter armor, the mortar's job technique was an important step in the development of coastal defense. These batteries, like others in the area, make use of nature as both defense and camouflage, hiding rather than intimidating like the big upright forts of the past. This general theme may weave through several other exhibits in this series.

Gateway NRA
Sandy Hook Unit

Wayside Exhibit Proposals

Exhibit 15 - page 2

Description: The technological advances of carrier-based airplanes and amphibious warfare made the coastal mortar battery obsolete, another general theme that will relate the fort's exhibits.

Subthemes may refer to the battery railroad and the aiming technique.

Gateway NRA
Sandy Hook Unit

Wayside Exhibit Proposals

Exhibit 16

Location: On the parapet of Battery Granger

Subject: Battery Granger

Purpose: To bring the abandoned bunker to life with men and weaponry, and to relate its significance to the developing technology of coastal defense.

Description: Exhibit base will be low-profile permanent. The only vantage point from which to grasp the significance of this gun emplacement, and particularly its relation to harbor defense, is on top of the bunker. The park will need to develop safe visitor access to the exhibit site, and obtain approval for attaching the base to the historic structure.

Historic photographs will show the operation of the "disappearing gun", possibly a series of graphics to illustrate the firing sequence.

The new technology of this disappearing gun, with its thirty-second firing cycle, made obsolete the more elaborate newly constructed Battery Potter (visible to the north).

Gateway NRA
Sandy Hook Unit

Wayside Exhibit Proposals

Exhibit 17

Location: To the left of the entrance gate to Battery Potter, at enough distance to get the massive bunker into perspective.

Subject: Battery Potter

Purpose: To provide a general introduction to Battery Potter, and to function as either the initial exhibit for a guided tour of the battery or as a self-contained interpretation for people on a self-guided auto tour.

Description: The exhibit base will be low-profile permanent.

The major graphic should provide an overhead cutaway view of the battery, indicating wall thickness, and its extension out into the beach for both camouflage and added protection from bombardment. Historic photos can depict the guns in operation, and a diagram could indicate how they were raised and lowered.

As an introductory exhibit, this interpretive panel should answer some basic questions: what is a "battery", why the need for a lift gun or disappearing gun, what were the intended targets.

The significance of this colossal structure, a prototype battery, becoming obsolete within one year of its construction, carries abundant irony. Each stage of technologic development is only a fleeting moment in the evolution of armed defense.

Gateway NRA
Sandy Hook Unit

Wayside Exhibit Proposals

Exhibit 18

Location: Boiler area at the end of the transverse gallery inside
Battery Potter, ground floor.

Subject: The steam equipment that operated the lift guns.

Purpose: To illustrate the size and appearance of the steam equipment.

Description: Permanent graphic panel on either the wall or on a simple base.
Exhibits 18 through 23 depend upon the park developing safe
visitor access within and on top of the bunker, and upon the
details of approval to attach exhibitry to the historic structure.
The cavernous interior of this bunker is enormously impressive,
and presents a unique opportunity to interpret a coastal defense
position from the inside-out.

A lot of power was necessary to lift the massive guns and plat-
forms into loading and firing position. An historic photograph
of the gigantic boilers that provided the steam power -- dwarfing
the men who operated them -- could illustrate the scene far better
than additional verbal description. Exhibits 18 through 22 are
intended as a graphic aid to a guided tour of the battery, and will
therefore have minimal label copy.

Gateway NRA
Sandy Hook Unit

Wayside Exhibit Proposals

Exhibit 19

Location: Between south elevator shaft and shell and powder rooms,
inside Battery Potter, ground floor.

Subject: The lifting mechanism for the guns.

Purpose: To illustrate the elevator operation.

Description: Permanent graphic panel on either the wall or on a simple base.

An historic photograph will show the mechanism that lifted
ammunition and cannon.

Gateway NRA
Sandy Hook Unit

Wayside Exhibit Proposals

Exhibit 20

Location: Near rear gun ports, second floor, Battery Potter.

Subject: The rear guard.

Purpose: To illustrate the rear-guard bunker defense.

Description: Permanent graphic panel on either the wall or on a simple base.

An historic photograph will illustrate the fully-armed rear-guard gunports, a rather unique feature of Battery Potter. Gatling guns protected the entrance gate in case of land-based or amphibious attack.

Gateway NRA
Sandy Hook Unit

Wayside Exhibit Proposals

Exhibit 21

Location: South gun-loading area, second floor, Battery Potter.

Subject: Loading the 12" cannon.

Purpose: To illustrate the loading operation.

Description: A permanent graphic panel on either the wall or on a simple base.

Historic photos and/or diagrams will depict clearly the loading of these 12" lift guns.

Gateway NRA
Sandy Hook Unit

Wayside Exhibit Proposals

Exhibit 22 (Audio)

Location: Near exhibit 21, gun-loading area, second floor of Battery Potter.

Subject: An audio reconstruction of the lifting, loading, and firing of the 12" lift gun.

Purpose: To bring back the sounds of men and equipment preparing the 12" cannon for firing.

Description: This device will use the dim atmosphere within the bunker to dramatise the loading and firing of the rifled cannon.

The initial sound is steam building up pressure. An officer barks commands, the steam sound increases, ammunition is brought out, and there is the sound of the elevator beginning to rise. A clanking noise as the mechanism locks into place, then the explosive firing, followed by the anti-climax of the elevator returning to the ground floor.

Gateway NRA
Sandy Hook Unit

Wayside Exhibit Proposals

Exhibit 23

Location: On top of Battery Potter.

Subject: Battery Potter and the coastal defense system.

Purpose: To use the commanding view of the batteries and of the harbor to interpret this bunker as only one part of a whole system of defense.

Description: The exhibit base will be low-profile permanent.

The major graphic of this exhibit will establish the geographical relationship between the Sandy Hook batteries, Fort Tilden, and the waters between them. Here on top it becomes clear that these lift guns would have an unlimited field of fire.

To establish the concept of a defense system, the exhibit will refer to the mortar batteries (exhibit 15), to Battery Grange (exhibit 16), and to the "Nine Gun Battery" visible just to the north. What were the various functions and targets of these weapons?

An historic photo could depict the gun in raised position.

Gateway NRA
Sandy Hook Unit

Wayside Exhibit Proposals

Exhibit 24

Location: At west end of Proving Grounds, to have same perspective as the historic photograph.

Subject: Proving Grounds

Purpose: To depict the Proving Grounds in action, and to discuss their significance.

Description: The exhibit base will be low-profile permanent.

The primary graphic should be an historic photograph of the eighty ton gantry crane which moved guns and ammunition, with different type of guns visible to the right of the crane.

This area has international significance because guns and ammo tested here were used at Manila, and in Europe during World Wars I and II. A sub-theme with supporting graphic will demonstrate the special screens used to measure shell velocity.

The exhibit will orient people to the field of fire -- as far as the Visitor Center three miles away -- and warn of projectiles still being found in the area today.

Gateway NRA
Sandy Hook Unit

Wayside Exhibit Proposals

Exhibit 25

Location: On the dune area above the two guns of Battery Gunnison.

Subject: Battery Gunnison

Purpose: To depict Battery Gunnison in action and to explain its significance for harbor defense.

Description: The exhibit base will be low-profile permanent. The park has a current plan for providing access on top between the two gun emplacements, and this exhibit should be located as an extension of that access. Best exhibit orientation would be toward the northeast, providing the most unobstructed view of NY Harbor, and avoiding the sewage process machinery.

These rapid-fire 6" guns defended the mine fields from quick, shallow-draft vessels, in contrast to the "disappearing" guns which aimed at big ships. A graphic should illustrate the minefields and the fast PT-type boats that might have become targets. In a sense the exhibit should stimulate visitors to imagine an attack.

It may be too obvious to provide an historic photo of a 6" gun being loaded and fired since the visitor has such ready access to the actual weapons.

Label copy should point out that this battery is the former site of disappearing guns, another instance of obsolescence through technologic advance, and that the 6" guns also became obsolete with the advent of aerial and missile warfare.

Gateway NRA
Sandy Hook Unit

Wayside Exhibit Proposals

Exhibit 26

Location: On the ground in front of the south casement of Battery Kingman.

Subject: Battery Kingman

Purpose: To illustrate Battery Kingman in action, and to interpret its role in the coastal defense system.

Description: The exhibit base will be low-profile permanent. Further development of this exhibit will depend on phasing out the picnic area in front of the bunker, as recommended in a draft of the Master Plan. Necessary site development must include parking facilities, a trail from the parking area to the bunkers, and a sign identifying the trail.

The exhibit graphics should be an historic photographs of the fully armed and manned battery in 1919, and circa World War II. The site again demonstrates the evolution of warfare. Installed in 1919, with tilted carriage to give great firing range, this emplacement was the apex of coastal defense through the second World War.

The casemates were modified to counter the threat of carrier-based aircraft, but still succumbed to obsolescence with advent of amphibious, missile and atomic warfare.

Gateway NRA
Sandy Hook Unit

Wayside Exhibit Proposals

Exhibit 27

Location: Near southwest elevator, Nike Missile Site

Subject: The Nike Missile

Purpose: To depict the site in operation, and to explain the significance of this site as the final stage of defense in the area.

Description: The exhibit base will be low-profile permanent. Further development of this exhibit depends on several factors:

- 1) The site in its present condition is not adequate for wayside exhibit interpretation. A minimum step would be the display of a Nike missile, or Nike replica. An optimum would be the addition of launching rack, transfer rails, and at least partial operation of the elevator.
- 2) Army or Defense Department clearance for the above.
- 3) Needed site development would include moving the fence nearer the missile elevator, with the exhibit placed just inside the fence to deter vandalism; and use of the remaining asphalt area as a visitor parking lot for both guided and self-guided tours.

The exhibit graphic might be a 1959 aerial photograph of the missiles prepared for launching. The Nike Hercules, a surface-to-air missile to deter long-range bombers, was the latest stage in the Fort Hancock area defense system. Like the other batteries on Sandy Hook, the theme here is weaponry as deterrent rather than aggressor.

Gateway NRA
Sandy Hook Unit

Wayside Exhibit Proposals

Exhibit 27 - page 2

Description: Missile operation will be explained -- the function of the elevator and underground storage, the launches, the radar guidance system. The missiles are still functional as a first line of defense by the NATO countries in Europe, although the trend is toward mobile, deployable units, rather than permanent installations. This site represents a final development prior to the large underground silos in the midwest.



United States Department of the Interior

JUL 26. 1978

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NORTH ATLANTIC REGION

15 STATE STREET

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02109

July 18, 1978

IN REPLY REFER TO:

NAR(P)

K-1817-NAR(01)

Memorandum

To: Harpers Ferry Center

From: Acting Regional Director, North Atlantic Region

Subject: Interpretive Prospectus, Gateway

Due to some misunderstanding, it has not been made clear that the Regional Office Review indicates that the subject prospectus is an excellent document. Please consider the document approved as of today's date.

Denis P. Galvin



IN REPLY REFER TO:

K-1517
D-15

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

GATEWAY NATIONAL RECREATION AREA
HEADQUARTERS BLDG.
FLOYD BENNETT FIELD
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11234

June 26, 1978

NORTH ATLANTIC REGION		Initial and Date
Director	✓	8-5-80
Deputy Director		
P.E.O.		
Land		
Admin		
Staten Island Unit, N.Y.		
Fort Saratoga Hook Unit, N.Y.		
Finance		
Personnel		
Program		
Operations	✓	4-6-80
Interp.		
Manag.		
Res. Mgmt.		
Youth Act.		
Planning	✓	5-7-80
Gift Res.		
Design		
Env. Comp.		
Pres. Dir.		
Scientific Studies		

Memorandum

To: Division of Interpretive Planning

From: Superintendent, Gateway NRA

Through: Regional Director, NARO

Subject: GNRA - Final Draft Interpretive Prospectus

We have reviewed the interpretive prospectus and find it to be of overall excellence. We have a few small amendments to make which are on the attached sheet. With these incorporated into the text, the prospectus has my approval.

Herbert S. Cables, Jr.

Enclosure

US NPS - Denver



DSC008138