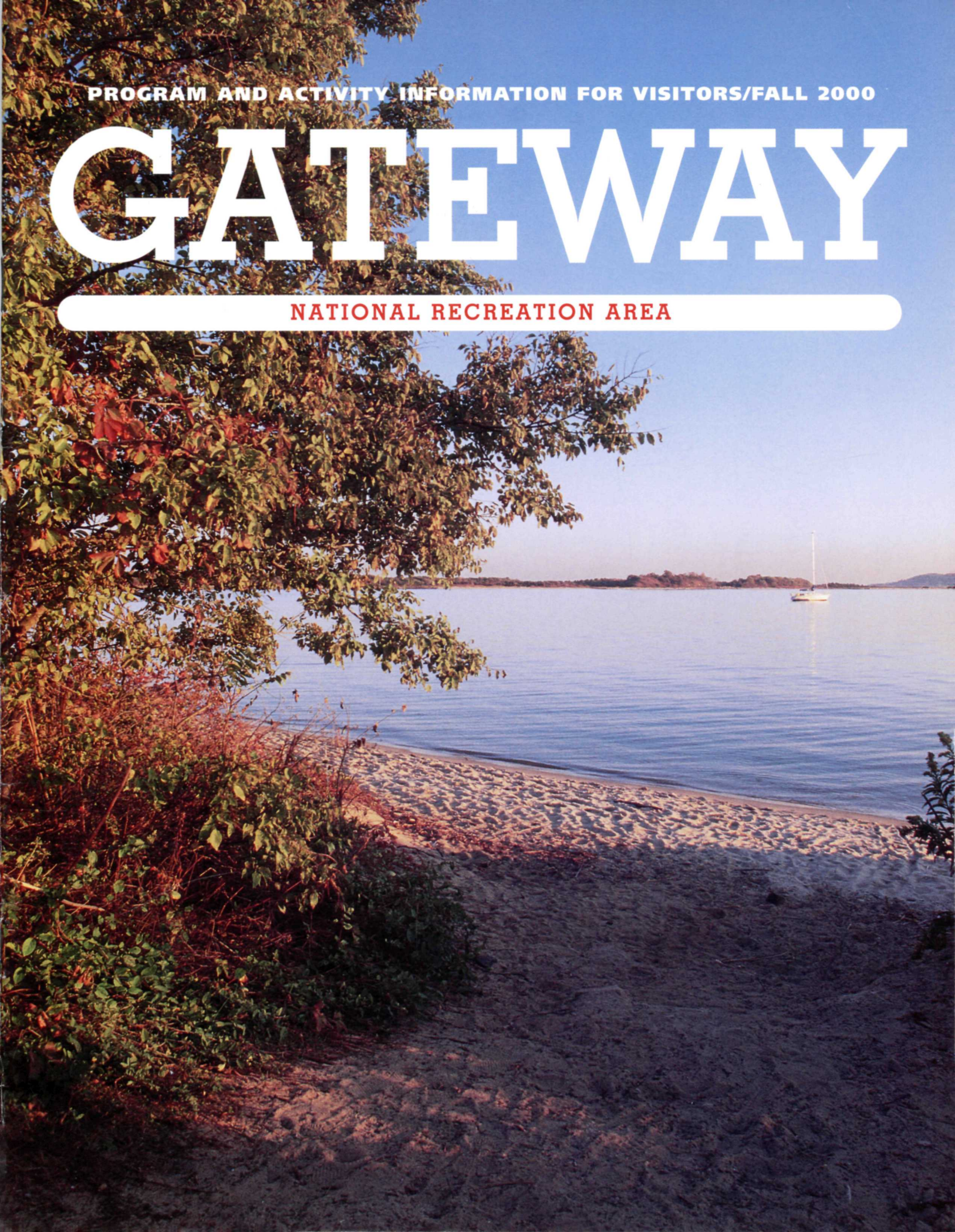


PROGRAM AND ACTIVITY INFORMATION FOR VISITORS/FALL 2000

GATEWAY

NATIONAL RECREATION AREA





FLOYD BENNETT FIELD BROOKLYN, NY (718) 338-3799	Subway: IRT #2 (also #5 at rush hours) to Flatbush Avenue. Take Q35 bus to park. Ask driver to let you off at the main entrance.	Bus: Connect with Q35 Green Bus Lines on Flatbush Avenue at the corner of Nostrand, Kings Highway, Fillmore Ave. or Avenue U (Kings Plaza). Ask the driver to let you off at the main entrance.	Auto: Belt Parkway to Exit 11S; take Flatbush Avenue south to the main entrance.
JACOB RIIS PARK/ FORT TILDEN QUEENS, NY (718) 318-4300	Subway: IRT #2 (also #5 at rush hours) to Flatbush Avenue. Take Q35 bus to the park. Other route: IND A or S to Rockaway Park then Q35 or Q22 bus to the park.	Bus: Connect with Q35 Green Bus Lines on Flatbush Avenue at the corner of Nostrand, Kings Highway, Fillmore Ave. or Avenue U (Kings Plaza). After the bridge, ask driver to let you off at either Ft. Tilden or Riis Park. Alternate: Q21 or Q53 to Beach 116th Street, then Q22 or Q35 to the park.	Auto: Belt Parkway to Exit 11S, then Flatbush Avenue south across the Marine Parkway Bridge to the park. Alternate: Woodhaven Boulevard to Cross Bay Boulevard then west on Beach Channel Drive to the park.
CANARSIE PIER BROOKLYN, NY (718) 763-2202	Mass transit: BMT L subway to Rockaway Parkway, then transfer (free) to the B42 bus to the entrance of the pier.		Auto: Belt Parkway to Exit 13, Rockaway Parkway.
JAMAICA BAY WILDLIFE REFUGE QUEENS, NY (718) 318-4340	Subway: IND A to Broad Channel Station. Proceed by walking on Noel Road to Cross Bay Boulevard, turn right and walk about three quarters of a mile to the Refuge Visitor Center	Bus: Green Bus Line Q21 from Liberty Avenue (Queens) or 116th Street (Rockaway) to the Refuge; or the Q53 Triboro express bus from 61st Street & Roosevelt Avenue (Queens) to the refuge.	Auto: Belt Parkway to Exit 17, Cross Bay Boulevard. Proceed south on Cross Bay Boulevard across the North Channel Bridge. The refuge visitor center is about 1 mile past the bridge at the traffic light.
MILLER FIELD STATEN ISLAND, NY (718) 351-6970	Train: SIRT at Staten Island Ferry Terminal to New Dorp Station, then S76 bus to Miller Field.	Bus: S76 from Staten Island Ferry Terminal to New Dorp Lane and entrance to Miller Field.	Auto: Miller Field and Great Kills Park: Verrazano Narrows Bridge from Brooklyn or the Goethals Bridge from New Jersey to the Staten Island Expressway (Rt. 278); take the Hylan Boulevard exit. Proceed south on Hylan Boulevard and turn east on New Dorp Lane for Miller Field, or proceed further south on Hylan Boulevard to the Great Kills Park entrance.
GREAT KILLS PARK (718) 987-6790	Train: Not available	Bus: S78 from Staten Island Ferry Terminal or the S79 from 95th Street at 4th Avenue, Brooklyn to the park entrance.	
FORT WADSWORTH STATEN ISLAND, NY (718) 354-4500	Train: Not available	Bus: S51 from Staten Island Ferry Terminal to the park entrance on Bay Street.	Auto: Verrazano Narrows Bridge from Brooklyn: after toll, take the Bay Street exit to the park entrance; or Staten Island Expressway (Rt. 278) east to the Bay Street exit. Turn left at the light and follow this road to Bay Street and the park entrance.
SANDY HOOK NEW JERSEY (732) 872-5970	Train: New Jersey Transit's North Coast Line to Red Bank, then NJT M24 bus to Highlands. Telephone NJT at (800) 772-2222 (NJ only) or (973) 762-5100 for schedule info.	Bus: N.J.-New Jersey Transit M24 bus stops at the park entrance. Telephone NJT at (800) 772-2222 (NJ only) or (973) 762-5100 for schedule info. N.Y.—Academy Bus Lines from N.Y.C. to Highlands, NJ. Telephone (732) 291-1300 or (212) 564-8484 for schedule info.	Auto: Garden State Parkway to Exit 117; follow Route 36 east for 12 miles to the park entrance. Boat: Seastreak (1-800-BOATRIDE) and New York Fast Ferry (1-800-693-NYFF) provide daily ferry service from Manhattan to Highlands, NJ.

FOR EMERGENCIES CONTACT:

U.S. Park Police

(718) 338-3988

**(Brooklyn, Queens and
Staten Island)**

NPS Ranger Station

(732) 872-5900 (Sandy Hook, NJ)

Gateway National Recreation Area Program Guide Volume 14, No. 3 Fall 2000
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Floyd Bennett Field, Headquarters Building 69, Brooklyn, NY 11234 (718) 338-3338

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Superintendent, Jamaica Bay Unit **Billy Garrett**
Acting Superintendent, Staten Island Unit **Shirley McKinney**
Superintendent, Sandy Hook Unit **Russel Wilson**

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Like many of you, I am a relative newcomer to New York City and the Gateway National Recreation Area. I have been the park's new superintendent for just a few months, though I am not a newcomer to the National Park Service. My career has taken me from Assateague, to the Virgin Islands, from San Francisco, to Albuquerque and Washington D.C. and finally to Gateway, the park at your front door.

There are many special facets of Gateway that impressed me when I arrived. I like to think they impressed each of us on our first visits. A high quality staff, great forts, beaches and trails greeted me. Impressive and unexpected treats included the massive trees of Fort Wadsworth, black skimmers at Breezy Point, 30" strippers coasting the surf at Great Kills Park, and the extraordinary historic buildings at Sandy Hook.

The beauty and diversity within Gateway's boundaries reminds us that we inhabit a fragile ecosystem that may one day change dramatically. A recently released study on global climate conducted by scientists from NASA, the Federal Environmental Protection Agency and Columbia University's Earth Institute, found that our area is particularly prone to drastic change. In part this is because temperatures and seas are rising faster here than elsewhere. But it is also because so many of us live in the densely populated greater metropolitan area.

"Climate change is really going to affect people where they live, and people live primarily in cities," said Cynthia Rosenzweig, a climate impact specialist with NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies and the study's main author.

Some of these changes are already apparent at Gateway. Studies suggest that some salt marshes in Jamaica Bay have lost 12 percent of their area since 1959, possibly due to rising sea levels. By the 2080s, the seas could rise by

anywhere from 9 to 43 inches, and the beach erosion rates could be up to 10 times what they are now. In the most extreme scenario, floods so severe they now occur every 100 years, could take place as often as every four.

Many of the things we do everyday, especially regarding water and energy use, has an impact on the quality of our

lives and on the lives of future generations. They also have an impact on the long-term health of this park. We encourage visitors to use their National Park sites and enjoy an enriching park experience, while using a minimum of energy consuming technology. For our part, the park is making special efforts to encourage environmentally sound practices, including transportation alternatives. For example, we've just completed another successful summer of ferry service to Sandy Hook and we are about to begin a

demonstration project that will bring a much needed ferry service to the Rockaway Peninsula.

Gateway has also replaced industry standard cleaning products with new products that are safer for the environment, reduced waste by recycling a greater percentage of visitor refuse, and embarked on a long-term project to lower the park's energy use. In short, we are continuing our goal to improve the visitor experience and better protect the environment. Although this is just a beginning, we are confident that these first, small steps will make a difference in our immediate and more distant future.



Marc Koenings
General Superintendent
September, 2000



Cover photo: Horseshoe Cove at Sandy Hook
Photo by Brian Feeney

NEW YORK

JAMAICA BAY UNIT

Three areas of geography define the Jamaica Bay Unit of Gateway: Jamaica Bay, the Rockaway Peninsula and Floyd Bennett Field. Spread out over thousands of acres, this area of the boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens creates a microcosm that defines much of what Gateway National Recreation Area is all about: complex natural resources, military history and abundant recreation areas.

FLOYD BENNETT FIELD

Floyd Bennett Field was dedicated in 1931 as New York City's first municipal airport. During the pioneering days of aviation, famous aviators including Howard Hughes, Jacqueline Cochran and 'Wrong Way' Corrigan, all used the field for their record-breaking flights.

Converted to a naval air station in 1941, there are many remnants of the military era for visitors to explore, along with recreational opportunities and environmental education activities for area school children and adults.

RIIS PARK

Jacob Riis Park was created in the early part of the 20th century to give New York City residents a new seaside recreation area. Today the site includes the famous bathhouse and a pristine beach for seasonal bathing.

FORT TILDEN

Adjacent to Riis Park, Fort Tilden was a key military site that defended New York Harbor from World War I through the Vietnam War. The grounds of the fort now serve as athletic fields for local teams, and the back fort area contains remnants of the military era, along with hiking trails that are perfect for bird watching.

JAMAICA BAY WILDLIFE REFUGE

The largest bird sanctuary in the northeastern United States, the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge is the best place in New York City to observe seasonal bird migrations. Two brackish ponds and miles of trails offer visitors a chance to see some of the three hundred thirty species that have made this a stopping point along the Atlantic Flyway. A parking area, bookstore and restrooms are located at the visitor center.

CANARSIE PIER

Located in Jamaica Bay along Brooklyn's Belt Parkway, this historic pier offers visitors a place to relax, or experience some of the best fishing on Jamaica Bay. Restrooms, a full-service restaurant and a seasonal snack stand are also available.

FRANK CHARLES PARK

A neighborhood park located in the Howard Beach section of Queens, Frank Charles Park features a playground, ball fields and handball courts.

SEPTEMBER

TOUR OF THE HEAVENS

Floyd Bennett Field,
Ryan Visitor Center

Join the Amateur Astronomers Association for a look at the stars. Call (718) 338-3799 for dates and times.



BASIC BOAT BUILDING

Floyd Bennett Field,
Ryan Visitor Center

Learn the basics of boat building by participating in the building of a vessel. Space is limited and will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Call (718) 338-3799 for more information.

SUNSET HISTORY HIKE

Fort Tilden Visitor Center
Saturday, September 2 at 6 p.m.

Discover Fort Tilden's history and enjoy the sunset. Reservations required.



BACKYARD BIRDING

Floyd Bennett Field,
Ecology Village, Building 70
Saturday, September 9 at 10 a.m.

Learn to identify and enjoy the migrating birds that are in our backyards. Program includes a brief walk through the Ecology Village trails.



NAVAL AIR STATION NEW YORK

Floyd Bennett Field,
Ryan Visitor Center
Saturday, September 9 at 11 a.m.

A lecture and tour to learn about Floyd Bennett Field's involvement in World War II. Reservations required.



MODEL TRAIN EXHIBITION

Floyd Bennett Field, Hangar 6
Sunday, September 10 at 11 a.m.

Children of all ages can see working modular railroads of different scales, such as N and HO. Sponsored by Brooklyn N Trak.

LATE BLOOMERS

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Sunday, September 10 at 2 p.m.

Goldenrods, asters and other late summer blossoms. Reservations required.



HARVEST MOON PROWL

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Wednesday, September 13 at 6:30 p.m.

Witness the natural events surrounding the rise of the Harvest Moon. Bring binoculars. Reservations required.

FOR RESERVATIONS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Floyd Bennett Field - (718) 338-3799

Ecology Village - (718) 338-4306

Jacob Riis Park & Fort Tilden - (718) 318-4300

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge - (718) 318-4340

Canarsie Pier - (718) 763-2202

THE ART OF BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Thursday, September 14 at 7:30 p.m.

Internationally known bird photographer Arthur Morris presents a slide program about birds and the art of photographing them. Reservations required. (See the Special Events section.)



INTERNATIONAL BEACH CLEAN-UP

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Saturday, September 16 at 10 a.m.

"Think globally, act locally!" Be part of this international effort to end marine debris by helping to clean the shoreline of Jamaica Bay. Wear sturdy shoes and bring work gloves. Reservations required.



INTERNATIONAL BEACH CLEAN-UP

Fort Tilden Visitor Center
Saturday, September 16 at 10 a.m.

(Rain date: September 17)

Help clean a local shoreline and be part of the global solution to marine debris. Wear sturdy shoes and bring work gloves. Reservations required.



ANTIQUE AUTO SHOW

Floyd Bennett Field,
Ryan Visitor Center
Sunday September 17 at 10 a.m.

View antique autos from Model T's to Mustangs. Presented by the Brooklyn Antique Auto Club.



INSECTS AROUND US

Floyd Bennett Field,
Ecology Village, Building 70
Sunday, September 17 at 1 p.m.

We live among thousands of insects, carrying on their daily activities in our midst. Learn about butterfly migration and about common insects in our area.



MONARCH MIGRATION WALK

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Sunday, September 17 at 1 p.m.

Observe beautiful butterflies and learn about their epic journey south. Bring binoculars. Reservations required.



GEOLOGIC HISTORY OF THE ROCKAWAYS

Fort Tilden Visitor Center
Friday, September 22 at 7:30 p.m.

Dr. Lillian Hess Tanguay of the C. W. Post Campus of Long Island University presents a slide show and lecture on the geologic history and coastal engineering that shaped Rockaway, New York. Reservations required.

WOMEN IN AVIATION

Floyd Bennett Field,
Ryan Visitor Center
Saturday, September 23 at 11 a.m.

A tribute to the aviators of the past, their courage and skills. Reservations required.



ROCKAWAY MUSIC AND ARTS COUNCIL FALL FESTIVAL

Jacob Riis Park
Saturday and Sunday, September 23 and 24 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
See Special Events



HAWK WALK

Floyd Bennett Field,
Ecology Village, Building 70
Sunday, September 24 at 10 a.m.

Spot a variety of hawk species as we hike through the North 40 trails. Bring binoculars and wear hiking shoes or boots. Reservations required.

A BIRD IN HAND

Fort Tilden Visitor Center
Saturday, September 30 at 9 a.m.

Observe songbird banding up close with Tom Brown, faculty member of the College of Staten Island. Reservations required.



OCTOBER

MAGICAL MONARCHS

Fort Tilden Visitor Center
Sunday, October 1 at 10 a.m.

Observe monarch butterflies and other migrations winging their way south. Reservations required. Bring binoculars



HAWKWATCH AT THE OVERLOOK

Fort Tilden Visitor Center
Saturday, October 7 at 9 a.m.

Learn hawk-watching techniques and try your skills at a birding hotspot. Bring binoculars. Reservations required.

AUTUMN DISCOVERIES

Floyd Bennett Field,
Ecology Village, Building 70
Saturday, October 7 at 10 a.m.

Hike the trails of Dead Horse Bay and experience the changing habitat that comes alive during the fall season.



A WING AND A PRAYER

Floyd Bennett Field,
Ryan Visitor Center
Saturday, October 7 at 11 a.m.

Meet the Historic Aviation Restoration Program (HARP) volunteers and tour the great flying machines they restore. Reservations required.

FALL MIGRATION BIRD WALK

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Sunday, October 8 at 10 a.m.

Migrant songbirds, hawks and waterbirds touchdown to rest and feed in the varied habitats of the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. Bring binoculars. Reservations required.



FUN WITH LEAVES

Floyd Bennett Field,
Ecology Village, Building 70
Saturday, October 14 at 10 a.m.
Collect and identify the leaves of autumn.



THE ART OF BIRDWATCHING

Fort Tilden Visitor Center
Saturday, October 21 at 10 a.m.

The Rockaway Artists Alliance adds an artistic twist to bird watching. Bring binoculars, a sketchbook and pencils. Reservations required.

FLYING MACHINES FROM THEN 'TIL NOW

Floyd Bennett Field,
Ryan Visitor Center
Saturday, October 21 at 11 a.m.

Learn about America's flying machines, beginning with the Wright Flyer, at this family event. Reservations required.

AUTUMN LEAVES AND SEEDS

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Sunday, October 22 at 11 a.m.

A botanical ramble during harvest season. Reservations required.



MEMORIES OF FORT TILDEN

Fort Tilden Visitor Center
Sunday, October 22 at 2 p.m.

Bob Redmond presents a slide show and lecture on his first hand experience of Fort Tilden as an active military base. Reservations required.

**BATS IN BROOKLYN**

Floyd Bennett Field,
Ecology Village, Building 70
Sunday, October 29 at 1 p.m.

Learn about their survival skills and the beneficial roles they play in the natural world.

SUNSET WALK

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Sunday, October 29 at 4 p.m.

Savor the last hour of daylight on the first day of Eastern Standard Time. Bring binoculars. Reservations required.

**HALLOWEEN EXTRAVAGANZA**

Fort Tilden Visitor Center
Tuesday, October 31 from
4 – 7 p.m.

Children 12 and younger (with adult supervision) are invited to join National Park Service rangers for a ghoulish time of Halloween fun.

**NOVEMBER****HERBERT JOHNSON LECTURE SERIES**

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Wednesday, November 1
at 7:30 p.m.

Topic to be announced.
Reservations required.

LIFESTYLE OF THE LENAPE

Floyd Bennett Field,
Ecology Village, Building 70
Saturday, November 4 at 10 a.m.

A walk back in time to learn about Native American life in early Brooklyn. A video that explores the current lives of the Lenape will also be shown.

NEW YORK IN THE 30'S - THE GREAT DEPRESSION

Floyd Bennett Field,
Ryan Visitor Center
Saturday, November 4 at 11 a.m.

Brooklyn life in the 1930's.
Reservations required.

WILDLIFE RESCUE

Fort Tilden Visitor Center
Saturday, November 4 at 1 p.m.

A licensed wildlife rehabilitator will present a program, complete with birds and small mammals, on how to aid injured wildlife. Reservations required.

**THE NATURE OF JAMAICA BAY**

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Sunday, November 5 at 1 p.m.

Natural resource issues affecting Jamaica Bay and the park's habitat management program will be the focus of this slide presentation and guided walk. Bring binoculars. Reservations required.

HERBERT JOHNSON LECTURE SERIES

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Wednesday, November 8
at 7:30 p.m.

Topic to be announced.
Reservations required.

WREATH MAKING AND HABITAT ENHANCEMENT

Fort Tilden Visitor Center
Saturday, November 11 at 1 p.m.

Clear an aggressive, non-native vine from Fort Tilden's maritime forest and create wreaths from your cuttings. Wear work clothes, sturdy shoes, and bring work gloves. Reservations required.

MODELS, MODELS, MODELS

Floyd Bennett Field,
Ryan Visitor Center
Sunday, November 12 at 10 a.m.

Learn more about building, selecting and buying models of all kinds from trains to planes. In cooperation with Brooklyn N Trak, Brooklyn Plastic Modelers and Pennsylvania Avenue Radio Club.

**HERBERT JOHNSON LECTURE SERIES**

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Wednesday, November 15
at 7:30 p.m.

Topic to be announced.
Reservations required.

GET TRACKING

Floyd Bennett Field,
Ecology Village, Building 70
Saturday, November 18 at 10 a.m.

Learn common bird and mammal tracks in our area, and create pictures with stamp prints.

AIR POWER IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR

Floyd Bennett Field,
Ryan Visitor Center
Saturday, November 18 at 11 a.m.

Naval Air Station New York will be featured in this lecture about World War II. Reservations required.

**NATIONAL PARKS AT YOUR DOORSTEP**

Fort Tilden Visitor Center
Saturday, November 18 at 7 p.m.

Learn about your national parks with a slide show and lecture. Enjoy refreshments and bring your questions. Reservations required.

**WATERFOWL WALK**

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Sunday, November 19 at 1 p.m.

Ducks and geese on pond and marsh, and tips for their identification. Bring binoculars. Reservations required.

**HERBERT JOHNSON LECTURE SERIES**

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Wednesday, November 29
at 7:30 p.m.

Topic to be announced.
Reservations required.



Visit us on
the Web at
www.nps.gov/gate
for
Gateway News
and
Program Updates

SPECIAL EVENTS

THE ART OF BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Thursday, September 14
at 7:30 p.m.



Internationally known bird photographer and author Arthur Morris presents a slide program about the art and adventure of bird photography. Mr. Morris, whose travels have included points from the Churchill wilderness to Southern Florida, will discuss the ins and outs of bird photography, his books, and some of his favorite birding hot spots. Reservations are required.

ROCKAWAY MUSIC AND ARTS COUNCIL FALL FESTIVAL

Jacob Riis Park Bathhouse
Saturday and Sunday, September 23 and 24 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The 17th annual RMAC Festival featuring crafts and craft demonstrations, antiques, children's activities, music, refreshments and a flower show. Free admission and parking. For additional information call the RMAC at (718) 474-6760.

THEATER IN THE ROCKAWAYS

Fort Tilden Post Theater

The Rockaway Theatre Company will present two plays in the former Post Theater at Fort Tilden during the fall season. Call the RTC at (718) 634-6482 for information and ticket sales; no tickets will be sold at the door.

MYSTERY COMEDY- TBA

September 1 – September 30
Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m.
Sunday, September 17 at 2 p.m.
and 7 p.m.

"ONCE UPON A MATTRESS"

October 6 – October 28
Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m.
Sundays, October 15 and October 22 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

ROCKAWAY ARTISTS ALLIANCE MILLENNIUM EXPO

Fort Tilden, Buildings T6 and T7

Presented in conjunction with: Gateway National Recreation Area, the Queens Borough President, The Queens Historical Society and the Queens Council on the Arts. For information call the RAA at (718) 474-0861 or email: rockart116 @ AOL.com

Oct 1 Labyrinth – 12 noon
Gallery Opening – 1 p.m.

Oct 7 Spoken Word – 7 p.m.
Film – 8 p.m.

Oct 8 Mask making – 1 p.m.

Oct 14 Sculpture Walk – 1 p.m.

Oct 15 Storytelling – 1:30 p.m.
Dance – 3 p.m.

Oct 21 Network Costume Party – 8 p.m.

All artists, friends and philanthropists, come as your favorite work of art.

Oct 22 Animal Afternoon – 2 p.m.
Drawing Workshop – 3 p.m.

Oct 28 Afternoon of High Art
with the "Rooftop Life"
Musical Group – 12 noon

Queens HS Artists Slide Show will follow.

Oct 29 Halloween hands on workshop – 1 p.m.

All hands on deck to help create our most exciting Halloween ever.

Oct 31 Grand Finale, Dr. Demento's "Maison des Lunes"
Building 1, Fort Tilden
5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Deadline: October 31, 2000

Amateure photographers are invited to participate in the annual Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge Photography Contest.

Subject matter is limited to the natural environment of the New York City area, and may include landscapes, people in the environment, images of birds, fish, flowers, insects, all in the natural environment.

Prints can be either 8x10, 8x12 or 11x14, color or black and white; do not mat or frame the prints. Young photographers are encouraged to submit photographs for the under 14 category. Winning photographs will go on exhibit at the Visitor Center in winter, 2001. For additional details, telephone (718) 318-4340.

Photographs can be submitted at the Visitor Center, or mailed to:
Photo Contest
Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
c/o Floyd Bennett Field /
Building 69
Brooklyn, NY 11234



NEW YORK

STATEN ISLAND UNIT

The diversity of the Staten Island Unit reflects the character of the island that shares its name --open spaces and an important history that dates back to the early Dutch settlements of New York.

Gateway's sites extend along the south shore of the island and include Fort Wadsworth, Miller Field and Great Kills Park; Hoffman and Swinburne Islands, located south of the Narrows, are also part of the park.

Visitors to the Staten Island Unit can explore former military fortifications, participate in organized athletics and enjoy a variety of recreation activities. Natural habitats include shoreline and dunes, uplands of grasses, shrubs and trees, and fresh water wetlands.

FORT WADSWORTH

Called the 'Guardian of the Narrows,' Fort Wadsworth is one of the oldest military sites in the nation. Strategically located at the entrance to New York Harbor, this fort guarded our country's most important city for two hundred years. Visitors today can join ranger-led tours to explore Civil War era gun batteries, or take-in a panoramic view of New York and its harbor from one of the highest points in New York City.

The Fort Wadsworth Visitor Center is open Wednesday through Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Ranger-led tours of the fortifications are conducted on Saturday and Sunday at 10:30 am and 2:30 pm, and Wednesday - Friday at 2:30 pm.

MILLER FIELD

Built after World War I to serve as a landing field for military biplanes, this 187-acre open space now serves thousands of StatenIsland residents who participate in organized athletics.

GREAT KILLS PARK

Located on the southeastern tip of Staten Island, the park is a great resource for jogging, in-line skating, cycling, fishing and boating, as well as seasonal beach activities. Great Kills Park is also home to a nature study area that offers a great chance to do some bird watching in this coastal environment.

HOFFMAN ISLAND and SWINBURNE ISLAND

Used primarily in the 19th century, these artificially created islands served as a quarantine site for immigrants who were suffering from contagious diseases. There are few remnants of the complex of buildings that once dotted these two islands, with most of the area now suitable as a bird habitat. The islands are closed to the public.

PERMITS

Parking permits for fishing, nature study, and boating, as well as Golden Passes, can be purchased at the following locations:

- Fort Wadsworth Visitor Center
Wednesday through Sunday,
10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- Miller Field Ranger Station
9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.,
seven days a week.
- Great Kills Ranger Station
Friday through Monday.
9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

FOR RESERVATIONS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Fort Wadsworth - (718) 354-4500

Miller Field - (718) 351-6970

Great Kills Park- (718) 987-6790

A TDD/TTY MACHINE FOR USE BY THE HEARING IMPAIRED
IS IN OPERATION FROM 10 A.M. UNTIL 5 P.M. WEDNESDAY THROUGH SUNDAY.
CALL (718) 354-4503

SEPTEMBER

ASTRONOMY

Model Airplane Field
Saturdays, September 2 and
16 at 8 p.m.

Join the Astronomical Society of the Northeast to find your first star of the night. Telescopes will be available or you can bring your own. Rain or cloudy skies will cancel.

LANTERN TOUR OF FORT WADSWORTH

Fort Wadsworth Visitor Center
Sunday, September 10 at 7:30 p.m.
An evening walk (weather permitting) to explore the historic sites of the fort. Bring a flashlight. Reservations required.

INTERNATIONAL BEACH CLEAN-UP

Fort Wadsworth Picnic Area
Great Kills Beach Center
Miller Field Ranger Station
Saturday, September 16 at 10 a.m.
Join this worldwide clean-up effort and help make a difference at your neighborhood beach. Bring gloves and a bag lunch.

OUR VIOLENT SUN

Great Kills Beach Center
Saturday, September 16 at 2 p.m.
Join the Astronomical Society of the Northeast to view the peak of the sun's eleven-year cycle. All equipment, including safety filters, will be provided. The program will not take place under cloudy skies.

MODEL AIRPLANE SHOW
Sunday, September 17
See Special Events.

LANTERN TOUR OF FORT WADSWORTH

Fort Wadsworth Visitor Center
Friday, September 22 at 7:30 p.m.
An evening walk (weather permitting) to explore the historic sites of the fort. Bring a flashlight. Reservations required.

Visit www.nps.gov/gate for the latest program updates.

NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY



Great Kills Beach Center
Saturday, September 23 at 11 a.m.
Celebrate National Public Lands Day by assisting park staff in the clean-up effort at Great Kills Park. Bring work gloves and water.

ASTRONOMY NIGHT



Great Kills Park,
Model Airplane Field
Saturday, September 23 at 8:30 p.m.
The Staten Island Chapter of the Amateur Astronomers Association will conduct a stargazing program in Great Kills Park. Telescopes will be provided. Cloudy skies will cancel the program. For more information call (718) 984-1927.

MYSTERY AND HISTORY: HOFFMAN AND SWINBURNE ISLANDS

Fort Wadsworth Visitor Center
Sunday, September 24 at 1 p.m.
Stuart Miller, author of "The Other Islands of New York City," will discuss the significance of these once very important islands.

BEAUTIFUL BUTTERFLIES



Great Kills Beach Center
Sunday, September 24 at 2 p.m.
Enjoy a late summer walk to witness the migration of the monarch butterfly.

AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM A LA CARTE

Richmondtown Library
Thursday, September 28
from 4 - 5 p.m.

Did you ever wonder how many eyes a horseshoe crab has, why fish are slimy or why some beach plant look like they have fur? Bring your curiosity about plants and animals to our discovery station where you can explore the answers to these questions and do some amazing things. Children ages 8-11 are welcome.

A VIEW FROM THE TOP

Fort Wadsworth Visitor Center
Saturday, September 30 at 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.
A tour of Battery Weed and its top tier (weather permitting) for a special view of New York Harbor. Reservations required.

RELAY RACES



Miller Field Ranger Station
Saturday, September 30 at 11 a.m.
Increase your speed and strength while having fun. Bring a bottle of water. All ages welcome.

OCTOBER

ASTRONOMY



Model Airplane Field
Saturdays, October 7
and 21 at 8 p.m.

Join the Astronomical Society of the Northeast to find your first star of the night. Telescopes will be available or you can bring your own. Rain or cloudy skies will cancel.

TORCHLIGHT TATTOO AT BATTERY WEED

Fort Wadsworth Visitor Center
Thursday, October 12 at 7 p.m.
(Call to confirm date and time.)
A nighttime program at Battery Weed that includes drill and musket firing demonstrations, along with tours of the battery and music around a campfire. Bring a flashlight.

FALL MIGRATION WALK



Great Kills Park, front entrance
Sunday, October 15 at 10 a.m.
Join a ranger for a walk during the peak of the autumn bird migration. Dress for the weather and bring binoculars.

LANTERN TOUR OF FORT WADSWORTH

Fort Wadsworth Visitor Center
Wednesday, October 18 at 7:30 p.m.
An evening walk (weather permitting) to explore the historic sites of the Fort. Bring a flashlight. Reservations required.

AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM A LA CARTE



Richmondtown Library
Thursday, October 19 from 4 - 5 p.m.
Did you ever wonder how many eyes a horseshoe crab has, why fish are slimy or why some beach plant look like they have fur? Bring your curiosity about plants and animals to our discovery station where you can explore the answers to these questions and do some amazing things. Children ages 8-11.

FORGOTTEN SENTINEL: A HISTORY OF FORT LAFAYETTE

Fort Wadsworth Visitor Center
Saturday, October 21 at 1 p.m.
(Call to confirm date and time.)
Fort Lafayette, built near the Brooklyn side of the narrows, was instrumental to a strong harbor defense. Learn the importance of this fort and how it eventually vanished from the landscape.

OUR VIOLENT SUN



Great Kills Beach Center
Saturday, October 21 at 2 p.m.
Join the Astronomical Society of the Northeast to view the peak of the sun's eleven-year cycle. All equipment, including safety filters, will be provided. The program will not take place under cloudy skies.

ASTRONOMY NIGHT



Great Kills Park
Model Airplane Field
Saturday, October 21 at 7:30 p.m.
The Staten Island Chapter of the Amateur Astronomers Association will conduct a stargazing program. Telescopes will be provided. Cloudy skies will cancel. For more information, call (718) 984-1927.

A VIEW FROM THE TOP

Fort Wadsworth Visitor Center
Sunday, October 22 at 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.
A tour of Battery Weed and its top tier (weather permitting) for a special view of New York Harbor. Reservations required.

SPORTS WORKSHOP

Miller Field Ranger Station
Saturday, October 28 at 11 a.m.
Learn some techniques to increase coordination and balance at this workshop designed for participants ages 7 and older.

ARMING THE REPUBLIC: AMERICAN ARTILLERY IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

Fort Wadsworth Visitor Center
Sunday, October 29 at 1 p.m.
Artillery played a crucial role in the early defense of the United States. Learn how ingenuity overcame controversy in this examination of cannon design, production and use.

NOVEMBER

CREATURE DRAWING

Miller Field Ranger Station

Saturday, November 4 at 11 a.m.

Exhibit your creativity at this annual creature drawing event. All ages welcome.

REVEGETATION PROJECT

Great Kills Beach Center

Saturday, November 4 at 11 a.m.

Be a volunteer and help restore a habitat in Great Kills Park. Work gloves and tools will be provided.

ASTRONOMY NIGHT

Model Airplane Field

Saturdays, November 4 and 18 at 8 p.m.

Join the Astronomical Society of the Northeast to find your first star of the night. Telescopes will be available or you can bring your own. Rain or cloudy skies will cancel.

VETERAN'S DAY PROGRAM

Fort Wadsworth Visitor Center

Saturday, November 11 from 11 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

See Special Events.

AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM A LA CARTE

Richmondtown Library

Thursday, November 16 from 4-5 p.m.

Did you ever wonder how many eyes a horseshoe crab has, why fish are slimy or why some beach plants look like they have fur? Bring your curiosity about plants and animals to our discovery station where you can explore the answers to these questions and do some amazing things. Children ages 8-11.

ARTS AND CRAFTS

Miller Field Ranger Station

Saturday, November 18 at noon

Arts and crafts activities for the whole family. All materials will be provided.

OUR VIOLENT SUN

Great Kills Beach Center

Saturday, November 18 at 2 p.m.

Join the Astronomical Society of the Northeast to view the peak of the sun's eleven-year cycle. All equipment, including safety filters, will be provided. The program will not take place under cloudy skies.

LANTERN TOUR OF FORT WADSWORTH

Fort Wadsworth Visitor Center

Saturday, November 18 at 7 p.m.

An evening walk (weather permitting) to explore the historic sites of the fort. Bring a flashlight. Reservations required.

ASTRONOMY NIGHT

Great Kills Park

Model Airplane Field

Saturday, November 18 at 7:30 p.m.

The Staten Island Chapter of the Amateur Astronomers Association of New York will conduct a stargazing program in Great Kills Park. Telescopes will be provided. Cloudy skies cancel. For more information call 718-984-1927.

BUILD YOUR OWN FORT

Fort Wadsworth Visitor Center

Sunday, November 19 at 1 p.m.

Call for details.

WATERFOWL WALK

Great Kills Beach Center

Sunday, November 26 at 1 p.m.

Explore the habitat of the ducks that live in Great Kills Harbor and learn to identify these feathered animals. Dress for the weather and bring binoculars.

SPECIAL EVENTS

MODEL AIRPLANE SHOW

Great Kills Model Airplane Field

Sunday, September 17 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

(Rain date: Sunday, September 24)
Enjoy this annual show that features displays and demonstrations of remote control model planes. Bring a chair for your comfort.



HALLOWEEN CAMPFIRE

Miller Field Beach

Tuesday, October 31

(call 351-6970 for time)

Join park rangers and a guest storyteller for scary stories and a fun-filled evening around a roaring campfire. Bring a chair or blanket to sit on.

VETERAN'S DAY AT FORT WADSWORTH

Fort Wadsworth Visitor Center

Saturday, November 11 from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Join veterans groups and reenactors from the Revolutionary War through World War II for this "time line" event. Artifacts and reproductions from these time periods will be on display. The day will end with a ceremony to honor our nation's veterans.

Uniforms for the Birds

Dave Taft

October at Jamaica Bay and the frost has already stricken the Marsh ferns. Their haggard fronds bend stiffly, the color of wet straw with twice its scent. Everywhere, the tiny cat-nosed shapes of grey birch seeds illuminate a world of spider webs that were hidden through the summer. Foraging on a branch of a nearby alder, a pair of black-throated blue warblers shake one or two damp, papery leaves to the ground. I almost never get to see the last of the warbler migration anymore, paperwork generally makes the worst of October birding. But it seemed suddenly fitting I'd be watching these two birds. I laughed at the thought that I'd abandoned my papers in April to observe much the same thing when spring had just attached those same alder leaves.

Black throated blues I thought; still beautiful now, still in good plumage.

I make no bones about this bird. Of the commonly seen warblers at the wildlife refuge, "BTB's" are my favorites. The males shimmer in their velvety blue feathers, wide black masks make already good looks glamorous. Somehow though, it is easy to feel that the females get short changed when it comes to color. If it weren't for the dapper white "handkerchief mark," both sexes carry at the base of their primary feathers, you might not even think they were related. The female I watched was typical of her type, a drab greenish gray, with a light stripe just above the eye. Pretty, but in a very different uniform. "Sexual dimorphism," the difference between males and females, tells us a world about the lives birds lead.

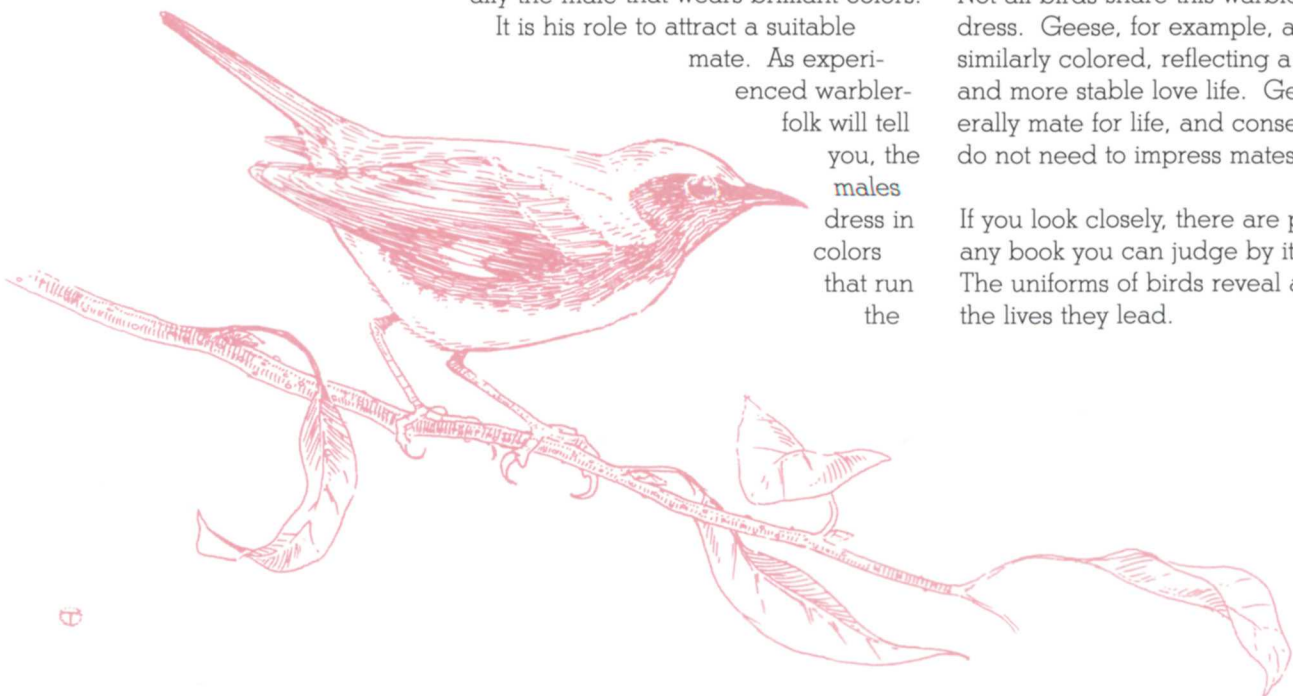
In the world of the warbler, it is generally the male that wears brilliant colors. It is his role to attract a suitable

mate. As experienced warbler-folk will tell you, the males dress in colors that run the

gambit from brilliant orange to sultry blue. Females may show some washy yellows and even sport a few suggestive markings, but it is not their intent to impress. In fact, it serves the female well to be drab, it is her role to incubate eggs in a nest. As you can imagine, it would serve no purpose to be a brilliant attractant to predators as she flies to and from a nest site, or worse, sits on eggs. One way or the next, for both males and females, the show is over in fall. When breeding is done, both molt into the drab colors the Peterson's Field Guide joylessly calls the "confusing fall warblers." A series of greyish green birds, variously and subtly marked with black or yellow. This too makes good common sense, why take the chance on bright colors if you are not breeding? The birds' greyish greens and yellows blend in nicely with their tropical and subtropical winter destinations.

Not all birds share this warbler style of dress. Geese, for example, are rather similarly colored, reflecting a longer and more stable love life. Geese generally mate for life, and consequently do not need to impress mates annually.

If you look closely, there are parts of any book you can judge by its cover. The uniforms of birds reveal a lot about the lives they lead.



NEW JERSEY

SANDY HOOK UNIT

The Sandy Hook peninsula includes six miles of ocean beaches, salt marshes, the waters of Sandy Hook Bay and the historic sites of Fort Hancock. The tip of the Sandy Hook peninsula overlooks the entrance to New York Harbor and is the northern point along the New Jersey Shore. Because of its location, Sandy Hook has played a major role in navigation and coastal defense. Sandy Hook is also an important location along the Atlantic Flyway, and birding is especially good during spring and fall migrations.

SANDY HOOK VISITOR CENTER

Daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
The 1894 Spermaceti Cove Life-Saving Station now serves as a park visitor center. Exhibits on the peninsula's natural history and on the U.S. Life-Saving Service highlight the building.

SANDY HOOK LIGHTHOUSE

Grounds open daily
Tours: Weekends, noon to 4 p.m. through November 21
The Sandy Hook Lighthouse has guided ships along the Jersey Shore and into New York Harbor since 1764; it is the oldest light tower in the United States. Lighthouse tours are by volunteers from the New Jersey Lighthouse Society.

HISTORIC FORT HANCOCK

Built at the end of the 19th century as the outermost defense point for New York, the fort today contains a collection of buildings that represent a time of more elegant military architecture. The story of the fort is told at the Fort Hancock Museum and at History House, a restored home along Officers Row. The remnants of Battery Potter and the Sandy Hook Proving Ground sit silent and await exploration.

FORT HANCOCK MUSEUM

Weekends, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
The museum is in the former post guardhouse. It contains a bookstore, exhibits and dioramas about Fort Hancock.

HISTORY HOUSE

Weekends, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
History House is a restored lieutenant's residence built in 1898 on "Officers Row" overlooking Sandy Hook Bay. Exhibits highlight everyday life at Fort Hancock.

BATTERY POTTER

Saturdays, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
September 9 and 23,
October 7 and 14
Explore Sandy Hook's oldest gun battery.

SANDY HOOK FOUNDATION

The Sandy Hook Foundation is the authorized non-profit Friends group for Sandy Hook. The Foundation is a partner with the National Park Service dedicated to the preservation and public use of Sandy Hook and its natural and historic resources. The Foundation's current focus is renovation of the Post Theater and support for restoration and rehabilitation of the park's natural resources. The Foundation also sponsors the annual free Sandy Hook Summer Beach Concert Series on Wednesday evenings in July and August. For more information call (732) 291-7733 or write Sandy Hook Foundation, History House, P.O. Box 525, Fort Hancock, NJ 07732.

SEPTEMBER

FALL MIGRATION AT SANDY HOOK

Sandy Hook Visitor Center
Saturday, September 9 at 9 a.m.

A New Jersey Audubon Society naturalist will lead a walk to search for the birds and butterflies that use Sandy Hook as a feeding and resting stop during fall migration.



FAMILIES INVESTIGATE SCIENCE HANDS-ON (FISH)

New Jersey Marine Sciences Consortium, Building #22
Saturdays, September 9 and 23
Sunday, September 24

Hands-on learning will be integrated into this three-hour program. FISH is for either families or individuals. Reservations for this fee program are required. Call (732) 872-1300, ext. 30.

FORT HANCOCK ARCHITECTURE WALK

Sandy Hook Post Theater
Sunday, September 10 at 2 p.m.

Tour the Fort Hancock grounds and buildings and learn about their architectural styles.

FRIENDS OF CLEARWATER BEACH CAMPFIRE

Sandy Hook Visitor Center
Saturday, September 16 at 7 p.m.

Monmouth County Friends of Clearwater sponsors this evening of folk music on the beach. Tom Brennan will perform. Bring something to sit on.



GOING BUNKERS

Fort Hancock Post Theater
Sunday, September 17 at 2 p.m.

A park ranger led tour of Sandy Hook fortifications that once defended New York Harbor. Bring a flashlight. Reservations required.

EQUINOX NIGHT WALK

Meet at Guardian Park
Thursday, September 21 at 7 p.m.

Welcome the Fall Equinox! Join the American Littoral Society on this two-mile walk to a natural habitat on the Hook. Bring a flashlight. The route will depend on the weather.



FOR RESERVATIONS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
CALL (732) 872-5970
FOR EMERGENCIES CALL (732) 872-5900

A TDD/TYY MACHINE FOR USE BY THE HEARING IMPAIRED
IS IN OPERATION FROM 10 A.M. UNTIL 5 P.M.
CALL (732) 872-2256

DUNE GRASS TO FOREST WALK

Sandy Hook Visitor Center

Saturday, September 24 at 2 p.m.

Learn about some of the basic needs of plants and animals living in the harsh maritime environment.

OCTOBER

FALL ANTIQUE CAR RALLY

Beach Area D

Sunday, October 1

(Rain date: Sunday, October 8)

Classic cars at this annual, daylong event sponsored by H.S. Concessions. Call (732) 872-0025.



MONARCH BUTTERFLY WALK

Sandy Hook Visitor Center

Sunday, October 1 at 2 p.m.

This remarkable insect, whose migration route ends in Mexico, is featured on a ranger-led tour.



NEW JERSEY AUDUBON WALK

Sandy Hook Visitor Center

Saturday, October 7 at 9 a.m.

A naturalist from the New Jersey Audubon Society will lead a group for a look at some of Sandy Hook's avian visitors, including waterfowl and a variety of sparrows.

FAMILIES INVESTIGATE SCIENCE HANDS-ON (FISH)

New Jersey Marine Sciences

Consortium, Building 22

Saturday, October 7

Sundays, October 15 and 22

Hands-on learning will be integrated into this three-hour program. FISH is for either families or individuals.

Reservations for this fee program are required. Call (732) 872-1300, ext. 30.

THUNDER ON THE BEACH

Fort Hancock Post Theater

Sunday, October 8 at 2 p.m.

Fort Hancock is only part of Sandy Hook's military story. Learn about the U.S. Army's Sandy Hook Proving Ground and the weapons that were tested there. The program includes a slide show and a visit to the remains of the Proving Ground.



NEW JERSEY LIGHTHOUSE 2000

Saturday, October 14 and

Sunday, October 15

This weekend eleven New Jersey Lighthouses, from Sandy Hook to Cape May and the Delaware Bay, will be open for tours. The New Jersey Lighthouse Society is sponsoring this first time ever statewide celebration of New Jersey's maritime heritage. The Fort Hancock Museum will also feature a temporary exhibit on the people associated with the Sandy Hook Lighthouse over the centuries.

FALL MIGRANTS AUDUBON BIRD WALK

Sandy Hook Visitor Center

Saturday, October 14 at 9 a.m.

Sandy Hook is on the Atlantic Flyway and this is a busy time of year for hawks, warblers, song and shorebirds. Monmouth County Audubon Society leads this walk for beginners. Bring binoculars.



HOLLY FOREST RAMBLE

Sandy Hook Visitor Center

Sunday, October 22 at 2 p.m.

A walk through Sandy Hook's 64-acre maritime holly forest.



CLEAN OCEAN ACTION MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY

Beach Area E

Saturday, October 28 at 9 a.m.

(Rain date: Sunday, October 29)

Make your contribution to preserve Sandy Hook's natural resources. Join Clean Ocean Action and the National Park Service for a morning of cleaning beaches and planting dune grasses. Bring gloves. All are welcome, but groups should register in advance. Call (732) 872-0111.



FORT HANCOCK DAY

Sunday, October 29, Noon to 4 p.m.

Visit Fort Hancock and join park staff and volunteers to mark the 105th anniversary of the establishment of Fort Hancock. Activities will include a program on the parade ground and tours of buildings not normally open to the public.

NOVEMBER

STAR WATCH

Fort Hancock Post Theater

Saturday, November 4 at 7 p.m.

Learn to identify stars and planets at this program for beginners. Afterwards, a telescope will be set up to help you observe the autumn sky. Program is rain or shine.



GUNS OF FORT HANCOCK

Fort Hancock Parking Lot

Sunday, November 5 at 2 p.m.

Visit Fort Hancock's oldest gun batteries on this ranger-led walk and discover how the Mortar Battery, Battery Granger, and Battery Potter once defended New York Harbor.

LATE AUTUMN BIRD MIGRATION

Sandy Hook Visitor Center

Saturday, November 11 at 9 a.m.

Seek out some late fall birds, such as loons, seabirds, and sparrows, with a naturalist from the New Jersey Audubon Society.



FORT HANCOCK VETERANS DAY HISTORY WALK

Fort Hancock Museum

Saturday, November 11 at 2 p.m.

Celebrate Veteran's Day with a walk around the Fort that begins with a flag raising ceremony on the parade ground.

FORT HANCOCK WALKING TOUR

Fort Hancock Museum

Saturday, November 18 at 2 p.m.

A living history talk about life during World War II at Fort Hancock, including the first women who served as soldiers in the Women's Army Corps.

GOING BUNKERS

Fort Hancock Post Theater

Sunday, November 26 at 2 p.m.

A two-hour tour of the Sandy Hook fortifications that once defended New York Harbor. Bring a flashlight. Reservations required.



EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The National Park Service offers teacher workshops and self-guided materials for educators planning class trips to Sandy Hook. Contact the Visitor Center at (732) 872-5970 to help plan your visit.

Two park partners located at Fort Hancock offer other environmental education programs for all ages:

The New Jersey Marine Sciences Consortium Fort Hancock Barracks 22

The NJMSC conducts research and offers guided educational programs and teacher workshops on the marine environment throughout the year. College level courses, for credit or audit, are available in summer. For reservations or more information call (732) 872-1300, ext. 30 or check their Web site: www.NJMSC.org

Brookdale Community College's Ocean Institute Fort Hancock Building 53

The Institute offers educational programs, summer camps and teacher workshops about the marine environment. For more information, write to P.O. Box 533, Fort Hancock, NJ 07732 or visit them on the Web at: www.brookdale.cc.nj.us



NEW JERSEY COASTAL HERITAGE TRAIL

Sandy Hook is a site on the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail and the video "On a Heritage Trail" is shown at the park Visitor Center. The NJCHT was established "to provide for public appreciation, education, understanding, and enjoyment" of significant natural and cultural sites associated with the coastal area of New Jersey. The Trail is divided into five regions and has themes linked by the common heritage of life on the Jersey Shore and Raritan and Delaware bays. The Maritime History, Coastal Habitats, and Wildlife Migration theme trails are now open. The Historic Settlements and Relaxation & Inspiration themes are under development.

The NJCHT is intended primarily for vehicular tourism. It is a partnership project by the National Park Service in cooperation with the State of New Jersey and many other public and private organizations working to preserve the state's natural and cultural heritage.

For information contact the NJ Division of Travel and Tourism, P.O. Box 826, Trenton, NJ 08625 or call (800) 537-7397. Information is also available by writing to: Superintendent, NJ Coastal Heritage Trail, P.O. Box 568, Newport, NJ 08345 or by calling (856) 447-0103.

NEWS FROM THE HOOK

by Lou Venuto

A popular National Park Service educational initiative, "Parks-as-Classrooms," encourages the use of national parks as places for study and education. A center for PAC activities here at Sandy Hook is the North Beach Observation Deck that is used for educational programs by both the NPS and its educational partners on the Hook. Many of the exhibits you can see on the deck were acquired through this program.

This fall, a number of Sandy Hook partners and volunteer groups are offering teacher and educator workshops that look at different coastal and environmental issues. On Tuesday, October 17, the New Jersey Audubon Society will offer a workshop called "Bridges to the Natural World" designed for both formal and non-formal educators who wish to incorporate a hands-on, habitat oriented approach to the study of New Jersey's environment.

Brookdale Community College's Ocean Institute, located at Fort Hancock, is sponsoring three daylong teacher-training programs. "Sampling the Sea's Edge" (Thursday, September 28) allows teachers to join biologists on a research vessel to explore the waters of lower New York Harbor and collect water samples, identify plankton and invertebrates and tag fish. Afterwards, participants will investigate Sandy Hook with a geologist and botanist.

"Saving New Jersey's Wetlands: A Citizen's Guide to Action" (Friday, September 29) uses the National Audubon Society's Guide to Wetlands in New Jersey to study wetland laws and protection strategies and different wetland types and inhabitants. "Estuaries: A Day at The Bay" (Friday, October 6) uses the Ocean Institute's award winning book *Estuaries!* as a guide for studying New Jersey's water-related resources, problems, and solutions. Contact the Ocean Institute at P.O. Box 533, Sandy Hook, New Jersey 07732 for information on any of these programs.

The New Jersey Marine Sciences Consortium, in addition to the family oriented FISH programs listed in the program calendar, is sponsoring a teacher workshop (Friday, October 13) developed by "A Partnership for Learning" for teachers wishing to gain experience and knowledge of the interdisciplinary roles of marine and environmental science. To register, call the NJMSC at (732) 872-1300, ext. 30.

We are also proud to join the New Jersey Lighthouse Society and the other organizations that are stewards of the our lighthouses as part of New Jersey Lighthouse 2000. This weekend event on October 14 and 15 is the first ever celebration of all of New Jersey's lighthouses. The Sandy Hook Light will be among 11 beacons open for tours that weekend. For more information, contact the NJLS at P.O. Box 4228, Brick, NJ 08723 or by e-mail at NJHS@burlco.org

**Sandy Hook
is a carry-in,
carry-out park.**

**Trash cans
and recycle
barrels are not
provided.**

**Please take your
refuse home with you.**

JAMAICA BAY

GATEWAY SPORTS CENTER

Open all year

(some services seasonal)

Golf driving range, tennis courts, baseball batting cages, miniature golf, pro shop; tennis and golf lessons. Located at 3200 Flatbush Avenue (across from Floyd Bennett Field) Brooklyn, NY. Call (718) 253-6816 or 253-7106 for additional information.

JAMAICA BAY RIDING ACADEMY

Open all year

Guided trail rides, riding lessons, tack shop, boarding stalls, snack bar, summer camp and children's birthday parties. Located at Bergen Beach, 7000 Shore Parkway (between exits 11 and 13 on the eastbound Belt Parkway) Brooklyn, NY. Call (718) 531-8949.

RIIS PARK PITCH AND PUTT GOLF COURSE

Open April through November

18 hole executive golf course, club rentals and golf ball sales. Jacob Riis Park, Queens, NY. Call (718) 474-1623 or 253-6816.

GATEWAY MARINA

Open all year

Slips, moorings, transient dockage and repairs. Located at 3260 Flatbush Avenue (across from Floyd Bennett Field) Brooklyn, NY. Call (718) 252-8761.

EDISON PARKING

Open Memorial Day through Labor Day

A parking lot service for Riis Park visitors; located directly across from the bathhouse. Jacob Riis Park, Queens, NY. Call (718) 474-7167.

COMMERCIAL FOOD SERVICES

Open Memorial Day through Labor Day

Boardwalk snack bar stands. Jacob Riis Park, Queens, NY. Call (718) 634-3433.

STATEN ISLAND

JOHN MAGGI

Operates all year

Roving mobile food and beverage trucks at Miller Field and at Great Kills Park. Also operates a summer snack stand at the Great Kills Beach Center. Call (718) 987-1196

NICHOLS GREAT KILLS PARK MARINA

Open all year

Slips and rack rentals, dinghy tie-up, transient docks and chandlery. Located at Crooke's Point in Great Kills Park, Staten Island, NY. Call (718) 351-8476

Visit www.nps.gov/gate for the latest Program Updates

SANDY HOOK

H.S. CONCESSIONS

Call (732) 872-0025

Restaurant —April thru October.

Seagull's Nest open deck restaurant at beach center parking area D.

Beach services —

Memorial Day thru Labor Day.

Food, drinks, beach supplies, umbrella and chair rentals at Beach Areas B,C,D,&E, as well as Gunnison and North Beach.



Eastern National, a nonprofit partner of the National Park Service, operates stores at Sandy Hook, Fort Wadsworth and the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. Visitors may purchase educational books, guides and other items that relate to national park sites. Purchases made at Eastern National stores help to support Gateway programs.

National Parks Pass



Are you planning a trip to another national park this year? Although Gateway does not have entrance fees, many national parks do charge an entrance fee. To reduce your costs the National Park Service has issued a new parks pass. This pass is good for entrance at all National Park Service sites that charge entrance fees. The cost of the pass is \$50 and will admit the purchaser, spouse, children and parents. The pass is good for unlimited park visits throughout the year.

The National Parks Pass is available for sale at Gateway. Please check with the visitor center near you or call (718) 338-3688 for additional information. Purchasing this national pass at Gateway helps your local national park since a portion of the proceeds will go to support Gateway visitor programs. You can also purchase the pass online at www.nationalparks.org

GATEWAY NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

Fall 2000 Program Guide

National Park Service
Gateway National Recreation Area
Floyd Bennett Field, Building 69
Brooklyn, New York 11234

