



Gateway National Recreation Area



Meet us at the beach!

Stop by to meet our planning team and share your ideas and comments.

Friday, August 3

11:00 am to 3:00 pm
and

Wednesday, August 8

3:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Lot D/Sea Gull's Nest, Hartshorne Drive
Sandy Hook, NJ

Saturday, August 4 & Friday, August 10

11:00 am to 3:00 pm

Riis Park, Rockaway Beach Boulevard
Queens, NY

Sunday, August 5 & Saturday, August 11

11:00 am to 3:00 pm

Great Kills Park (off Hylan Boulevard)
Staten Island, NY

Visit the park's website at www.nps.gov/gate for additional information about the events with the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, September Open Houses and weather alerts.



New Vision for a Great Urban Park

Gateway National Recreation Area (Gateway) was established with the dream of bringing a National Park Service experience to the New York metropolitan area. The world has changed since Gateway was established in 1972. Working together we need to figure out what it means to be a great urban park in the 21st century.

Three years ago, Gateway began its journey to develop a General Management Plan (GMP). Please take a few minutes to look at the alternatives for the future of Gateway. One alternative is the “no-action” alternative. This is a required alternative and it means that we will be doing things pretty much as we are now. Alternative B – Discovering Gateway takes actions that will strengthen the connection between the park and local communities making the park easier to access by bike, on foot, or in a car and promotes the opportunities to participate in healthy activities. Alternative C – Experiencing Preserved Places recognizes that the natural and cultural resources in Gateway are a valuable asset to the people who use the park. This alternative allows plenty of opportunity for visitors to immerse themselves in the history and nature that makes Gateway such a special place. Alternative D – Connecting Coastlines acknowledges that the natural, cultural and recreational opportunities at Gateway owe a lot to the park's proximity to water – ocean, bays and ponds. This alternative focuses on water-based resources, activities and modes of transportation.

Regardless of which alternative we choose, we know that there are some things we have to do.

One thing we do know is that we need to keep evolving to stay relevant to the communities near the park and to serve as a primary introduction to the National Park Service for the millions of residents and visitors who are in the area. And while we work on the GMP we are working on programs that will strengthen those connections such as new camping opportunities at Floyd Bennett Field, Fort Wadsworth and Sandy Hook;

and programs such as Tu Parque, Tu Salud. Another thing we know is that we can't do it on our own. We need a wide variety of partners including non-profit groups, businesses and other government agencies. Partnerships are so important to us that we've been exploring a new partnership with the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation (NYCDPR) to create a park around Jamaica Bay that would include City Park and National Park lands. The goal of this partnership would be to make a seamless park that benefits people and wildlife while making the best use of limited tax dollars.

And last, but certainly not least, we need to hear from you! You are a key part of the process. What do you think Gateway needs to be a great urban park? In the fall of 2010, we asked for your thoughts on three concepts for the park. Your ideas and concerns helped us shape the management alternatives that are more fully described in the newsletter. A summary of all the comments we received can be found in the *We Listened and Learned from You* section of this newsletter on pages 6 and 7. We are asking for your help and input again. We need your help to make the changes in Gateway that you would like to see without changing the things you value most. Please look at the details in the newsletter. Imagine visiting the park and how it would be different in the different alternatives. Figure out how your favorite parts of the park would change. How does the meaning and location of management zones effect those areas? Then, tell us what you think.

As Gateway celebrates its 40th anniversary we want to build on those first 40 years by taking a park that has been good for you by making it even greater for your grandchildren.

Linda Canzanelli
Superintendent
Gateway National Recreation Area



America's Great Outdoors & New Partnership with NYC

A GMP lays out a vision for the park and guides decision making to get there over the next 20 years. In this newsletter, you'll read about the progress of the GMP over the last 18 months.

Highlighted in this newsletter are three **Management Alternatives**. These options, or alternatives, lay out different directions for the park. These alternatives define some ideas for preservation of the park's natural areas and historic sites. They offer different kinds of recreation and education experiences, and explore ways we can collaborate with others to make this vision a reality. We are interested in hearing your thoughts on these alternatives and how they could be further expanded. Check out the many ways to make your voice heard on page 4.

New Partners, New Vision

When Gateway was created in the 1970's, the majority of the park land to establish this new unit of the national park system was donated from city and state parks. In New York City (NYC), road systems like the Belt Parkway created a physical boundary between neighborhoods, city parks and incredible Gateway resources such as Jamaica Bay. Gateway and NYC have been individually managing thousands of acres of open space, wetlands, shoreline, water and community recreation areas, most of these spaces adjacent to each other. As a result, they have been restoring habitat, protecting wildlife corridors and providing recreation services independent of each other, without a unified vision.

In 2010, President Obama launched the America's Great Outdoors (AGO) Initiative and challenged federal agencies to be a great partner with communities to reconnect all Americans to our great outdoors. With more than 60% of the

American population living in urban areas, urban parks are critical to this effort. As part of this initiative, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar challenged the National Parks of New York Harbor and Gateway to become a model for AGO's goal of establishing "a new generation of Great Urban Parks and community green spaces." Secretary Salazar recognized that with its unsurpassed wealth of national, state and



Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar (center).

local parks, national historic landmarks, and a working, historical waterfront, New York Harbor offers an opportunity for federal, state and local partners to work together toward a shared vision for open spaces, historic preservation, environmental restoration and outdoor recreation.

In order to achieve these goals in the New York City metropolitan area, greater collaborative efforts among federal agencies, the City of New York, other municipalities, the states of New York and New Jersey and local partners would be needed. In June 2011, Secretary Salazar and Mayor Michael Bloomberg brought together a group of over 70 public agency and private organization leaders to explore opportunities for greater collaboration and potential strategies to build a stronger urban park experience. From this summit, a bold new idea emerged to begin this new collaboration in Jamaica Bay.

The Great Jamaica Bay Park

Over the last year, Gateway and NYC staff members have been exploring ways to break down both the physical and administrative boundaries that separate the parklands around Jamaica Bay. As part of this collaborative effort, a new vision will include ways to:

- create a seamless and interconnected network of recreation spaces, including integrated land and water trail systems and community activity areas
- coordinate habitat restoration, research and resource management in the Bay
- ensure public transportation and access to and within Jamaica Bay strongly supports existing and new experiential activities, including public transit, pedestrian, bicycle, and ferry access
- provide unified signage, maps and marketing wherever possible
- integrate business practices for maintenance and management
- develop new revenue generation sources and philanthropic support to enable the redevelopment and support the ongoing operations of the parks without regard to underlying ownership

A variety of different ways to achieve this new vision for Jamaica Bay have been integrated into the three management alternatives detailed in this newsletter.





GMP Overview

General management planning offers an open, structured decision making process that encourages and considers ideas and comments from many different people and groups. One of the goals for this GMP is to create, build and nurture long-lasting relationships among those organizations, agencies and individuals interested in Gateway and its future.

Your ideas, expectations and concerns about the future of the park are important to us and carefully considered in decision making. In order to create the best possible future for Gateway, these ideas and comments are matched with scholarly and scientific information and analysis. The GMP must also comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This means that impacts to the social, cultural and natural environments in the park and surrounding areas will be taken into consideration.

All of the ideas, options and potential impacts for the future of the park are presented in a written document that will be available for you to read and make comments on. After all comments are received and considered, together, we will choose the best future for the park. A summary of the planning process, timeframe and ways for you to participate is provided on page 4.

Planting new trees at Gateway as part of the MillionTreesNYC Program.

Planning Process for the General Management Plan		
Estimated Time Frame	Planning Activity	Ways to Be Involved
Summer 2009	Scoping – identify concerns, expectations, and comments related to the site with the public, government agencies and other stakeholders.	Review newsletter and send us your ideas and concerns. Attend an Open House, learn about the project and voice your ideas and concerns.
Fall 2010 – Summer 2012	Develop and Present Preliminary Alternatives – Outline different possible futures for the park and provide opportunities for review and comment by public, partners, government agencies and other stakeholders.	Review newsletter and send us your ideas and comments. Attend an Open House, comment on concepts and management alternatives.
Spring 2013	Prepare and Distribute a Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement - Review and comment by public, partners, government agencies and other stakeholders.	Attend an Open House and share your comments. Review the Draft <i>GMP/EIS</i> and provide written comments.
Summer 2013	Revise Draft Plan and Prepare a Final General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement.	Review the Final <i>GMP/EIS</i> .
Fall 2013	Implement the Approved Plan – Prepare and issue a “Record of Decision” and implement plan as funding allows.	Work with Gateway to implement the plan.

Get Involved with the GMP Now

We look forward to hearing from you about the information presented in this newsletter, especially the draft management alternatives. Suggestions and comments will be collected by any of the following ways:

- Drop by at one of the information sessions to learn more about the GMP. Talk with one of the planning team members, review presentation boards and maps and fill out a comment form.
- Go on-line to <http://www.nps.gov/gate> and fill out a comment form from the General Management Planning page.
- Call the park planning office at 718.354.4628 and request a comment form that can be mailed or faxed back.

Stay Connected

The Gateway website, <http://www.nps.gov/gate>, is the best place to stay connected with the GMP and future events. Check out the General Management Planning section for updated and expanded information on GMP activities. Join the electronic mailing list. Sign up on the website to receive **e-blasts**. You can follow Gateway National Recreation Area on Facebook. Gateway is also on Twitter! You can follow us at www.twitter.com/GatewayNPS.