



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Gateway National Recreation Area

Breezy Point/Jamaica Bay Unit, Brooklyn, Queens, New York

Staten Island Unit, Staten Island, New York

Sandy Hook Unit, Sandy Hook, New Jersey

Mailing Address:

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Floyd Bennett Field

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General Superintendent: Kevin C. Buckley

Deputy Superintendent: Arthur L. Stewart

PURPOSE

Gateway National Recreation Area in New York and Golden Gate National Recreation Area in California were established simultaneously by Congress in 1972 as one of America's first two urban national parks in major metropolitan regions. Gateway's mission is to preserve and protect more than 26,000 acres of outstanding natural and recreational land, water and wetlands in New York and New Jersey. Its features include a world renowned wildlife refuge, magnificent beaches, thousands of acres of natural areas and several historic districts. Visitor activities include camping and picnicking, organized sports, fishing, educational programs for schools and community groups, and year-round special events and programs.

PRIORITIES

- Development, restoration and rehabilitation of cultural and natural resources at Floyd Bennett Field, Canarsie Pier, Jacob Riis Park, development of a regional environmental study, educational and visitor center at Great Kills Park on Staten Island and beach centers at Sandy Hook
- Development of programs and activities at Fort Wadsworth on Staten Island
- Development, historic restoration of Fort Hancock
- Sandy Hook Beach nourishment

PARTNERSHIPS, COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS AND AFFILIATIONS

Friends of Gateway; Sandy Hook Foundation; National Park Foundation; New York Zoological Society; Polytechnic Institute of New York; New York City Council for the Environment; New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation; Board of Education of the City of New York; Cornell University Cooperative Extension; New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; U.S. Armed Forces Reserve Center; U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; Educators for Gateway; New York City Audubon Society; National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration; Gateway Jobs Corp Civilian Conservation Center; Monmouth County Vocational School District

CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATES DISTRICTS

New York: 9th and 13th Congressional Districts

New Jersey: 6th Congressional District

VISITATION

5,800,000 (1994)

Gateway National Recreation Area is situated in America's most populated urban area--Greater New York City--and attracts close to 6 million visitors a year, making it America's sixth most visited National Park.

Gateway's 26,645 acres of beaches, landscapes, historic structures, offshore ocean and bay waters surround New York Harbor. The Jamaica Bay/Breezy Point Unit is located in Brooklyn and Queens; Miller Field and Great Kills Park make up the Staten Island Unit situated on the southeastern shore of the borough; and the Sandy Hook Unit lies on a peninsula at the northern end of New Jersey's shoreline in Monmouth County.

Recreational, cultural, natural and educational programs are available throughout the year. Seasonal activities include swimming and sunbathing along several miles of sandy beaches; bicycling on designated paths; walking along nature trails; playing sports on numerous ball fields; and bird watching at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge and at natural habitats/areas at all the units. Lectures on the history and natural resources of each unit are available throughout the year. The park regularly sponsors or hosts ethnic, cultural and environmental festivals, concert series and sporting tournaments during spring, summer and fall. Environmental education programs are available for students and teachers during the school year, and for organized youth groups during summer.