



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Gateway National Recreation Area
Headquarters Building 69
Floyd Bennett Field
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11234

BREEZY POINT UNIT, N.Y.
JAMAICA BAY UNIT, N.Y.
STATEN ISLAND UNIT, N.Y.
SANDY HOOK UNIT, N.J.

IN REPLY REFER TO:

L34 (GATE-GS)

August 25, 1993

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, North Atlantic Region

From: General Superintendent, Gateway National Recreation Area

Subject: Facility and Recreation Use Plan for Floyd Bennett Field

Per your recent request, attached is our concept for facility and recreation uses of the natural and cultural features on Floyd Bennett Field. Appended to it are items which document the interest of the community and our constituents in such uses, representations of efforts we have made to realize that concept, and selected documents regarding the termination of existing, non-compatible uses of the Field.

Kevin C. Buckley

Attachments

FLOYD BENNETT FIELD

FACILITY and RECREATION USE PLAN GATEWAY NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

August, 1993



FLOYD BENNETT FIELD- RECREATION AND FACILITY USE PLAN

Floyd Bennett Field, on the southern edge of Brooklyn at the end of Flatbush Avenue forms an essential part of the Breezy Point/Jamaica Bay Unit of Gateway National Recreation Area. Once serving as New York City's first municipal airport and later as a military base, it has been dedicated since 1972 to providing open space, outdoor recreation opportunities and environmental education to the citizens of the New York City Metropolitan Area. The Congressional intent of the addition to the Gateway proposal was to use a substantial open space within the Brooklyn community to satisfy the critical need for structured and unstructured recreation and open space uses. Rather than allow the site to continue to be subject to institutional uses, Floyd Bennett Field was to be made available to individual citizens and groups for their recreational uses some twenty years later. The intent remains the same. From an abandoned, deteriorating, surplus military installation in 1972, the field has been the object of considerable attention and use. In 1990, some 400,000 people visited Floyd Bennett Field taking advantages of the programs and opportunities provided by Gateway. In 1992 visitation grew to 600,000 users and in 1993, visitation is expected to rise to 750,000. Further growth of visitation and use opportunities is dependent upon the availability of usable space and the forging of partnerships with the private sector for the development of facilities and programs that will respond to needs of the visitors.

Acknowledging that the cost of bringing Floyd Bennett Field to full development as is envisioned in the Development Concept Plan is beyond what could reasonably be expected to be appropriated by the Congress, the National Park Service issued a request for proposals to the community with the hope of attracting elements from the private sector that would enter into a partnership to share in developing Floyd Bennett Field for public use. Of the responses received, four were selected for further review and of those one was selected for detailed refinement and implementation.

The implementation of the selected plan has been delayed due to contractual and other concerns in the Washington that have to be resolved. Although these issues remain, the elements proposed in the offer remain valid and, more importantly, programmatically viable. Essential elements of the offering included:

- Air/Space Museum including static displays and hands-on manipulatable displays and artifacts
- Space Camp for teens with both residential and nonresidential capability
- computer learning center with emphasis on aeronautical and space applications
- Historic rehabilitation and reuse of the hangar complex
- Rehabilitation of the Ryan Visitor Center to accommodate capability for interpretation, public affairs, audio/visual productions
- Compatible use of other buildings and structures
- Programs to preserve the natural and cultural resources of the field
- Enhancement and extension of the Ecology Village Program to include an overnight

experience during the winter season

- Recreation training programs and facilities centered in the concept of training youth to master the sport and preparing youth for amateur competition and possibly beyond.

Despite the lack of final approval of the proposed development plan and in the absence of any action to stimulate additional proposals of the same scale and magnitude, Gateway is moving forward to bring the concept for development of Floyd Bennett Field to fruition because of the community need for additional recreation and open space programs and facilities. The concept is one that is readily acceptable by the community and by organizations and that helps meet the demand for additional recreation, open space and natural and cultural resource uses. The concept does not attempt to duplicate or mimic that of the respondents to the 1991 request for proposals, but yet is similar and compatible to what was proposed there.

Central to the development of Floyd Bennett Field is the removal of the New York City Police Department (NYPD) from Hangar Row and the rehabilitation and use of the historic district, related buildings and the tarmacs and runways. Hangar Row is the focal point for activity and particularly the Ryan Visitor Center which is identified in the park's enabling legislation as the parkwide visitor center for Gateway. These buildings and the associated tarmacs and runways are the essential elements in the interpretation of aviation of this historic landmark.

The NYPD Aviation Unit, currently occupying Hangars 3 and 4, will be relocated to the tarmac and hangar at the east end of the field. This aviation activity has existed at Floyd Bennett Field

since about 1929 and could be considered as a tolerable use since its existence at the field has been consistent with the historic development of the field. The NYPD Police Academy Driver Training Unit, the New York City Emergency Medical Services ambulance driver training activity, the NYPD Highway 2 motorcycle training and related training operations and institutions will be removed from Floyd Bennett Field at the expiration of their current special use permits.

The Ryan Visitor Center will begin to function as the principal visitor center for all of Gateway and its rooms will be available for use for meetings and conferences by the park, other agencies and community organizations and for special events. It will also provide office space for essential visitor contact services such as the office of interpretation, the public affairs, the Jamaica Bay District headquarters and the center for park audio/visual productions.

Aeronautics and the history of flight is so basic to the existence of Floyd Bennett Field that it is appropriate that it be the basis for major uses of the Hangar Row complex. Gateway is seeking to incorporate into its use plan an aeronautical learning facility that can present an interpretation and demonstration capability in addition to a basis program of aeronautical and aircraft technology. Such a facility would occupy a major portion of the hangar space and, as an adjunct to a curriculum of aeronautical development and technology, would have the capability to present demonstrations of historic and contemporary aircraft and aeronautical artifacts; arrange and sponsor air shows and fly-ins of historic aircraft (FAA approval presumed); serve as docent for static displays of historic airplanes; install, maintain and operate

working models of air traffic control instruments in the control tower of the Ryan Center; stage re-enactments of historic events as part of the interpretive program of the park; offer computer learning opportunities for youth in applications related to aeronautics and aircraft; present computer simulation experiences designed to identify and challenge aptitudes and innate abilities; and host groups of children from the local school systems as well as other visitors for interpretive programs in the history and development of aircraft engineering and technology.

Hangar space would be dedicated to special events, festivals and fairs, cultural demonstrations and performances, special exhibits, restoration training demonstration and similar activities. Some interior modifications would be required to present an appropriate interior environment for some of these activities such as static displays, dynamic models, and hands-on displays of aircraft and artifacts. Sports and recreation learning facilities would be the use for additional hangar space including the capability to conduct sports camps and intensive recreation skill development learning.

The environmental education program that is conducted by Gateway under a cooperative agreement with the NYC Board of Education would be expanded to include a residential component and extended to allow for a full program during the winter months as well as the present fall and spring schedule. The classroom complex presently used under special use permit by the NY Police Academy Driving School would be converted to additional environmental education learning and classrooms and winter indoor camping. Proximity to the community gardens and the group camping sites allows easy access by foot to these essential

components of the program as well a closer access to the Dead Horse Bay shore for the marine environment aspect of that program.

Fiscal Year 1994 will see the initiation of a reconfiguration and rededication of spaces on the runways and tarmacs within and adjacent to the Hangar Row historic district. Construction of curbs, gutters, roadways, parking area, medians and roadway separators will force a redistribution of existing uses on the tarmacs and require expanded uses of surfaces and spaces previously dedicated to non-park institutional uses. The roadway construction is a project funded by the Federal Highway Administration under the Federal Lands Highway Program (a program that develops the roadways and related appurtenances in the national parks). Many of the uses that have occurred on the tarmac behind and around the historic district will be moved to the runways and taxiways. In the following discussion of proposed and planned uses for Floyd Bennett Field, it is presumed that the activities will take place on the runways and taxiways.

There is an increasing need for Gateway to provide for new and additional recreation, cultural arts and music, historic preservation, sports and leisure activity, natural resource management, and environmental education programming at Floyd Bennett Field. There is a deficit of open space and facilities throughout the greater New York City metropolitan area to adequately meet those needs/demands. Since Gateway became operational in 1974, Floyd Bennett Field has provided space and facilities for several million youth, families, senior citizens and the physically challenged to engage in a variety uses.

Our partnership with the New York City Board of Education, where we cooperatively serve over 17,000 students from all five New York City Boroughs annually with an environmental education program, is looked upon as a national model. Recent discussions with the Board of Education have resulted in decisions to expand and extend that program to include a residential and winter months component.

Because of the extent of the recreation and open space need in the area and the limited capability at Gateway to staff all of the programs that our users demand, we often offer open space and recreation opportunities to the public through cooperators and users in the private sector and in other governmental agencies. The extent of our cooperators is usually limited only by the need to provide adequate opportunity without extensive duplication. The list of cooperators is varied. A sampling is found in the appendix accompanying this report. The range of recreation and open space offerings is varied and rich. Some examples follow:

- Gateway is the site of a summer-long, multi-recreational sports counseling day camp for over 7,000 youth from Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island and Manhattan, many from economically disadvantaged homes. This programs utilize runways, and adjacent areas throughout Floyd Bennett Field for basketball, softball, volleyball, archery, fishing, track and field, kite flying and soccer.

- The Sierra Club, New York City Audubon Club, and the Trust for Public Lands memberships assist in the management of the natural resources of the field particularly the

project to restore grasslands habitat called the Grasslands Restoration and Management Project (GRAMP). They also work cooperatively with Gateway in offering natural resource and interpretive programs to the general public.

- Floyd Bennett Field is being looked at by an investor to develop a multi-use tent and recreation vehicle campground. None exists in the greater New York City metropolitan area and there is a great demand by visitors as well as New York City residents.

- The New York Amateur Athletic Association umbrella sports organizations are utilizing Floyd Bennett Field.

- Eastern New York Youth and Senior Soccer Association currently have over forty teams scheduled for games five days per week eight months out the year, and want to use more space at Floyd Bennett Field.

- The Brooklyn Sports Foundation/Commission is exploring the possibilities for long term agreement with Gateway to use Floyd Bennett Field to develop and operate amateur athletic facilities and fields.

- The 1998 Goodwill Games are scheduled to occur in New York City and the Games Committee and host New York City Sports Commission have expressed a need and desire to locate all or part of them at Floyd Bennett Field.

- Bicyclists from all five boroughs are attracted to the unique combination of runways, facilities and natural resources and traffic free environment at Floyd Bennett Field. The five Borough Bike Club conducts organized rides weekly year around and gets an average of 50-60 bicyclist per trip. Floyd Bennett Field is also host to bike-athons and triathlons.

- Festivals and fairs centered on ethnic heritage, music, the arts, crafts, the environment, education, gardening and other themes are frequently held at Floyd Bennett Field where Gateway co-sponsors such offerings with organizations such as Cornell University, New York City Operation Green Thumb, New York State Office of Park, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Brooklyn Arts and Cultural Association, Central Brooklyn Coordinating Council and many others. Up to 42,000 people attended a three day festival; a sampling of the attendance capable of being attracted.

- Group picnic facilities at Floyd Bennett Field are used by thousands of corporate employees for picnics and family days year around. Brooklyn Union Gas, Con Edison, Citibank , American Diabetes Association, United Way, March of Dimes and many community based organizations are just a few examples who use the runways and adjacent spaces.

The distribution of recreation and open space uses around Floyd Bennett Field are intended to minimize the affect on the resources. Low intensity and passive recreation uses are centered in the natural area portion of the field with the exception of the group camping activities which are located on the periphery of the natural areas. The exception is the group camping associated

with the Ecology Village program and that camping is located in the vicinity of the Ecology Village Pines. High intensity and active recreation pursuits are generally limited to the taxiways and runways where those activities would have the least affect on the historic scene and damage to historic fabric and natural resources. Fairs, festivals and activities that attract large crowds are centered around the hangar space and the adjoining tarmacs of Hangar Row. Parking areas are to be located on the edges of recreation use areas to minimize traffic flow within the activity areas. In all cases, consideration is given to the effect of the recreation and open space uses on the historic scene and natural resources and the standing that the cultural resources have as a listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Appendix I

Floyd Bennett Field Support And User Organizations

1998 Goodwill Games

4-H Clubs

Alpine Foresters Limited

American Youth Hostel

American Littoral Society

American Association for Retirement People

American Diabetes Association

Antique Auto Association

Appalachian Mountain Club

Audubon Society - New York City Chapter

Basic Training Inc.

BBAM League

Beach Channel High School Rowing Club

Big Apple Triathlon Club

Black Veterans for Social Justice

Blue Knights

Boy Scouts of America Troup Numbers 322, 366, 82, 281, 205, 910

Brooklyn Botanic Garden

Brooklyn Unity Intergroup

Brooklyn Sports Foundation: Amateur Sports Alliance

Brooklyn Metropolitan Canoe and Kayak Club

Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce

Brooklyn Plastic Modeler's Society

Brooklyn Protestant Committee on Scouting

Brooklyn Quarter Scale Ding Racing

Brooklyn Union Gas

Brooklyn College Fraternity

Brooklyn Protestant Committee on Scouting

Brooklyn Arts Council

Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment

Brooklyn Special Olympics

Brooklyn Sports Foundation

Brooklyn Center for Children

Brotherhood of Police

Bureau of Technology

Cadets Baseball Club

College of Aeronautics

Combined Federal Campaign

Command Bus Company

Community School District #23

Consolidated Edison Corporation

Control for Marine Conservation

Cornell University Cooperative Extension
Council on the Environment
Cub Scout Pack 87 and 337
East Midwood Jewish Center
Eastern New York Youth and Senior Soccer Association
Educators for Gateway
Five Borough Bike Club
Floating the Apple
Friends of Gateway
Friends of Tara
Friends of Clearwater
Gateway Softball League
Girl Scout Council
Good Shepherd Roman Catholic Church
Good Shepherd Baseball
Government Service Administration/Brooklyn Fleet Management
Greater New York Regional Services
Health Resources Development, Inc,
Highway 2 Club
Honor Legion of New York City Police Department
Independent Living Association
International Order of Alhamba

Jamaica Social and Athletic Club

Jamaica Bay Task Force

Jamaica Bay Environmental Coalition

Jewish War Veterans

Junior High School 198 Q

King's County Kennel Club

Kings County District Attorney's Office

Kings County Radio Club

Knights of Columbus

Knights of Lithuania

Kodiak Hunting Association

MAC Electric

Marine Park Senior Golf Club

Metro Greenways Council

Metropolitan Sports Squadron

Metropolitan Opera Association

Municipal Arts Society

National Future Association

Neighborhood Open Space Coalition

New York City Police 63rd Pct. Band

New York City Emergency Medical Services Station #33

New York City Police Department Pipe Band

New York City Junior Tennis Association

New York City Police 67th Pct., 73rd Pct., 75th Pct.

New York City Sanitation Police

New York City UTC

New York State Courts Emerald Society

New York Cycle Club

New York Amateur Athletic Association

New York City Fire Department

New York City Board of Education

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

New York City Sports Commission

New York Junior Tennis Association

New York City Board of Education (Vocational Training Center)

New York City Bureau of Waste

New York University/Tisch School

Nike Corporation

NYCOBS

Olympic day Camp

Operation Explore

PARCS Radio Controlled Flying Club

Park Slope Day Camp

Plumb Beach Power Squadron

Police Athletic League

Popular Ford

Public School 206

Public School #269 A

Public School #114

Queens Council for the Arts

Radio Control Society of Marine Park

Regional Plan Association

Rockaway Arts Council

Rockaway/Gateway Greenway

Rockaway Beach Volleyball Association

Sebago Canoe Club

Shore Walkers

Siemba Wachanga Society

Sierra Club

Sports United Boroughwide

Sri Chinmoy Triathlon

St. Columba Roman Catholic Church

Stryford District Boy Scouts of America

Stuntmen's Association

The New York City Parks Council

The Mercy Home

Three Hierarchs Greek Afternoon School

Tops Transit Police

Trama's Auto School

Transportation Alternatives

Triboro Coach Corp

Trinity Pioneers Pathfinder Club

Trust for Public Lands

U.S. Bureau of Prisons

Union Settlement WHCC

United States Coast Guard Station Rockaway

United States Futures Trading Association

United States Navy

United States Coast Guard Station Brooklyn

United States Marine Corps

United States Coast Guard Floatilla #6

United States Postal Service

United States Naval Reserve

Veterans of Foreign Wars

YAC Catholic Young Adult

Letters from Organizations Supporting Use of Floyd Bennett Field

*East Coast
Greenway Alliance* ... a project of the Open Space Institute Inc.

NATIONAL OFFICE • 245 West 25th Street • New York, New York 10001 • (212) 627-1137 • Fax (212) 463-9164

Kevin Buckley
Gateway National Recreation Area
Brooklyn NY

Dear Mr Buckley,

Let me thank you and the staff of Gateway National Recreation Area for the warm welcome that my group of 12 inner city kids from Washington D.C. recieved at Floyd Bennet Field. After Bicycling from Boston to New York, along route of the East Coast Greenway, the welcome they received in New York is something they will not forget. They cite the stay in Gateway as one of the best parts of their trip. Your staff, and particularly Jim Reinhart, went out of their way to make their stay rewarding.

I am amazed that such a place exists within the borders of the City of New York. It would be great if over the years you could expand your capacity camp groups like ours. I know that once the word gets around you will be booked solid, for years to come.

I am looking forward to my second trip Floyd Bennett of the summer, on the weekend of August 27-28. Thanks again.

Sincerely

WW Johnson

WW Johnson

ww/dl.



A Project of the Neighborhood Open Space Coalition

Kevin Buckley
Gateway National Recreation Area
Floyd Bennett Field
Brooklyn NY

Dear Kevin

First, let me thank you for the support you have shown our organization on the Gateway Greenway proposal and on the 350 mile greenway system for New York. The continuing enthusiasm and hard work of the Gateway staff will insure that the Jamaica Bay loop will be among the first parts of the system to reach completion, in spite of the overlapping jurisdictions of different government agencies on the space it is to take up.

As you know, the construction of the Greenway will be made possible in large part by the inclusion of alternative transportation in the ISTEA program, passed in part due to the good work of New York's Senator Moynihan. I trust he would be pleased to know that we New Yorkers are prepared to go after our percentage of the allocations.

As per your request, we are beefing up our efforts to introduce cyclers to the attractions you have created at Floyd Bennett Field. We are planning a summer of weekly rides that will pass through Gateway on their way to an area beach; these rides will attract about 50 people each. In addition, we are working with area bike clubs to bring in additional rides with Floyd Bennett as the only destination. Included will be a Bicycle shuttle to Floyd Bennett on the Day of the Harvest Festival with hourly departures of groups from Prospect Park.

We are glad to be able to work with you on these projects and look forward to a continuing collaboration.

Sincerely


Dave

A Project of the Neighborhood Open Space Coalition



National Trails Week

New York City Activities



Brooklyn and Queens

May 29
10:20 am

Rockaway to Gateway Irish Festival Walk

Meet at Rockaway Park, Reach 116th Street subway station on the A train. Wander to the boardwalk and beach, then travel through Irish neighborhoods to festival at Floyd Bennett Field — 4 1/2 miles. Historic anecdotes (many amusing) guaranteed. Leader: John Gallagher. For more information: (718) 499-9779.

Co-sponsored by Friends of Gateway, Metropolitan Council/Neighborhood Open Space Coalition, National Park Service, and Shorewalkers.

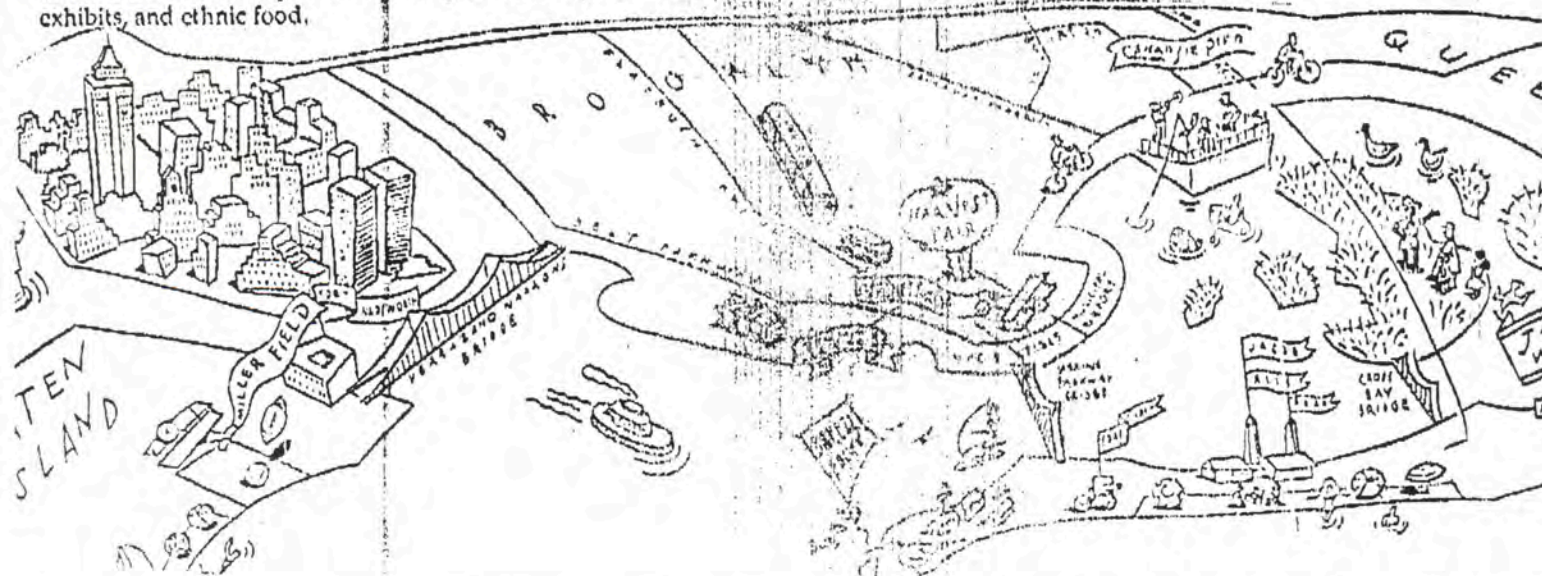
May 30
10:00 am

Prospect Park to Gateway Irish Festival Bicycle Ride

Meet at entrance to Prospect Park at Grand Army Plaza. Travels through three units of Gateway National Recreation Area, including the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Fort Tilden and Floyd Bennett Field. Ride terminates at the Irish Festival — 36 miles. Leader: Dave Lutz and Anne McClellan. For more information: (718) 624-0346.

Co-sponsored by Friends of Gateway, Metropolitan Greenways Council/Neighborhood Open Space Coalition, National Park Service, and the Five Boro Bicycle Club.

Both of these tours will travel along portions of the proposed Rodanway Gateway Greenway — a co-operative project between the National Park Service and Friends of Gateway. The route will connect the Brooklyn and Queens elements of Gateway National recreation area including the Wildlife Refuge, Riis Park, Fort Tilden, and Floyd Bennett Field. It will eventually be part of a larger Gateway Greenway connecting to the Staten Island and Sandy Hook, New Jersey parts of the National Recreation Area. The Irish Festival will be held from 12 am to 10 pm on Saturday and Sunday, and will include musicians, dancers, a petting zoo, arts and crafts, cultural exhibits, and ethnic food.





Brooklyn Protestant Committee on Scouting



THE 36th ANNUAL PROTESTANT RETREAT
OCTOBER 2,3, 1993
NATIONAL RECREATION AREA
FLOYD BENNETT FIELD
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

THE BROOKLYN PROTESTANT COMMITTEE ON SCOUTING IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE ITS 36th ANNUAL RETREAT FOR SCOUTS AND CUBS.

THE EVENT WILL BE HELD IN COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, AT FLOYD BENNETT FIELD, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK, BEGINNING ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1993. CHECK-IN AND LATE REGISTRATION WILL BE FROM 9:00 - 10:00 A.M., WITH OPENING CEREMONIES TO FOLLOW. THIS WILL ALL BE AT BUILDING # 272.

THERE WILL BE A LOT OF ACTIVITIES FOR SCOUTS AND CUBS TO PARTICIPATE IN AND GAMES TO PLAY. HIKING ON THE NORTH FORTY NATURE TRAIL, BICYCLE RIDING, ARCHERY, FISHING AND KITE MAKING AND FLYING CONTEST ARE JUST A FEW. EXPERT INSTRUCTORS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR ARCHERY AND OTHER EVENTS.

THERE WILL BE COUNSELING FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO EARN THE RELIGIOUS AWARDS AVAILABLE TO THEM, AS WELL AS DIALOGUES WITH THE GIDEONS OF STATEN ISLAND. CONSERVATION AND INDIAN LORE WILL ALSO BE FEATURED.

THERE IS LIMITED SPACE FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO CAMP OVERNIGHT. THERE IS CONTROLLED BURNING WITH CHARCOAL GRILLS AND PIT FIREPLACES. THIS IS TENT CAMPING ONLY AND YOU MUST PROVIDE YOUR OWN TENTS. THERE IS WOOD IN THE AREA HOWEVER, YOU COULD BRING CHARCOAL FOR THE GRILLS.

THERE WILL BE A PRIZE FOR ATTENDANCE AND RIBBONS FOR SOME EVENTS. PACK YOUR LUNCH AND GRAB YOUR FISHING POLE, BIKE AND YOUR KITE AND JOIN US.

RESERVATIONS CAN BE MADE BY MAIL OR ON THE STEAKOUT ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1993.

REGISTRATION WILL BE \$3.00 FOR EACH PERSON, WHICH WILL COVER THE COST OF MATERIALS AND COMMEMORATIVE PATCH.

DIRECTIONS:-

Floyd Bennett Field. Mass Transit: Take IRT 2 subway to Flatbush Ave., then the Green Line Q35 bus—ask the bus driver to stop at Floyd Bennett Field. Or, the Green Line Q35 bus at Flatbush and Nostrand Ave., or at Ave. U near Kings Plaza to Floyd Bennett Field. Cross Flatbush Ave. and walk one-fourth of a mile to the visitor contact station. Auto: Belt Parkway to Exit 11S, Flatbush Ave. south. At the traffic light near the Marine Parkway Bridge, turn left into the park.

COLLEGE of AERONAUTICS

LA GUARDIA AIRPORT
FLUSHING, NEW YORK 11371

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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

August 25, 1993

Mr. Kevin C. Buckley
General Superintendent
Gateway National
Recreation Area
Headquarters Building 69
Floyd Bennett Field
Brooklyn, NY 11234

Dear Mr. Buckley:

It was a pleasure meeting you this past Tuesday and thank you for taking the time to give John Fitzpatrick and myself a full tour of your facilities.

As I mentioned, we at the College of Aeronautics are currently exploring some options that might be available to meet our needs for future expansion. In this regard, I was quite impressed with your facilities at Floyd Bennett Field. The large hangars, apron facility and limited runway access have a great deal of potential for an educational institute such as ours.

Thank you again for your time and interest in our organization.

Most respectfully,

Richard B. Goetze, Jr., Ph.D.
President

RBG:dr

Educators for Gateway

David L. Cohen, President

Arthur Kupferberg, Executive Vice President

Robert Newmark, Vice President for Program • Wendy Pantoja, Vice President for Professional Development • Jessica Schulman, Vice President for Communications • Roberta Wallach, Vice President for Membership • Lydia Schwartz, Treasurer

1541 East 91 Street, Brooklyn, NY 11236 • (718) 531-9172

August 25, 1993

Mr. Kevin Buckley, General Superintendent
Gateway National Recreation Area
Building # 69
Floyd Bennett Field
Brooklyn, NY 11234

Dear Mr. Buckley,

As the school year begins, the members of Educators for Gateway anticipate another exciting year of environmental education programs for teachers and their students. The school/National Parks partnership that began in 1976 has produced important environmental studies programs for New York City educators. The Ecology Village Programs, located at Floyd Bennett Field have been the turnkey environmental studies programs for Gateway's 26,000 acres of open space.

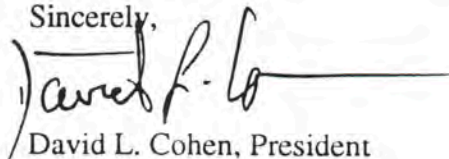
In our meetings with your staff members who have responsibilities in the areas of interpretation, including James Reinhardt and Joseph Avery have been very important to us because they indicated that your plans include major extensions of these programs for school children. Specifically, James indicated that you are prepared to provide a building that would extend the residential program beyond the usual fall and spring tent camping season. Mr. Reinhardt has also addressed the restoration of the size of the interpretive staff.

You know that we have been working with your staff on developing proposals and grants for interpretation. Your programs are among the most important of their kind in the city and your school camping program is unique. That you have assured us of your determination to preserve the various the natural habitats and preserve for our teachers and their students a genuine National Parks experience is of the utmost importance to our members.

Floyd Bennett Field is an important piece of the New York City landscape. It is at once beautiful and a telling reminder of our need to conserve and live lightly, especially in an urban environment. The field has sparked the imagination of many a student and restored many teachers' faith in their calling.

Thank you. I am sure this year will bring many good things for our members and their students and I look forward to meeting with you soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "David L. Cohen", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

David L. Cohen, President



NEW YORK CITY AUDUBON SOCIETY

71 WEST 23 STREET, SUITE 1430, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10010, 212 691-7483

Kevin Buckley,
Superintendent
Gateway National Recreation Area

Dear Kevin,

August 24, 1993

The New York City Audubon Society considers Floyd Bennett Field to be one of the most important open spaces in the region. There is a tremendous need for "green" places in New York City, especially near densely populated Brooklyn. Unfortunately, incompatible activities on the field are seriously impairing appropriate use of the site. We are writing to ask you to eliminate these inappropriate abuses of what is supposed to be a **National Recreation Area**.

As you know, Floyd Bennett Field is the site of one of our organization's most important habitat protection efforts, the Grassland Restoration And Management Project. This cooperative effort between NYC Audubon and the National Park Service has successfully restored and maintained over a hundred and twenty acres of one of the most threatened ecosystems in the country. Audubon has spent thousands of dollars and expended thousands of volunteer hours to create and continue this project. We know that the National Park Service has devoted significant resources to this project as well. It is gratifying to note that many plant, insect, reptile and mammal species have benefitted from this project. It is especially gratifying to observe the many avian species that the project supports, including a number of bird species that are on federal and state endangered species lists. Among the many uncommon or endangered species requiring meadowland that are using the site are breeding peregrine falcon, northern harrier and grasshopper sparrow.

By protecting a last fragment of the eastern prairie, the project also will be of tremendous educational benefit. Nowhere else will so many schoolchildren and others have the opportunity to stand amidst a vast stretch of wind tossed native grasses and wildflowers and learn first hand about one the most distinctive and beautiful american landscapes.

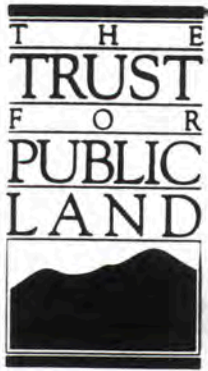
These native prairies also provide a wonderful resource for passive recreation and enjoyment of nature, the rarest and most needed type of recreation in our urbanized environment. Audubon is pleased that none of this conflicts with preservation of the unique aviation history of the site, as grasslands were always maintained by the historic airfield.

All of the above listed benefits are jeopardized by the continued use of Floyd Bennett Field as a driver training area for various city services. These activities generate noise and air pollution, threaten the biological integrity of the grasslands as well as endanger human visitors to the field. The continuous driving degrades the appearance and atmosphere of the field, discourages visitation and prevents a peaceful recreational experience. The continuation of these incompatible uses negates the environmental, recreational and historic preservation mandates of Gateway. It is an affront to the memory of those who struggled long and hard to establish this National Recreation Area.

It is our expectation that the National Park Service will continue to restore and properly manage all sites under its jurisdiction. Removing incompatible uses is an unavoidable part of proper management of Floyd Bennett Field. We look forward to your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

David Burg, President



RECEIVED

93 AUG 25 PM 12:16

GATEWAY NRA MAILROOM

August 24, 1993

Kevin C. Buckley
Superintendent
Gateway National Recreation Area
Headquarters, Building 69
Floyd Bennett Field
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11234

Dear Superintendent:

I am writing to express my strong support for recent changes that have made Floyd Bennett Field an increasingly important recreational area and natural resource for New York City.

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) especially applauds the natural areas preservation and restoration work undertaken in recent years--including the freshwater wetlands restoration project at the northern end of the Field, and the Grassland Restoration and Management Project. The latter project, in particular, represents one of the largest coastal grasslands protection efforts in the east, making Gateway a real leader in the effort to protect this vital habitat type.

We heartily endorse your efforts to strengthen the role of Floyd Bennett Field as a natural resource and a site for "low impact" recreation. These efforts are wholly consistent with the recently-released report Buffer the Bay Revisited, written by TPL in cooperation with New York City Audubon. We look forward to continuing to work with you to enhance the role of Jamaica Bay as a vital environmental resource.

Sincerely,

Andy Stone
Director
New York City Program

MID-ATLANTIC
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NY, NY 10012-2317
(212) 677-7171
Fax: (212) 353-2052

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**Cornell
Cooperative
Extension**

New York City

Education Center
15 East 90th Street, 5th Floor
New York, NY 10030-1646
FAX / 212-340-3908
212-340-3900

August 24, 1993

Mr. Kevin Buckley
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Gateway National Recreation Area
Headquarters Building 69
Floyd Bennett Field
Brooklyn, NY 11234

Dear Kevin,

While at the *City Gardeners' Harvest Fair* this weekend, I was reminded how important Gateway National Recreation Area is to Cornell Cooperative Extension - New York City Programs. In the past and present, Gateway has provided invaluable resources in support of Extension's education initiatives. As you may be aware, a few of the successful collaborative initiatives include:

- **Ecology Village:** an environmental education program designed by Extension staff and managed by Gateway serving school groups
- **Gateway Community Gardens:** development of vegetable garden plots at Gateway for over 600 families
- **Operation Explore:** city-wide environmental education program for in-school youth
- **City Gardeners' Harvest Fair:** an annual educational showcase at Gateway sponsored by Extension, Gateway, New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, and the New York City Department of General Services.

Extension's participation in this year's Harvest Fair reflected the organization's programmatic shift to addressing critical community issues; Extension's theme was Healthy Communities.

While Extension will build on prior urban programs involving diverse audiences, new initiatives will help individuals, families and communities address critical problems related to issues focusing on the environment, nutrition and health, and economic development. In our efforts to work with community residents and leaders to build community capacity and individual strengths it is extremely important to identify and effectively utilize resources available both internally and externally. It is our hope Gateway will continue assisting us in meeting these new initiatives.

Helping You Put Knowledge to Work

Cornell Cooperative Extension provides equal program and employment opportunities. NYS College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, NYS College of Human Ecology, and NYS College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University, Cooperative Extension associations, county governing bodies, and U.S. Department of Agriculture, cooperating.

As evidence of Extension's commitment to environmental protection and enhancement let me share with you a few new program initiatives we've undertaken:

- Extension is currently piloting a Land Use Exploration program in Brooklyn that we plan to begin implementing in the Rockaways in the Spring. This program will enable adolescent youth and adult volunteers to study land use and make interpretations. Participants will be trained in remote sensing, utilizing aerial photography and mapping; conduct field observations; and develop land use inventories. The tools and abilities they acquire will help them examine environmental problems, especially those related to water quality. Participants will be supported in their efforts to carry out community service initiatives which may contribute to the resolution of identified local problems. Jamaica Bay and the Rockaway peninsula offer the opportunity to develop and implement this program given the natural resources and threatening impacts to these areas.
- Ongoing efforts involve youth and adult volunteers exploring water quality issues and conducting monitoring assessments of coastal waterways. Relating the natural environment to everyday experiences and practices of individuals in their homes and neighborhood is paramount to understanding and appreciating the value of natural resource in urban areas. Gateway provides opportunities for all NYC residents to experience their natural environment.
- Briefly, Jim Reinhardt and I have explored and are encouraged by Gateway's interest and support for Extension's regional efforts. Most recently, Extension proposed a partnership with Gateway to the National Commission on National and Community Service for consideration of support in the Summer of Service Program. Although not accepted for 1993, Extension will pursue undertaking environmental service initiatives utilizing Gateway's vast facilities, personnel, experience and natural resources. Efforts such as these may involve hundreds of participants. Additionally, Extension's proposed Watershed Youth Exchange program will involve about 100 youth plus staff from New York City and the City's watershed region upstate utilizing educational and physical resources at Gateway.

As you can see, the partnership built over the years between Extension and Gateway will continue to grow with your support. I look forward to the opportunity to work with Gateway staff to assure collaborative programs meet the needs of City and regional residents.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Ferenz (HCH)

Gretchen Ferenz, Leader
Environmental Issues



SPORTS FOUNDATION

333 ATLANTIC AVE., BROOKLYN, N.Y. 11201 (718) 852-1800
FAX # (718) 237-4274

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LOKIE SMITH

August 23, 1993

Mr. Kevin C. Buckley
General Superintendent
Gateway National Recreation Area
Headquarters Building # 69
Floyd Bennett Field
Brooklyn, New York 11234

Dear Mr. Buckley:

The Brooklyn Sports Foundation is mandated to develop athletic facilities for the young people of Brooklyn. In that capacity, we are interested in working with you to pursue the possibilities of using Floyd Bennett Field for a variety of athletic events.

The potential at Floyd Bennett Field, to develop athletic facilities not presently available to the youth of Brooklyn, is enormous. Right now, the Brooklyn athletic community lacks any sort of decent outdoor facilities, including baseball playing fields, soccer, football, and rugby fields.

In addition, the lack of indoor field houses for such sports as track and field greatly impede the chances of our young people in regard to obtaining scholarships for college.

The State Legislature has mandated us, through the creation of the Brooklyn Sports Commission, to relieve these inadequacies. Your facilities could play an important role in improving the quality and quantity of playing facilities for all Brooklyn residents.

I look forward to continuing to explore the possibilities with you, and in developing Floyd Bennett Field to its fullest potential.

Sincerely,

Robert G. Zeig
Executive Director

Post-It™ brand fax transmittal memo 7671

of pages 1

To	Mr. Kevin C. Buckley	From	Brooklyn Spts Fndn
Co.	Gateway Rec Area	Co.	Robert Zeig
Dept.	Gen Supt.	Phone	718-852-1800
Fax	718-338-3560	Fax	718-237-4274

RECEIVED
93 AUG 23 AM 10:48
STEWART MAIL ROOM

JAMAICA BAY ENVIRONMENTAL COALITION

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BROOKLYN BIRD CLUB
BROOKLYN CENTER FOR THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT
EDUCATORS FOR GATEWAY
FRIENDS OF GATEWAY
LINNAEAN SOCIETY
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NEW YORK CITY AUDUBON SOCIETY
NEW YORK CITY BUTTERFLY CLUB
NEW YORK CITY SIERRA CLUB
NEW YORK RARE BIRD ALERT
QUEENS BIRD CLUB
SOCIETY OF OLD BROOKLYNITES
SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

2440 East 29th Street #4B
Brooklyn, NY 11235

August 22, 1993

Kevin C. Buckley
General Superintendent
Gateway National Recreation Area
Headquarters Building #69
Floyd Bennett Field
Brooklyn, NY 11234

Dear Mr. Buckley:

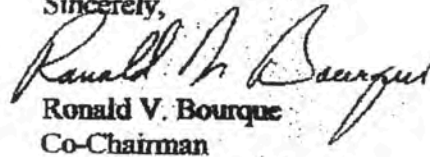
I wish to reiterate the sense of the Jamaica Bay Environmental Coalition that the Gateway National Recreation Area is land set aside through Congressional legislation for serving the recreational needs of the public at large - it is not land set aside for whatever expedient purpose New York City agencies may find expedient. Those city officials and New York representatives who look at Floyd Bennett Field and see it as an empty space, with nothing there, would look at the flat open space of Jamaica Bay and regard it as a void to be filled. In evaluating Floyd Bennett Field, as with Jamaica Bay, one must look beneath the surface in order to appreciate the richness of the life and activity there. Unfortunately, there are more than a few activities that have been foisted upon Gateway visitors by misguided government officials and representatives which interfere with present enjoyment and future development of Floyd Bennett Field.

The visitors to our parks and recreation areas, for the most part, seek some respite from the constant wailing of sirens, honking horns, and the heavy traffic with its attendant air pollution of our densely populated urban environment. The NYPD Driver Training, The EMS Ambulance Driver Training, and Military Reserve heavy truck driver training are all contributing the degradation of park experience the Gateway visitors have a right to expect. All of these inappropriate activities take away space that could be used by visitors and wildlife and leave a clutter of traffic cones, steel drums, a parked trailer, a storage container, and a garbage container. The din and the clutter of these activities are an unacceptable abuse of an area set aside for public recreation and wildlife habitat.

Along with the inner city school children who camp out overnight in Floyd Bennett Field, the members of the Jamaica Bay Environmental Coalition are among the most frequent visitors who appreciate its special open space and the rarer species of wildlife that can be seen there. If public officials look at Floyd Bennett Field and see nothing but macadam and shrubs, I submit that they are only looking at the surface and fail to see the potential for the future of the field. If the buildings and infrastructure are in a sorry state, it is because legislators and bureaucrats in Washington have chosen, in the past, to withhold the capital spending needed for maintenance and improvements at Floyd Bennett Field out of an interest in privatization. I think it is the sense of our Coalition that it is an abdication of a public trust to allow the Gateway property to be turned over to New York City agencies out of expediency and backdoor political maneuvering. We hold the Director of the National Park Service, Roger Kennedy, fully responsible for the continued inappropriate activities that deny the legitimate users the full range of low impact activities consistent with wildlife habitat preservation.

You may be assured that you have the full support of the Jamaica Bay Environmental Coalition in any efforts to restore the legitimate and appropriate uses of Floyd Bennett Field by removing and prohibiting inappropriate activities.

Sincerely,


Ronald V. Bourque
Co-Chairman

The Skate Sensation, Inc.

223 Beach 128th Street
Belle Harbor, New York 11694

(718) 945-0747

August 23, 1993

Mr. Kevin Buckley
General Superintendent
Gateway National Recreation Area
Headquarters Building 69
Floyd Bennett Field
Brooklyn, New York 11234

Dear Mr. Buckley,

This summer our company was involved in conducting a Skate Smart(tm) in-line skate program for the day camps that visit Gateway on a daily basis. We also taught safe skating skills at the Great American Irish Festival.

Our company has supplied skates, helmets and pads for all skaters. We taught stopping, turning and stroking on in-line skates.

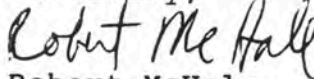
Our safety program has reached over 400 campers at Gateway.

The Floyd Bennett Field Runways have been the most ideal location we have ever used in the teaching of Skate Smart(tm).

During our lessons we would cone off sections of the runway in front of the blue hangar. A smooth flat surface has been a valuable asset which has led to the success of Skate Smart(tm) at Gateway.

It has been a pleasure to work with the staff of Gateway this past year. We will continue to offer free skate lessons to all Gateway staff and to stress the use of safety and proper skills when in-line skating.

Sincerely,



Robert McHale
President

FLOATING THE APPLE

"Bringing Community Boating to New York"
245 West 25th Street • New York, NY
(212) 627-1137

August 23, 1993

Mr. Kevin Buckley
General Superintendent
Gateway National Recreation Area
Floyd Bennett Field
Brooklyn, NY

Dear Mr. Buckley

Our organization enjoyed speaking with you the other day concerning access to Floyd Bennett Field for hand and foot powered boating activities. We think the work that you have done looks great and we are very excited by the prospect of increasing our activities at Floyd Bennett Field.

Our group encourages human powered boating with rowing, canoeing, seacycling and small sail activities and will soon sponsor boat building workshops in New York.

We will stay in touch and look forward to working with you on increasing access at the field.

Sincerely,

Toby Brandt

COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT 22
2525 HARING STREET
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11235
(718) 368-8020

JOHN T. COMER
SUPERINTENDENT

ROBERT J. RADDAY
DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT

August 22, 1993

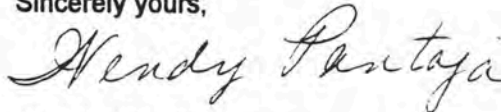
Kevin Buckley, Superintendent
Floyd Bennett Field
Gateway National Recreational Area
Brooklyn, New York 11234

Dear Mr. Buckley:

As a New York City school teacher, I have utilized the facilities at Floyd Bennett Field as a valuable teaching resource for my students. My classes have gone there on day trips and overnight trips that have included such activities as: gardening, seining, nature walks, and camping. These opportunities have introduced many students to ecological issues and have awakened in them a respect for the natural environment in a safe and affordable facility within the New York City limits.

In the coming school year, I look forward to involving students of Community School District 22 in a wider use of Floyd Bennett Field through increased outdoor programs and utilization of the land in various areas. A residential outdoor program would open more opportunities for students to participate in environmental and outdoor education. I hope the availability of more land space will indeed make this a reality for these youngsters and their teachers.

Sincerely yours,



Wendy Pantoja
Science Resource Teacher
EAGLE II

Approved: _____



Lila Edelkind, Interim Acting Director
Gifted and Talented Programs

cc: John T. Comer, Superintendent
Eileen O'Brien, President CSB 22
Charles Schumer, Congressman

THOMAS S. GULOTTA
COUNTY EXECUTIVE



JOHN B. KIERNAN
COMMISSIONER

COUNTY OF NASSAU
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION & PARKS

EISENHOWER PARK - EAST MEADOW, N.Y. 11554

J. Stoff
Cradle of Aviation Museum
Museum Lane, Mitchel Field
Garden City, N.Y.
11530

17 August 1993

Dear Mr. Rienhardt,

It was very nice to meet you the other day and discuss the exciting prospects for Floyd Bennett Field. I did finally have the chance to go through our storage collection and inventory the meteorological artifacts that would be relevant to your control tower restoration. The items we have are: A lightgun, tower telephone, clock, barograph, wind direction indicator, wind speed indicator, rainfall gauge and temperature gauge. Photos of these items are enclosed. These items would be available on long-term loan should you be interested in requesting them. I do look forward to hearing from you on this matter.

Most Sincerely,

Josnua Stoff
Curator



August 12, 1993

Dear Rockaway/Gateway Greenway Advisory Board Member,

On behalf of Friends of Gateway and Gateway National Recreation Area, we would like to welcome you as a member of the new Rockaway/Gateway Greenway Advisory Board. Our goal is to create a new bikeway/walkway circling Jamaica Bay connecting the various Federal and City parklands and develop greenspaces as a buffer to shield the route from vehicular traffic.

The Advisory Board will be comprised of approximately 20 members representing a variety of public agencies, as well as private advocacy organizations. With your help we help to be walking, biking, skating, etc. on a first rate continuous greenway very soon.

Our first meeting will take place on:

August 17, 1993 — 11 am
NYS Office of State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
8th Floor Conference Room
915 Broadway (22 Street)

Please call Dave Lutz at 212-513-7555 to confirm your attendance at this meeting or if you'd like additional information. Thank you for your support and assistance.

Sincerely,

Anne McClellan
Executive Director

Friends of Gateway

Jim Rienhardt
Director, Interpretation, Recreation
and Community Outreach
Gateway National Recreation Area

P.S. After the Advisory Board meeting, you're invited to join members of the Metropolitan Greenway Council and the NYC Bikeway/Walkway Committee for a 1:30 p.m. boat ride on the Circle Line (\$16 if reserved in advance with us, \$18 at the door. At 6:00 pm there will be slide presentations on the Hudson River Park Conservancy's vision for the Lower West Side of Manhattan, and Transportation Alternative's Bicycle Blueprint, at HRPC's office, 141 Fifth Avenue (at 21st Street) — 10th floor.

1
Jim Rienhardt
Director of Recreation & Community Outreach
Gateway National Recreation Area
Floyd Bennett Field
Headquarters at Building 69
Brooklyn, NY 11234

7/27/93

Dear Mr. Rienhardt,

This letter is to confirm the telephone conversation that we had on July 26, 1993. In the call we discussed the following issues:

- 1) That a target date for the Medieval Festival will be in the Spring of 1994.
- 2) That we will set up a tour of the facilities in September of 1993.
- 3) That the fee schedule will depend on the scope of the event, anticipated attendance, gate fees, and other issues to be discussed in greater depth during our meeting in September, 1993.
- 4) That numerous "nuts and bolts" issues such as proper sanitation, concessions, crowd control, gate monitoring, security, and other unforeseen topics will also be discussed at the September, 1993 meeting.

I want to take this opportunity to tell you how much we appreciate the support and enthusiasm that you have shown for this project. We look forward to the creation of a successful, entertaining, and educational event. I am sure that with good planning and hard work it will be so.

Sincerely,

Jordan Weinstein
As Seneschal and Legal Representative on behalf of
the Society for Creative Anachronism
Manhattan Chapter
31 Lexington Avenue #4A
New York, NY 10010-1851
212-481-8068

Knights of Lithuania

MASPETH COUNCIL 110
Founded 1924



July 19, 1993

JAR
Mr. J. Rienhardt, Drk.
Mr. T. O'Connell
Gateway National Recreation Area
Floyd Bennett Airfield - Bldg. 69
Brooklyn, New York 11234

copy sent to
Kev/est
Ricky/Verna
Tommy C

Gentlemen:

The words are few but the thanks are many for the use of your facilities last Saturday, July 17th for the commemoration of the Darius/Girenas' 60th Trans-Atlantic Flight tragedy.

We are most grateful for the services that you and your staff rendered to make our event meaningful. In addition, the "food truck" had its merits. Thank you very much.

Many good comments were overheard with respect to your grounds, cleanliness, etc. and we look forward to perhaps using your facilities in the near future.

With grateful appreciation, I remain

Very truly yours,

Constance Mahwadowich
and
Ann Morrissey
and
Elen "atulen's



The New York City Combined Federal Campaign

"Campaign For Caring"

26 Federal Plaza, Ste. 3738 • New York, NY 10278
Telephone: 212-264-4027 Fax 212 264-3962

July 12, 1993

Mr. James Rienhardt
Director of Recreation and Community Outreach
Gateway National Recreation Area
Floyd Bennet Field
Headquarters, Building 69
Brooklyn, New York 11234

Dear Jim:

This is to confirm our intention to host the Combined Federal Campaign Kick-Off Weekend at Gateway National Park the weekend of September 11 and 12, 1993.

The two day event will consist of fun runs, softball tournaments, children's games (I think I've got Ronald McDonald for sure!), roller-blading events, and picnics. Every New York City federal employee will be invited to attend along with their families, so we anticipate 800-1,000 people each day. Post Office employees will be invited out on Saturday, and the military and white collar federal employees will come out on Sunday. Charitable agencies personnel will be on hand to provide services as well as fun give-a-ways. Clowns, animals, trophies, food and a fun day in New York City are the components. No solicitation takes place - it's just a way for us to thank everyone for a successful campaign last year, and to generate enthusiasm and support for this year.

As you are probably aware, the CFC is the only authorized fundraising campaign among federal employees. Of the 460 CFC's in the country, the New York City campaign ranks 18th, raising approximately \$2 million for 1600 charities. We reach approximately 70,000 federal employees within the five boroughs. This kick-off weekend is a major event!

As per our conversation, I understand that we will have the use of two fields at Floyd Bennet and two at Reese Park. When I come to meet you early next month, we can talk more details and I'm sure more questions/answers will come up at that time.

I appreciate all of your help and thank you for being so conscientious and pleasant. I look forward to meeting you soon and working with you on this project.

Sincerely,



Ann Geissler
Assistant Director

BACA / The Brooklyn Arts Council 195 Cadman Plaza West Brooklyn, New York 11201

Telephone 718 625 0080 Fax 718 625 3294

founded 1966

July 1, 1993

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Mr. Kevin C. Buckley
General Superintendent
Gateway Natl. Recreation Area
Floyd Bennett Field
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11234

Dear Mr. Buckley,

Throughout my careers as journalist/arts administrator/producer et al., I have seldom been at a loss for adjectives. Those words are my business. Still, I find it difficult to find the right descriptive words to underscore the effectiveness, value, potential, and urgency of the work being done at Gateway National Recreation Area. The role being played at the site, thanks to you and thanks to a skilled staff, is a role that is critical to the health of our City, and that is not an understatement.

Over the years, it has been my good fortune to have worked with Gateway on a multitude of projects, and it is imperative to note that the good people of Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island, and all points around the metropolitan area are discovering, in increasing numbers, the excitement that spells Gateway.

We look forward to being part of this vital programming, in the coming months, with such crowd-pleasing events as an Italian-American Festival, the 2nd annual Irish-American Festival, the Octoberfest, a major Music Festival with salutes to the Nostalgia era of the 50's and 60's and the Jazz eras. BACA/The Brooklyn Arts Council, now in its 27th year, also will assist, whenever called, on other activities e.g. The African Festival, the Harvest Fair. We will continue to work with the highly popular Canarsie Pier Summerseries and the Floyd Bennett Field Job Corps Center free concerts (with such names as Shirley Alston Reeves of the Shirelles, and jazz superstar Noel Pointer).

There is so much at Gateway that is critical to the health of the borough and city, and so much more that looms as vital to the future. I shudder at the thought of the proposals of the 60's that would have destroyed the site. The people of Brooklyn, in particular, salute Gateway, welcome it, support it, and need it for the growth towards the next generation. Any loss of Gateway land and/or productivity would seriously injure the entire future of our city.

Yours very sincerely,

Chuck Reichenthal
Associate Director/
BACA/The Brooklyn Arts Council



Lower Hudson Valley Chapter
New York Downstate Affiliate, Inc.

100 Clearbrook Road • Elmsford, New York 10523 • (914) 345-9300 • Fax: (914) 345-8407

June 14, 1993

Jim 6/16/93

Mr. Jim Rienhardt
Gateway National Recreation Area
Headquarters
Building 69
Floyd Bennett Field
Brooklyn, NY 11234

Dear Mr. Rienhardt:

It was good talking with you this morning about our plans to have an in-line skating event at Floyd Bennett Field on Sunday morning, September 26, 1993. We are planning to set up early, with registration beginning about 8:30 a.m.. The actual program will start at 10 a.m. and we expect to wrap things up by 1:30 p.m..

The attached rough copy of our brochure will explain the details to you. Before going any further, however, I would like to request a special use permit for Floyd Bennett Field to make our plans official.

Please send the permit to me at the above address and we will complete it and return it to you as soon as possible.

Thank you for your cooperation. We look forward to working with you on "In-Line for a Cure."

Sincerely,

Phyllis Geraghty

Phyllis Geraghty

DONALD M. HALPERIN
21ST DISTRICT

1600 SHEEPSHEAD BAY ROAD
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11235
(718) 646-6620

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247
(518) 455-3241



THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK

June 15, 1993

RANKING MEMBER
SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE/MINORITY

COMMITTEES:
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Mr. Jim Rienhardt
Director, Recreation
Gateway National Recreation Area Headquarters
Floyd Bennett Field
Brooklyn, NY 11234

Dear Jim:

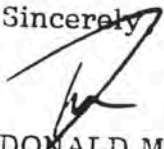
I am taking this opportunity to follow up on our recent meeting regarding the identification of possible funding sources for the Summer Day Camp Program, operated by the Friends of Gateway. I enjoyed having the opportunity to meet with you personally, and appreciate your taking the time to apprise me of your concerns.

After speaking with you, it is clear that the Friends of Gateway provides a valuable service to Brooklyn youth in the form of its summer program. As I mentioned during our meeting, I would like to be able to help you obtain the funding you need to provide the most complete services at the lowest cost possible.

To that end my staff member, Pat Allen, will contact you in the near future regarding an RFP that might be available through the Division For Youth. He will also explore the possibility of your obtaining discretionary funds through the legislature.

Thank you for sharing your concerns with me. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide further information about this or any other legislative matter.

Sincerely,


DONALD M. HALPERIN
Member of the Senate

DMH/KJ/rr

MARCIA KAPLAN- MANN

1715 NEWKIRK AVE
BROOKLYN N Y 11226
PHONE: 718-941-9835

Exploring

EXPLORING CHAIRMAN MIDWOUT DISTRICT



June 14, 1993

Dear General Superintendent Buckley,

I am the Exploring chairperson for the Flatbush, Midwood and Clinton Hill areas Brooklyn Exploring is the coed 14 to 21 year old component of scouting. I just want to thank you for the use of your park in our scouting programs. Without you and the park we would not be able to continue our support of older Brooklyn youth.

Yours Truly

Marcia Kaplan-Mann



Flatbush Tompkins Congregational Church
Dorchester Road and East 18 Street
Brooklyn, N. Y. 11226

June 6, 1993

Dear Kevin Buckley,

I just learned that you will be honored this year by Rockaways Chamber of Commerce as Citizen of the Year. They certainly chose someone who deserves that honor. As the Scoutmaster of the oldest continuous scout troop in Brooklyn I know what the support you have given to the programs of our unit has meant to the inner city member children of our troop. We have used your wonderful Gateway Park for camping, orienteering and Land sailing. Without you and your support of Brooklyn Youth many of them would never know of these wonderful activities.

As past chairman of the Environmental Education Advisory Council I just wanted to let you know that your Floyd Bennett facility has become a major public awareness area for environmental understanding by the general public and school children.

Lastly, thank you and your facility for once again hosting our scouts in their religious retreat. I am enclosing the flyer on this event as you might not be on their mailing list.

Sincerely

Michael Mann

JOHN J. GALLAGHER

441 14th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11215
(718) 499-9779



1 June 1993

Mr. Kevin Buckley
General Superintendant
Floyd Bennett Field
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11234

Dear Mr. Buckley,

This is just a short note to let you know how pleased we were on our recent visit to Floyd Bennett Field.

I regularly lead walks for the Appalachian Mountain Club. Saturday I took about two dozen hikers from the Rockaways to the Irish Festival via the North Forty Nature Trail. To prepare for the outing I had made an earlier (and my first in 30 years) visit and was offered every assistance by Jim Rheinhardt and Rita Mullalay.

I have just sent a note to the AMC local chapter bulletin - which goes to some 6000 members - telling of the resources I found at Floyd Bennett. I'll be sure in my travels to mention the field to members of other hiking groups I meet.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature, likely of John J. Gallagher, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke.



June 1, 1993

James Reinhardt
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Gateway National Recreation Area
Headquarters Building 69
Floyd Bennet Field
Brooklyn, NY 11234



Dear Mr. Reinhardt:

Two weeks ago, Cornell Cooperative Extension received an announcement from the National Commission on National and Community Service. The press release informed Extension that "Summer of Service" selected sixteen Programs in eleven areas across the country, involving about 1,500 participants.

Cooperative Extension nationwide demonstrated its ability to respond quickly to the President's call, however, was not among the awarded Programs. Cornell Cooperative Extension has requested an evaluation of its submissions with hopes that our next effort will be more closely matched. The announcement, including brief descriptions of each awarded Program is attached for your interest.

Cornell Cooperative Extension - New York City Programs is grateful and appreciative of your support and willingness to participate in its environmental, youth and community-based initiatives. As always, we look forward to working with you on future "National and Community Service" initiatives, or other education efforts, which benefit our organizations, the residents of New York City, and the environment.

Thanks again for your timely consideration and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Frenz, Leader
Environmental Issues

attachments



May 15, 1993

Mr. Kevin C. Buckley
General Superintendent
Gateway National
Recreation Area
Headquarters Bldg. #69
Floyd Bennett Field
Brooklyn, NY 11234

Dear Mr. Buckley:

I recently asked to be placed on your mailing list primarily so that we would know when your "History of Floyd Bennett Field" tours were being conducted and advise our members accordingly.

Slowly it has dawned on me that perhaps this would be a good thing to do as a group.

Don't know if you are familiar with the Wings Club. We celebrated our 10th anniversary last year and have many members who are interested in and probably experienced on a first-hand basis the history of aviation, especially in the area.

So, please advise me as to private group tours, and if you do, what would be the minimum and maximum number of people.

Thank you in advance for your response and best wishes to you in your endeavors. We bring with us the guide as well.

Sincerely,

Margie L. Lewin
Club Manager

EASTERN NEW YORK STATE SENIOR SOCCER ASSOCIATION

AFFILIATED WITH THE UNITED STATES SOCCER FEDERATION

RECEIVED

General Secretary
COSTAS MALLIOS
157-05 33rd Avenue
Flushing, NY 11354

Registrar
GIUSEPPE LOMBARDO
76 Avenue U
Brooklyn, NY 11223
Fax: (718) 946-3252

Treasurer
HOWARD RUBENSTEIN
340 Hempstead Avenue
Rockville Centre, NY 11550
93 APR 12 PM 4:02
CONSALU TURCHI
251 Gifford Lane
Staten Island, NY 10308
WAY NRA MAILROOM

Mr. Kevin C. Buckley
General Superintendent
Gateway National Recreation Park
Brooklyn N.Y. 11234

April 7, 1993

Dear Mr. Buckley:

We recently had a positive meeting with a member of your staff, Mr. Jim Rienhardt, to discuss the possibilities of using Gateway National Recreation Area's Floyd Bennett Field facilities (hangar and outside athletic fields). Our association and the Eastern New York State Youth Soccer Association are the New York City Metropolitan Area's umbrella for the United States Soccer Federation. The federation is the governing body for soccer in the United States and has direct affiliation with the United States Olympic Committee. We have thousands of soccer players who are in need of more playing space, and we are looking to use the facilities of Floyd Bennett Field to help fulfill this need.

Our two associations are extremely interested in utilizing your Ryan Visitor Center for monthly meetings and soccer classroom clinics. We are also looking for a permanent long-term lease arrangement for office space and soccer fields. We are prepared to make financial commitments to develop both, but understand that you presently are unable to negotiate any long term leases. Until such time, we would like a one year Special Use Permit immediately for use of the field north of Hangars 7 and 8 for our soccer leagues to utilize seven days and evenings per week. This would be the first step towards a long term partnership.

I look forward to your favorable response. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Yours truly,

Costas Mallios
General Secretary



SAL RAPAGLIA

President

LIVIO D'ARPINO

1st Vice President

ALBINO GUIMARAES

2nd Vice President

DENNIS BOTSARIS

3rd Vice President

MIHO MIKETICH

4th Vice President

VINCENZO VALENTE

Rec. Secretary

PETER MASOTTO

Pres. E.N.Y.S.S.A.

TRUSTEES

Fred Ballantyne

Costas Bougdanos

Sergio Carbone

Joseph Goldberg

Peter Lagonikos

Peter McClean

Luigi Pelini

Peter Pinori

John Racine

Peter Strumpf

LIFE MEMBERS

Joseph Goldberg

Giuseppe Lombardo

Costas Mallios

Walter Marburg

Fritz Marth

Sal Rapaglia

Abe Rochester

Harry Saunders

MEMBER LEAGUES

Cosmopolitan

Soccer League

Eastern District

Soccer League

Hellenic American

Soccer League

Italian-American

Soccer League

Long Island

Soccer Football League

New York Metropolitan

Women's Soccer League

Long Island

Women's Soccer League

Capital District

Soccer League

Central Brooklyn

Soccer League

Santa Rosalia

Soccer League

Northeast Super

Soccer League

Cosmopolitan

Junior Soccer League

Long Island

Junior Soccer League

Italian-American

Junior Soccer League

Eastern New York

Soccer Referee Council

E.N.Y.S.S.A.

Coaches Assn.

THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

201 College Boulevard • Overland Park, Kansas 66211-2422 • Telephone 913/339-1906

January 13, 1992

Mr. Kevin C. Buckley
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Brooklyn, New York 11234

Dear Mr. Buckley:

Thank you for your recent letter and your interest in the NCAA Youth Education through Sports (YES) program.

Please be assured that we are aware of your interest in sponsoring a YES turnkey clinic and will advise you of the turnkey clinic status as soon as information is available.

Best regards,



Sharon K. Cessna
Youth Programs Coordinator

BKC:bem



At the Brighton Beach
Bath & Racquet Club

Brooklyn's Most Unique Summer Day Camp

3205 Coney Island Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11235 • (718) 646-5018

Mendy Samstein, Director

April 27, 1993

Mr. Kevin Buckley, Superintendent
Gateway National Recreation Area
Floyd Bennett Field Headquarters
Brooklyn, New York 11234

Dear Mr. Buckley,

I am writing to express our interest in negotiating a lease with Gateway for land upon which we might build a children's learning and recreational facility to service the Brooklyn and Queens communities.

Our organization currently runs a very successful day camp which is attended by over 500 Brooklyn youngsters. We are currently located on the 15 acres of the Brighton Beach Bath and Racquet Club which has served as our home for the past six years. Unfortunately for us, sometime in the next few years this facility is scheduled to be converted into new condominium housing. We are trying to plan now for the day when we will have to relocate or face the prospect of having to cease to exist.

I believe that during the years we have been at the Brighton Beach Baths we have established a reputation for an outstanding program and a commitment to the highest standards of excellence. In addition, to providing youngsters with quality swimming and sports instruction and creative arts experiences, we have, in recent years, developed a number of very successful science and environmental education programs.

For the third summer, we will be running a camp-wide marine science program which includes not only workshops and classes at the Aquarium but an extensive sea animal lab on our own premises staff run by a very knowledgeable marine biology instructor. The specimen in our

salt water tanks are collected by own campers during seashore expeditions in the waters right in front of our facility. This summer we are expanding our program to include a nature studies and gardening program and seven sails on the Clearwater boat which features learning in topics ranging from water chemistry to the history of sailing.

Our vision involves constructing a facility that would not only house our summer camp but would be able to provide recreational and environmental educational programs to school and community groups throughout the year. We are proud of the fact that we are a multi-cultural camp serving the broad spectrum of religious, ethnic, and racial groups that make up the New York community. We are committed as well to providing scholarships to less fortunate youngsters who might not otherwise be able to benefit from the enrichment experiences we are seeking to provide.

I look forward to the possibility of talking with you in person in the near future about our proposal.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mendy Samstein". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Mendy Samstein



Incoming memo

400 East 34th Street, New York, N.Y. 10016
Cable Address: NYUMEDIC Fax: (212) 263-7190

Department of Rehabilitation Medicine
Research & Training Center on Head Trauma & Stroke

212) 263- .

October 2, 1992

Mr. Jim Rienhardt
Chief of Visitor Services
Gateway National Recreation Area
Headquarters Building 69
Floyd Bennett Field
Brooklyn, NY 11234

Dear Mr. Rienhardt,

I would like to thank you for taking the time yesterday to meet with me and show me your facilities. I found our meeting to be very productive and educational, and I hope we can work together in the future.

As we discussed, the New York University Medical Center Research and Training Center on Head Trauma and Stroke is currently writing a new grant focusing on Traumatic Brain Injury and Community Integration. Traumatic brain injury is a special disability population. As part of that grant process we are trying to set up a "community network" of community-based recreation and educational facilities to better enable people with head injuries to return to their communities and have outlets for recreation, socialization and education within these communities. This pilot program, which (if we are funded) would be federally funded by the U.S. Department of Education National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, would serve as a pilot model program with national implications.

To this end we have contacted, and are working out arrangements with, local YMCA's, and State and City Parks Systems. Of course, our meeting with you was called with the hope that the National Park system in the New York City area would participate in this project if we are funded. It was my impression, by the end of our meeting, that we thought it would be beneficial to all, especially persons with head injury, if we did work together.

From our discussion, I believe that we would focus our collaborative efforts on enabling persons with head injury and their families to make use of existing programs provided by the Gateway National Recreation Area. We are especially interested in the Ecology Village Program. To that end, what we will need from you is the following:

1. Permission to conduct inservice training for Park staff about traumatic brain injury.
2. An identified liaison person within your system, whether that be you or a designated staff person, to help us in planning some activities.
3. A letter of support from the Gateway National Recreation Area that would basically say that we are working together on this collaborative effort and that you think its a great idea.
4. That you, or a designated staff person, attend one meeting that would bring together all the facilities participating in this project (McBurney YMCA, Cross Island YMCA, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, New York City Region of the National Head Injury Foundation, and, we hope, the City Parks Department, as well as our staff) at the Medical Center.

What we will provide you with is:

1. Inservice training for your staff about traumatic brain injury.
2. The opportunity to be part of this National Model Pilot Program for people with traumatic brain injury, a special population.
3. We will utilize existing programs and will have our own staff to organize and supervise activities so as not to put any strain on your facilities or staff.

Once again, Jim, thank you very much for your time and interest, and I hope we can work together in the near future.

Sincerely,

Marie M. Cavallo, M.A.
Research Associate
N.Y.U. Medical Center
Research & Training Center on
Head Trauma & Stroke

Gateway Documents Relating to Use of Floyd Bennett Field



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Gateway National Recreation Area
Headquarters Building 69
Floyd Bennett Field
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11234

BREEZY POINT UNIT, N.Y.
JAMAICA BAY UNIT, N.Y.
STATEN ISLAND UNIT, N.Y.
SANDY HOOK UNIT, N.J.

D18(GATE-GS)

MAR 24 1989

Honorable Edward I. Koch
Mayor of City of New York
City Hall
New York, New York 10007

Dear Mayor Koch:

From time to time it is important that people of vision recognize certain problems as an opportunity to construct and execute plans that have far-ranging long-term beneficial effects on the community. Such an opportunity now exists between the City of New York and the National Park Service regarding Floyd Bennett Field in Brooklyn.

Since the creation of Gateway National Recreation Area in the early 1970's, Floyd Bennett Field has served as a recreation and education facility. It contributes to the open space inventory in New York City and is considered significant grassland habitat for song birds, some endangered, and 15 species of hawks and owls. Each year thousands of school children and adults use the field for education, recreation, and cultural programs. The National Park Service operates a Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center training at any one time some 200 young men and women. The Gateway Environmental Study Center, a partnership between the National Park Service and the New York City Board of Education since 1975, has facilitated over 250,000 New York City students and teachers explore Gateway National Recreation Area.

In addition, the National Park Service has allowed, out of intergovernmental courtesy, certain Police and EMS facilities and programs to remain on a temporary basis. As you know and as Police Officials have often acknowledged, the use by NYPD was never meant to be permanent, but only a temporary accommodation until alternative locations could be found. NYPD activities have always conflicted with the use of Floyd Bennett Field as a park. Moreover, in recent years this conflict has increased steadily.

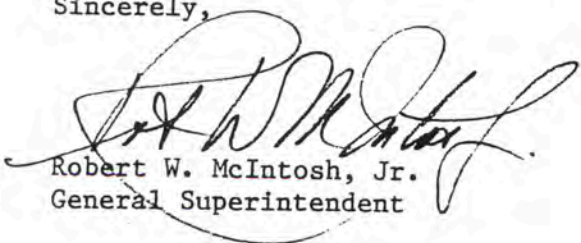
The National Park Service is set on furthering the development of Floyd Bennett Field as a natural area and a facility for education, recreation, and cultural programs. To that end we have detailed a land use plan for the field and issued a solicitation of developer interest for the hangar row, a district listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

It is clear from your recent budget proposal and other statements from City officials that alternatives to the City's use of Floyd Bennett Field may now becoming available. Now is the time to make the strategic decision to mutually facilitate our collective interests and move the NYPD program to permanent quarters. The proposal to develop the New York City Police Academy in the Bronx can and should include a driver training course for use by both NYPD and the City's Emergency Medical Service. The New York City Police Aviation Unit should be relocated to Flushing Airport in Queens as part of the City's current effort to reactivate that airport. Finally, the New York City Police Emergency Services Unit Depot should be relocated to a suitable location. These actions taken collectively would eliminate significant use conflicts on Floyd Bennett Field. Now is clearly the time to make the change for it passes these uses will continue to be out of context with the mission of Gateway National Recreation Area and create nothing but conflict between the City and the National Park Service.

In conclusion, it is time for that future vision; it is time for Floyd Bennett Field to become a park and realize its full potential; and, it is time for NYPD and other City agencies using Floyd Bennett Field to find their permanent home. Given our efforts and realizing the time necessary for these changes, we must require that you recognize the need for this move and undertake the necessary tasks. We expect our actions on Floyd Bennett Field to be formulated and underway within two years. The City's schedule should be phased accordingly.

Thank you for your attention to this most important matter, and I look forward to our early agreement. Should you have any questions or concerns, we would be pleased to comment further.

Sincerely,



Robert W. McIntosh, Jr.
General Superintendent



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Gateway National Recreation Area
Headquarters Building 69
Floyd Bennett Field
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11234

BREEZY POINT UNIT, N.Y.
JAMAICA BAY UNIT, N.Y.
STATEN ISLAND UNIT, N.Y.
SANDY HOOK UNIT, N.J.

IN REPLY REFER TO:

March 15, 1993

Federal Express #4401130871

Ms. Elsie L. Scott
Deputy Commissioner of Training
New York City Police Department
235 East 20th Street, 6th Floor
New York, New York 10003

Dear Ms. Scott:

In accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations 36CFR (Section 1.6(a)), the National Park Service is authorized to issue a permit to allow an otherwise prohibited or restricted activity, such as driver training within a Unit of the National Park Service system.

On December 15, 1992, I sent to the New York City Police Department a proposed permit to allow the New York City Police Department Driver Training Unit to conduct training activities on Floyd Bennett Field of Gateway National Recreation Area. That permit was delivered to you by mail on December 21, 1992 (certified mail return receipt requested #P621 251474) with the request that you sign and return the permit to me. To date, I have not received the signed permit.

My staff have spoken to Inspector Gardella of your office on January 25 and February 5, 1993 requesting you to sign and return the permit, with no success. Your use of National Park Service property is based on agreement to abide by the terms of the permit. Without the signed permit we have no authority to allow you to continue to use park property. Please sign and return the permit immediately.

Sincerely,

Joseph T. Avery
Superintendent
Breezy Point/Jamaica Bay Unit



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Gateway National Recreation Area

Breezy Point/Jamaica Bay Unit

Hangar B

Floyd Bennett Field

Brooklyn, New York 11234

Breezy Point/Jamaica Bay Unit

STATEN ISLAND UNIT, N.Y.

SANDY HOOK UNIT, N.J.

IN REPLY REFER TO:

A7615(GATE-SBP/JBU)

March 29, 1993

CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly
Headquarters, New York City Police Department
1 Police Plaza
New York, New York 10038

Dear Commissioner Kelly:

In accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations 36CFR (Section 1.6(a)), the National Park Service is authorized to issue a permit to allow an otherwise prohibited or restricted activity, such as driver training within a Unit of the National Park Service system.

On December 15, 1992, I sent to the New York City Police Department, Attention Elsie L. Scott, Deputy Commissioner of Training, a special use permit to allow the New York City Police Department Driver Training Unit to conduct training activities on Floyd Bennett Field of Gateway National Recreation Area. That permit was delivered by mail on December 21, 1992 (certified mail return receipt requested #P621 251 474) with the request that it be signed and returned to me. To date, I have not received the signed permit.

My staff spoke to Inspector Gardella on January 25 and February 5, 1993 requesting New York City Police Department to sign and return the permit, with no success. On March 3, 1993 we mailed an express mail letter to Deputy Commissioner Scott. The letter was returned marked "refused." On March 17, 1993 Deputy Commissioner Scott sent us a letter stating that she did not have the authority to sign the permit. It would have to be signed by your office. New York City Police Department use of National Park Service property is based on agreement to abide by the terms of the permit. Without a signed permit we have no authority to allow you to continue to use park property through December 31, 1993. Please sign and return the permit immediately.

Sincerely,

Joseph T. Avery
Joseph T. Avery
Superintendent
Breezy Point/Jamaica Bay Unit

Enclosure

A7615(GATE-SBP/JBU)

April 12, 1993

CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED
Receipt #P 621 251 482

Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly
Headquarters, New York City Police Department
1 Police Plaza
New York, New York 10038

Dear Commissioner Kelly:

In accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations 36CFR (Section 1.6(a)), the National Park Service is authorized to issue a permit to allow an otherwise prohibited or restricted activity, such as driver training within a Unit of the National Park system.

On December 15, 1992, I sent to the New York City Police Department, Attention Elsie L. Scott, Deputy Commissioner of Training, a special use permit to allow the New York City Police Department Driver Training Unit to conduct training activities on Floyd Bennett Field of Gateway National Recreation Area. That permit was delivered by mail on December 21, 1992 (certified mail return receipt requested #P621 251 474) with the request that it be signed and returned to me. To date, I have not received the signed permit.

My staff has spoken to Inspector Gardella on January 25 and February 5, 1993 requesting the New York City Police Department to sign and return the permit, with no success. On March 3, 1993 we mailed an express mail letter to Deputy Commissioner Scott. The letter was returned marked "refused." On March 17, 1993 Deputy Commissioner Scott sent us a letter stating that she did not have the authority to sign the permit. It would have to be signed by your office.

On April 1, 1993 Inspector Pat Devlin telephoned Pamela Harvey of my staff to inform her that his superior, Deputy Commissioner of Management and Budget, Joseph P. Wuench, would not sign the permit because of the stipulation that the permit "will not be renewed, reissued, or extended under any conditions after December 31, 1993." Mr. Devlin expressed the understanding that the policy of Gateway National Recreation Area might have changed.

The policy of the Park has not changed. The New York City Police Department Driver Training Unit use of National Park Service property is based on agreement to abide by the terms of the permit. Without a signed permit we have no authority to allow you to continue to use the buildings and park property through December 31, 1993. Please sign and return the permit immediately.

Sincerely,

Joseph T. Avery
Superintendent
Breezy Point/Jamaica Bay Unit



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10007

March 31, 1993

The Honorable Bruce Babbitt
Secretary of the Interior
18th and C Streets, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to request your assistance in reversing the determination of the National Park Service to evict the New York City Police Department from a portion of Floyd Bennett Field in Brooklyn, New York.

Floyd Bennett Field was constructed in the 1920's and served as the City's first municipal airfield. After several decades of use for military aviation, the property was transferred to the National Park Service in 1972 as part of the Gateway National Recreation Area.

The New York City Police Department's association with Floyd Bennett Field dates back to the inception of police aviation in the 1930's. In fact, the Police Department's Aviation Unit, whose helicopters were employed so dramatically in rescues at the World Trade Center last month, is headquartered at Floyd Bennett Field.

Since 1974, the Police Department has conducted all of its driver training programs on abandoned runways at Floyd Bennett Field. Given the size of the Police Department, the largest police department in the nation, these programs are a massive undertaking. Some 6,500 police officers are trained each year in the safe operation of emergency vehicles. There is simply no other site in New York City large enough and isolated enough to conduct this important training.

Since 1981, the National Park Service has required the Police Department to obtain special use permits for its operations at Floyd Bennett Field. These permits, typically issued for only a year or two at a time, have been issued grudgingly, especially with regard to the driver training programs. In each of the last few years, Park Service Superintendent Kevin Buckley has threatened to not renew the Department's permit, and, in a recent letter to Congressmember Susan Molinari, Mr. Buckley asserted that the current permit, which expires December 31, 1993, would not be renewed.

The New York City Police Department should not, indeed must not, be evicted from its long-term residency at Floyd Bennett Field. Rather, the terms of the permit should be made permanent, and the Police Department's use of the airfield should be expanded to include additional areas which have lain fallow for decades.

I know you share President Clinton's desire to build stronger, more productive partnerships with State and local governments. Bringing an end to New York City's struggle with the National Park Service which emerged during the Reagan-Bush years over this issue would do much to strengthen our partnership.

I hope you will view my request favorably and am prepared to discuss this matter with you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dinkins', with a stylized flourish at the end.

David N. Dinkins
M A Y O R

FWA:es



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, D.C. 20240

RECEIVED
93 JUN 14 AM 5:48
GATEWAY NRA MAILROOM

W18(202)

JUN 9 1993

Honorable David N. Dinkins
Mayor of New York City
New York, New York 10007

Dear Mayor Dinkins:

Thank you for your letter of March 31, 1993, to Secretary Babbitt regarding termination of the driver training activities of the New York City Police Department at Floyd Bennett Field.

While the New York City Police Department Aviation Unit, founded in 1929, has operated from Floyd Bennett Field since 1938 except for the period of World War II, the New York Police Department's use of the runways for motor vehicle training dates only to the late 1970's and for motorcycle training to the mid 1980's. During the 1970's and 1980's, the National Park Service (NPS), suffered severe budget constraints. As a result, new visitor programs could not be undertaken, and the Floyd Bennett Field park development was postponed. It was not inappropriate, therefore, during that period to allow the New York Police Department to use the runways at Floyd Bennett Field for driver training activities in a spirit of inter-government cooperation under temporary special use permits.

As General Superintendent Kevin Buckley indicated, however, in a March 26, 1991, meeting with Assistant Commissioner Michael Farrell, this activity is no more appropriate at Gateway National Recreation Area, one of the country's foremost urban units of the National Park System, than it would be at Central Park, Prospect Park, or Flushing Meadows. Far from being just an abandoned airfield, Floyd Bennett Field is even now a functioning, vital park with the potential of being totally developed in the very near future as envisioned by Congress in the October 27, 1972, enabling legislation.

Continued use of the runways for driver training will not only interfere with the present usage by various recreational and educational groups including the New York Audubon Society, New York City Board of Education, the Boy Scouts, and various sports associations, but also impede the establishment of Floyd Bennett Field as the park's premier Gateway Village envisioned in the General Management Plan of August 1979 to serve as a highly intensive center for year-round recreational, educational, and cultural activities for the people of the New York Metropolitan Area.

Superintendent Buckley agreed in October 1992, to extend Special Use Permits JB1774-85-11-1 and SU1770-6-003 for one year through December 31, 1993. It was understood that the New York City Police Department would seek new facilities during this period. There will be no further extension of the permits for this activity.

Honorable David N. Dinkins

2

Be assured, the NPS understands and appreciates the difficulty the city of New York might have in securing new training sites. It has been 20 years, however, since Congress approved the enabling legislation, providing..."That in order to preserve and protect for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations an area possessing outstanding natural and recreational features, the Gateway National Recreation Area is hereby established." It is time for that vision to become a reality, for the people of New York, for the people of the country.

It should also be noted that the NPS has no intention of terminating the permit with Police Aviation. Historically, that operation has been a part of the Floyd Bennett Field operations, and at present, discussions are underway for a new, long-term permit which would site the aviation operations as well as the Police Emergency Services at a more workable location on the northeast perimeter of the field.

We hope that this responds to your concerns on this matter. As always, your interest in the National Park Service is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

/s/ Joseph E. Doddridge

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish
and Wildlife and Parks

bcc: 6025-Secy's RF(2) 3152-FW 6217-ES Reg.Dir.-NAR) (Supt.-GATE)
001-RF 202-Cooke)

FNP:KBuckley:718-338-3578:ES-73746
H:100507B3:4/15/93:vrn
Revised:JHart:208-5883:4-26-93:dc:



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Gateway National Recreation Area

Breezy Point/Jamaica Bay Unit

Hangar B

Floyd Bennett Field

Brooklyn, New York 11234

Breezy Point/Jamaica Bay Unit

STATEN ISLAND UNIT, N.Y.

SANDY HOOK UNIT, N.J.

A7615(GATE-SBP/JBU)

July 13, 1993

Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly
Headquarters, New York City Police Department
1 Police Plaza
New York, New York 10038

Dear Commissioner Kelly:

Attached is Special Use Permit Number NAR GATE 9500 J-3-11 which allows for New York City Police Department Police Academy Driver Training activities on Floyd Bennett Field at Gateway National Recreation Area in Brooklyn.

The permit does not require your signature or approval. The permit is consistent with the June 4, 1993 letter sent to Mayor Dinkins from the Office of the Secretary of the Interior. The terms and conditions of the permit will remain in effect through December 31, 1993 by which date you are to vacate the premises. All property and equipment of the Police Academy Driver Training Unit are to be removed from Floyd Bennett Field and all activities of the Police Academy Driver Training Unit are to be discontinued at Gateway National Recreation Area. As required by permit condition number 20, please submit your plan for removal of your property no later than November 19, 1993.

Thank you in advance for your expected cooperation.

Sincerely,

Joseph T. Avery
Superintendent
Breezy Point/Jamaica Bay Unit

Attachment

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
National Park Service

Special Use Permit

Name of Use City of New York Police Department
Police Academy Driver Training Unit

Date Permit Reviewed 19 ____
Reviewed 19 ____
Reviewed 19 ____
Expires 19 93 12/31

Long Term ____

Short Term x

Permit # NAR GATE - 950Q - J-3-11
Region Park Type No #
Gateway National Recreation Area
Name of Area

City of New York Police Department
Police Academy Driver Training Unit of 235 East 20th Street, Ny, NY 10003 (212)477-9700
Name or Permittee Address Phone

is hereby authorized during the period from (Time ____ day 01 Month 01 19 93), through (Time ____
day 31 Month 12 19 93), to use the following described land or facilities in the above named area:

Building #54, adjacent parking space, and runway #R120 (see Exhibit A)

For the purpose(s) of:

Classroom and driver training in the safe and proper use of vehicles for trainees of the
New York City Police Department. This permit will not be renewed, reissued, or extended
under any conditions after December 31, 1993.

Authorizing legislation or other authority (RE- NPS-53 Appendix 1):

NEPA Compliance: CATEGORICALLY EXCLUDED x EA/FONSI ____ EIS ____ OTHER APPROVED PLANS ____

PERFORMANCE BOND: Required ____ Not Required x Amount \$ ____

LIABILITY INSURANCE: Required ____ Not Required x Amount \$ ____

ISSUANCE of this permit is subject to the conditions on the reverse hereof and appended pages and when appropriate
to the payment to the U.S. Dept. of the Interior, National Park Service of the sum of \$ 25.00 Admin. Fee

The undersigned hereby accepts this permit subject to the terms, covenants, obligations, and reservations, expressed
or implied herein.

PERMITTEE

Authorizing Official

Signature

Date

Signature

Breezy Point/Jamaica Bay Unit 7/13/93

Superintendent

Date

Additional Authorizing Official
(If Required)

Signature

Title

Date

PERMITTEE

9. Permittee shall remove any alterations, additions, and improvements as directed by the superintendent upon expiration of this permit. All alterations, additions and improvements which are not removed shall become the property of the United States upon the expiration of this permit. However, permittee shall have the right to remove items of personal property (i.e., locker and telephone system installed under previous special use permit improvements.)
10. Utilities - Permittee shall pay for the metered cost of electricity and estimated water and sewage use costs, and shall be required to provide and maintain a heating system including its full cost.
11. Security - Permittee shall be required to provide security for total area under permit and submit a security plan which must be approved in advance by the superintendent.
12. Site Management - Permittee shall designate an on-site manager for ongoing coordination and communications with the Chief Ranger, Jamaica Bay District.
13. Access by key park employees - Permittee shall allow access into all areas for on-going safety and health inspections and for necessary maintenance activities, provided that such inspections and activities shall not unduly interfere with permittee's use of the premises.
14. Trash Removal - Permittee shall be totally responsible for the timely collection and removal of interior and exterior trash/garbage.
15. Traffic and Parking - The superintendent shall provide permittee with sufficient parking to allow permittee to use premises for the purpose set forth above. Permittee and permittee's trainees will be required to park all vehicles in areas designated by the park and they must also use traffic routes designated by the park. A traffic and parking plan must be submitted by permittee and approved by the superintendent prior to the commencement of training activities.
16. Schedule of Activities - Permittee shall submit a schedule of construction and training activities to the superintendent for approval prior to commencement of construction and training activities. Schedule shall include hours of operation and days off.
17. Maintenance - Permittee shall be responsible for all interior and exterior maintenance of the facility and shall submit a maintenance plan to the superintendent for prior approval.
18. Superintendent's Work - The superintendent shall provide the following upon request:
 - (a) Technical assistance to the permittee regarding parking, traffic flow, and security plans and maintenance.
 - (b) Technical assistance concerning exterior utility systems which impact upon completion of the approved improvements to the facility.
19. Insurance and Liability - It is understood that the New York City Police Department is self-insured, and furthermore, the Department shall save, hold harmless, defend and indemnify the United States of America, its agents and employees from all claims and damages by reason of injury to person or property, or wrongful death arising out of permittee's activities, construction/rehabilitation, and use at the premises except for those claims arising out of the negligence of the National Park Service and its employees.

20. Permittee shall submit to the superintendent a plan and schedule for the removal of permittee's property from the premises upon the termination or expiration of this permit.
21. All equipment and materials must be removed from the runway from Friday, the end of the training week, to Monday the beginning of the training week.
22. This permit will not be renewed, reissued or extended under any conditions after December 31, 1993.
23. Permittee is expected to adhere to park speed limits at all times except for training purposes on Runway #R120.

EXHIBIT A

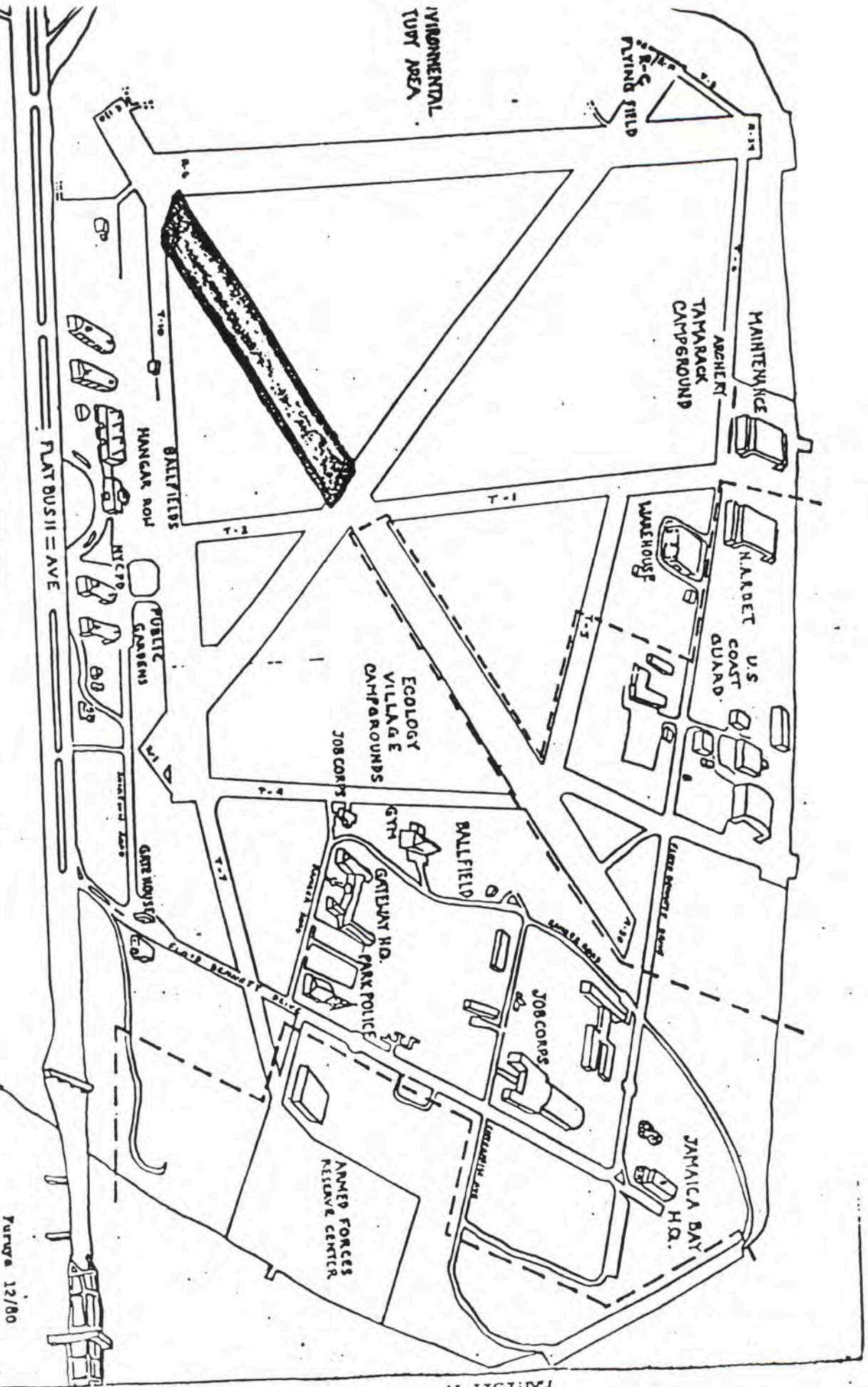
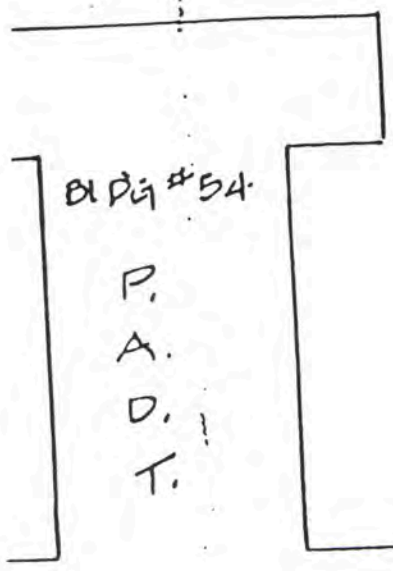


EXHIBIT A

EXHIBIT A

Page 12/80

ATBUSH AVE.



Bldg #54

P.
A.
D.
T.

35'

120'

NEW 10'-0" HIGH
X 10'-0" GATE

80'
NCE



BUILDING MAINTENANCE SECTION 89-06 BROOKLYN QUEENS EXPRESSWAY, WOODSIDE, N.Y. 11377	
P.A.D.T. FLOYD BENNET RD BROOKLYN	DRAWING NUMBER BMS- 89-630
REVISION PLAN OF NEW FENCE	
BY T.O. HOLLYN	

EXHIBIT B

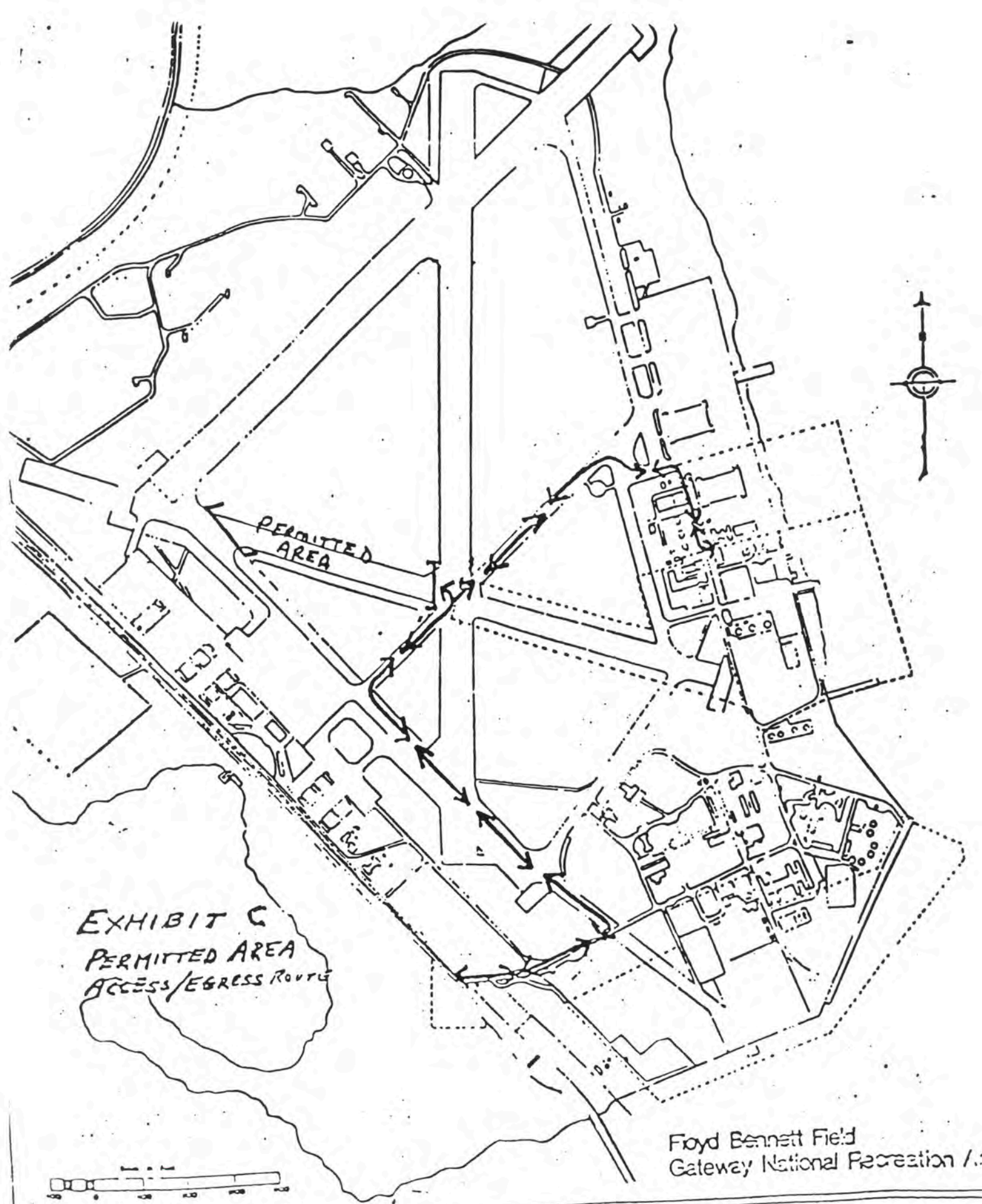


EXHIBIT C
PERMITTED AREA
ACCESS/EGRESS ROUTES

Floyd Bennett Field
Gateway National Recreation Area

A7615(GATE-SBP/JBU)

August 19, 1993

Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly
Headquarters, New York City Police Department
1 Police Plaza
New York, New York 10038

Dear Commissioner Kelly:

I would like to bring to your attention an incident involving the New York City Police Department which occurred at Gateway National Recreation Area on Floyd Bennett Field in Brooklyn on Wednesday August 4, 1993. For a number of years, various divisions within your department have carried out training and, on occasion, operational activities on Floyd Bennett Field. All of these activities were carried out within the boundary of Gateway National Recreation Area under the terms and conditions of a Special Use Permit issued by the National Park Service. Special Use Permits issued to New York City Police Department clearly state locations and times that police activities are permitted.

Without requesting permission or receiving approval or authorization of any kind from the National Park Service, elements of the New York City Police Department conducted what appeared to be either a major training exercise or a staging operation of some kind on Floyd Bennett Field in the area known as Hangar Row on August 4th. Over the course of the day, the training exercise involved what we estimate to be over 300 officers and about 50 to 75 police vehicles plus the privately owned vehicles of many of the officers. Your department entered the park and took control of access to the runways leading to hanger row disrupting normal park traffic and access to points in the park by visitors and staff. Your unauthorized activities disrupted and replaced programmed use of the Hangar Row area by approximately 450 young people involved in a sports day-camp. Without authorization or permission, your officers entered a closed and secured airplane hangar which, when discovered by Park Rangers, was closed by the Ranger only to be later reopened by your officers and inappropriately used as part of your exercise or operation. Your police vehicles were driven on

park roadways in the Hangar Row area at speeds in excess of those allowed by park regulations. Without the benefit of a barrier to protect the park visitor from possible harm resulting from the unauthorized activity, your officers operated their vehicles with lights and sirens performing high speed turns and braking and other driving maneuvers. Pyrotechnics were exploded in the area without approval or apparent considerations for protection of the public, park staff or park natural or cultural resources.

On two occasions, New York City Police Department officers that appeared to be in charge were told by a Park Ranger that the activity would have to stop and that approval of the Superintendent of the Breezy Point\Jamaica Bay Unit would be required to remain on Floyd Bennett Field. These officers at first told the Park Ranger that permission had been granted by the Unit Superintendent and later when told again that permission would be needed to continue said that the Superintendent would be contacted. In fact, your department failed to make any contact with the Unit Superintendent and the activity was carried out to completion.

The activity of your department on Gateway National Recreation Area on August 4th was inappropriate reflecting an absolute disregard for the jurisdictional integrity of this National Park and for the employees and staff that operate it. It showed disregard for the safety of the public and for the question of liability for any injury or damage to persons or property.

I am certain that you can appreciate the deep concern of the National Park Service management, including the regional office in Boston and the Director's office in Washington, D.C., over this entire incident. Since its inception over 20 years ago, Gateway National Recreation Area has worked cooperatively with the New York City Police Department. In fact, on the very day this incident took place, your aviation unit responded quickly to our request for assistance with a helicopter in putting out what could have been a very serious wildfire on one of the islands within Jamaica Bay.

Clearly, you must understand that the National Park Service cannot tolerate violation of the jurisdiction of this park, jeopardizing the safety of the visitors and staff, compromising the protection of the natural and cultural resources, and the unwarranted and utter disregard for the integrity of this unit of the National Park System. The activities carried out here by your department did not

and probably would not have occurred at Central Park in Manhattan, at Flushing Meadows Park in Queens or at Prospect Park in Brooklyn because they are public parks and are inappropriate sites for such activities. We fully expect that a positive working relationship can be restored and that the misuse of this park will not be repeated.

Sincerely,

Kevin C. Buckley
General Superintendent

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

GATEWAY NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

BACKGROUND STATEMENT

ISSUE: Termination of special use permit at Floyd Bennett Field (FBF) to New York City Police Academy Driving Training Unit (NYPD).

BACKGROUND: Since 1978 by virtue of special use permits, the NYPD has had a presence on FBF and used runways and trailers borrowed from the Park for the purpose of training police cadets in high speed driving techniques.

When the 1985 Gramm-Rudman Act reduced the federal government's spending capabilities and limited Gateway National Recreation Area's ability to provide a full range of programs and to use available park spaces, the park extended the special use permit for NYPD training activities. On Sept. 1, 1985, a new special use permit was issued to the NYPD for use of Building 54 and adjoining parking spaces and Runway R12 to enable the NYPD to continue its driver training. This activity has continued through 1992.

However, Floyd Bennett Field has become a major recreational resource for thousands of area residents annually, including schoolchildren. Its visitation in 1992 numbered almost 1.5 million and visitation at Floyd Bennett Field continues to increase.

Ongoing programs of a varied nature seven days a week include neighborhood gardening programs, radio operated model airplanes, Ecology Village, an environmental education program for schoolchildren, family and organized group camping and picnicking, special events, such as the Harvest Fair, Ecofest, and ethnic festivals which draw upwards of 15,000 visitors per day in warm weather. Furthermore, there are increasing numbers of requests from the public and from neighborhood and community groups and not for profit organizations for use of the field for programs and special events. Additional other park usage includes activities sponsored by such diverse groups as New York Audubon Society, Telephone Pioneers, Kings County Radio Control Club, New York City Board of Education, Scouting USA, and a wide variety of sports and civic associations. There also are a series of educational programs the year-round. In cooperation with the New York City Board of Education, the park hosts a vocational training activity for high school students who undertake various projects that benefit the park and aid in our mission of providing quality facilities for a national park experience.

The Gateway Environmental Study Center, another partnership between the New York City Board of Education and Gateway since 1975, has facilitated more than 250,000 New York City students who explore the nature environment around the park and in particular on Floyd Bennett Field.

There is also an active Job Corps Center, a successful residential academic and vocational educational program for 225 disadvantaged young people who use Floyd Bennett Field for leisure-time activities, and there is an active Outward Bound program. In addition, the park is planning to increase the numbers and scope of special events in 1993 and beyond.

Floyd Bennett Field is also considered a significant natural area for birds and waterfowl and in keeping with Park Service mandate to protect and preserve the resource, increased habitation by birds and waterfowl is being encouraged. Therefore, New York City Police Driving Training activities are now incompatible and are a conflicting use of Floyd Bennett Field as a park.

To accomplish this full spectrum of services and activities and protect the resources, park management must discontinue incompatible and conflicting park uses such as New York Police Driver Training to assure a safe environment for the visitor.

Although the presence of the driver training unit in the park has generally been highly professional, there have been some instances where the activity limitations of the special use permits have been exceeded.

- Trainees have been cited for operating their motorcycles in sensitive natural areas set aside for environmental study.
- Academy Cadets have driven at excessive speeds on other runways in their personal vehicles en route to the training site;
- Driver training classes routinely travel in convoy over park roads outside of their assigned area of training and at speeds in excess of park speed limits.
- Driver training classes often ride their vehicles over park lawns and other unauthorized off-road areas.
- A recent unauthorized training exercise held outside of the assigned training area and involving a highway patrol helicopter not authorized to operate on Floyd Bennett Field resulted in the crash of that helicopter potentially endangering park visitors.
- Police authorities attempted without seeking permission to use Floyd Bennett Field to store nine buses secured from the transit system;

STATUS: As each new annual special use permit has been extended, the NYCPD has been alerted that the planning process for Floyd Bennett Field was not completed but that the NPS reserves the right to modify or cancel the permit to accomplish our purposes.

At this point, new and extended park uses are planned and additionally to those outlined above will include:

- Continued and expanded educational and vocational training activities per a partnership agreement with the New York City Board of Education and carried out by the Board's Vocational Training Center at Floyd Bennett Field.

- Extended and expanded on-site and on-the-job field activities by Gateway Job Corps students at historic structures and in designated natural areas and environmental study areas around Floyd Bennett Field.

- Expansion of the summer family camping program to additional group camping sites.

- Initiation of a winter camping program for elementary and intermediate schoolchildren as an extension of our joint New York City Board of Education/Gateway agreement for the Gateway Environmental Study Center.

- Implementation of an agreement with the New York City Departments of Planning, Transportation and Parks and Recreation to extend bicycle paths from Flatbush Avenue onto the roads and runways contiguous to those now being used by NYPD, and in potential conflict with runways used by NYPD to travel to and from training sites.

- Kite flying and remote car clubs are also targeted to use these same runways year-round. The runways are also targeted to be used for athletic field and special event public parking year-round.

PROPOSED ACTION: Existing special use permit for New York City Police Academy Driving Training Unit expired December 31, 1992. Per conversations and negotiations with the Secretary of the Interior and Congresswoman Susan Molinari and discussions with Congressman Charles Schumer, we advised the NYPD that a new permit will be issued to extend only for one additional year, through December 31, 1993, with the provision that the NYPD will seek new facilities in an aggressive manner during this period with the clear understanding that there will be no further extension of the permitted driver training activity beyond that date, and will have removed their operations from Floyd Bennett Field.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

GATEWAY NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

BACKGROUND STATEMENT

ISSUE: Termination of special use permit at Floyd Bennett Field (FBF) to New York City Emergency Medical Services (NYCEMS).

BACKGROUND: Since August of 1981, by virtue of special use permits, the NYCEMS has had a presence on FBF and used a portion of T-9 runway and parking east of Hangars 1 and 2 excluding the runway intersections for driver training and qualifying testing for EMS personnel.

When the 1985 Gramm-Rudman Act reduced the federal government's spending capabilities and limited Gateway National Recreation Area's ability to provide a full range of programs and to use available park spaces, the park extended the special use permit for NYCEMS training activities.

However, Floyd Bennett Field has become a major recreational resource for thousands of area residents annually, including schoolchildren. Its visitation in 1992 numbered almost 1.5 million and visitation at Floyd Bennett Field continues to increase.

Ongoing programs of a varied nature seven days a week include neighborhood gardening programs, radio operated model cars and airplanes; Ecology Village, an environmental education program for schoolchildren; family and organized group camping and picnicking; special events such as the Harvest Fair, Ecofest; and ethnic festivals which draw upwards of 15,000 visitors per day in warm weather. Furthermore, there are increasing numbers of requests from the public and from neighborhood and community groups and not-for-profit organizations for use of the field for programs and special events. Additional park usage includes activities sponsored by such diverse groups as New York Audubon Society, Telephone Pioneers, Kings County Radio Control Club, New York City Board of Education, Scouting USA and a wide variety of sports and civic associations. There also are a series of educational programs the year-round. In cooperation with the New York City Board of Education, the park hosts a vocational training activity for high school students who undertake various projects that benefit the park and aid in our mission of providing quality facilities for a national park experience.

The Gateway Environmental Study Center, another partnership between the New York City Board of Education and Gateway, has since 1975 facilitated more than 250,000 New York City students who explore the natural environment on and around Floyd Bennett Field.

This park hosts an active Job Corps Center, a successful residential, academic and vocational educational program for 225 disadvantaged young people that uses facilities on Floyd Bennett Field for leisure-time activities, and there is an active Outward Bound program. In addition, the park is planning to increase the numbers and scope of special events in 1993 and beyond.

Floyd Bennett Field is also considered an important natural area for some unique birds and waterfowl and in keeping with the National Park Service mandate to protect and preserve the resource, a significant portion of the field is managed to enhance the area for nesting and other activities.

To accomplish this full spectrum of services and activities and protect the resources, park management must discontinue incompatible and conflicting park uses such as the New York City Emergency Medical Services driver training and qualifying testing to assure adequate space for park activities in a safe environment for the visitor. New York City EMS driver training activities are incompatible and are a conflicting use of Floyd Bennett Field as a park.

Although the presence of EMS driver training in the park has generally been professional, there have been instances where the activity limitations of the special use permit have posed safety concerns, such as the explosion of an EMS vehicle while on the field.

STATUS: As each new annual special use permit has been extended, the NYCEMS has been alerted that the planning process for Floyd Bennett Field was not completed but that the NPS reserves the right to modify or cancel the permit to accomplish our purposes. At this point, new and extended park uses are planned and additional to those outlined above will include:

- Continued and expanded educational and vocational training activities per a partnership agreement with the New York City Board of Education and carried out by the Board's Vocational Training Center at Floyd Bennett Field.

- Extended and expanded on-site and on-the-job field activities by Gateway Job Corps students at historic structures and in designated natural areas and environmental study areas around Floyd Bennett Field.

- Expansion of the summer family camping program to additional group camping sites.

- Initiation of a winter camping program for elementary and intermediate schoolchildren as an extension of our joint New York City Board of Education/National Park Service agreement for the Gateway Environmental Study Center.

- Implementation of an agreement with the New York City Departments' of Planning, Transportation and Parks and Recreation to extend bicycle paths from Flatbush Avenue onto the roads and runways contiguous to those now being used by NYCEMS and in potential conflict with runways used to travel to and from training sites.

- Kite flying and remote car clubs are also targeted to use these same runways year-round. The runways are also targeted to be used for athletic field and special event public parking year-round.

PROPOSED ACTION: The existing special use permit for New York City EMS driver training expired on December 31, 1992. Per conversations and negotiations with the Secretary of the Interior and Congresswoman Susan Molinari and discussions with Congressman Charles Schumer, we advised the NYCEMS that a new permit would be issued to extend only for one additional year, through December 31, 1993. During this period, the NYCEMS will seek new facilities in an aggressive manner with the clear understanding that there will be no further extension of the permitted driver training activities at Gateway National Recreation Area belonging to NYCEMS driver training beyond that date, and that all equipment and materials belonging to NYC EMS will be removed from Floyd Bennett Field.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

GATEWAY NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

BACKGROUND STATEMENT

ISSUE: Termination of special use permit at Floyd Bennett Field for New York Police Department Highway Patrol (NYPDHP).

BACKGROUND: On January 1, 1986, a special use permit was issued to the NYPDHP for use of a central portion of Runway 19 for motorcycle and driver training.

Because the Gramm-Rudman Act in the 1980's reduced the ability of Gateway National Recreation Area to provide a full range of programs and use available park spaces, the National Park Service has allowed out of intergovernmental courtesy certain New York City Police Department activities to operate on a temporary basis, including high speed motor vehicle operation. NYPDHP activities at Floyd Bennett Field have always been considered an incompatible park use but were allowed because that park space was not critical to Gateway at that time. In recent years, this incompatibility has grown to the point of conflicting use and negative impacts.

Budgetary restrictions on active recreational programs notwithstanding, Gateway since its creation in 1972 has served as a major recreation and environmental education facility in New York.

Each year tens of thousands of schoolchildren and adults use Floyd Bennett Field for environmental education, special events, recreation and cultural programs. In addition, the National Park Service operates the Gateway Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center where at any one time some 225 young men and women receive academic and vocational training. Under cooperative agreement with the New York City Board of Education, Gateway hosts a vocational training activity for high school students who undertake projects that benefit the park and aid in our mission of providing quality facilities for a national park experience.

The Gateway Environmental Study Center, another partnership between the New York City Board of Education and Gateway since 1975, has facilitated more than 250,000 New York City students who explore the nature environment around the park and in particular on Floyd Bennett Field.

Additional Park usage includes activities sponsored by such diverse groups as New York Audubon Society, Telephone Pioneers, Kings County Radio Control Club, New York City Board of Education, Scouting USA, Beach Channel High School, and a number of sports and civic associations.

Major elements of the park's programming include special events, ethnic festivals, concerts, fairs and other activities. To accomplish this full spectrum of services and activities, park management must discontinue incompatible and conflicting park uses to assure a safe environment for the visitor. There is continuing concern for the safety of park staff and visitors in light of the fact that in June of 1992 a gasoline tank on an EMS vehicle being operated on Floyd Bennett Field ruptured, causing the vehicle to overturn and explode.

Gateway is planning for eventual development and rehabilitation of Floyd Bennett Field; however immediate emphasis is being placed on satisfying the need for more efficient visitor services, providing additional visitor activities, discontinuing incompatible park uses and assuring a safe environment for the visitor.

There have been some instances where the activity limitations of the special use permit has been exceeded:

- Trainees have been cited for operating their motorcycles in sensitive natural areas set aside for environmental study.
- Driver training classes routinely travel in convoy over park roads outside of their assigned area of training and at speeds in excess of park speed limits.
- Driver training classes often ride their vehicles over park lawns and other unauthorized off-road areas.
- A recent unauthorized training exercise held outside of the assigned training area and involving a highway patrol helicopter not authorized to operate on Floyd Bennett Field resulted in the crash of that helicopter potentially endangering park visitors.

STATUS: As each annual special use permit has been extended, the police department was alerted that the planning process for Floyd Bennett Field was not completed and that the National Park Service maintains the right to modify or cancel the permit to accomplish our purposes.

At this point, new and extended park uses are planned which will include:

- Continuing and expanded educational and vocational training activities per our partnership agreement with the New York City Board of Education and carried out by the Board's Vocational Training Center on Floyd Bennett Field.

- Extended and expanded on-site and on-the-job field activities by the Gateway Job Corps students at historic structures and in designated natural areas and environmental study areas around Floyd Bennett Field.

- Expansion of the summer family camping program to additional group camping sites.

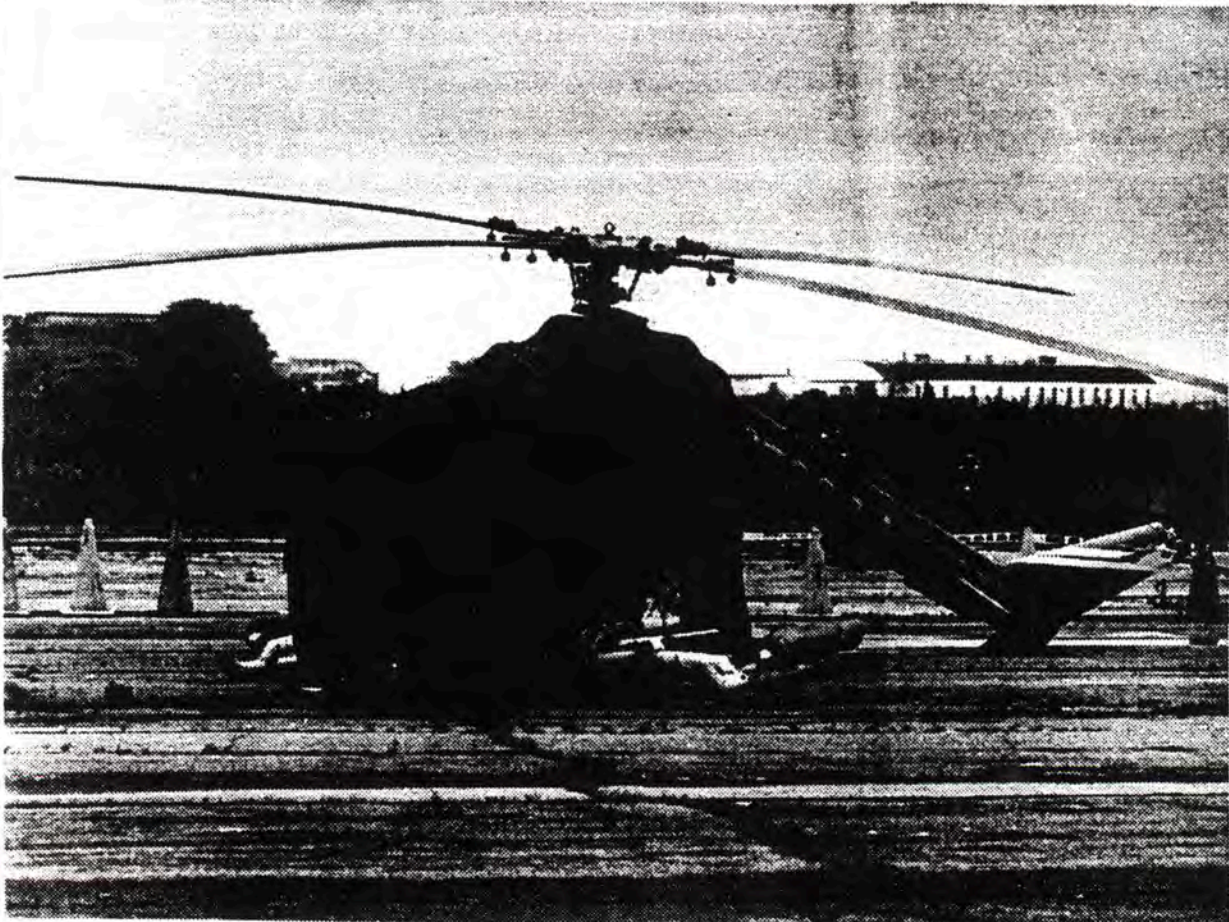
- Initiation of winter camping program for elementary and intermediate school children as an extension of our joint New York City Board of Education/Gateway agreement for the Gateway Environmental Study Center program.

- Implementation of the agreement with the New York City Departments' of Planning, Transportation and Parks and Recreation to extend bicycle paths from Flatbush Avenue onto the roads and runways now being used by the NYCPD.

- Kite flying and remote car clubs are also targeted to use these same runways year-round. They are also targeted to be used for athletic field and special event public parking year-round.

PROPOSED ACTION: Existing special use permit for NYPDHP will expire on December 31, 1992.

Per conversations and negotiations with the Secretary of the Interior and Congresswoman Susan Molinari and discussions with Congressman Charles Schumer, we will advise the NYPDHP that the current permit for use by the New York Police Department Highway Patrol will expire. A new permit will be issued to extend only for one additional year, through December 31, 1993, with the provision that the NYPDHP will seek new facilities in an aggressive manner during this period with the clear understanding that there will be no further extension of this permitted activity beyond that date, and will have removed their operations from Floyd Bennett Field.



Monica Almeida/The New York Times

Two Police Officers Injured in 'Hard Landing' of Helicopter

Two police officers were injured yesterday at Floyd Bennett Field in Brooklyn when their helicopter had "a hard landing on the runway," a department spokeswoman said. Neither officers' injuries were

serious and the cause of the landing, during which the landing gear gave way and the tail of the helicopter came down, was under investigation. The wreckage of the helicopter was covered by a tarp.



IN REPLY REFER TO

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Gateway National Recreation Area
Headquarters Building 69
Floyd Bennett Field
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11234

BREEZY POINT UNIT, N.Y.
JAMAICA BAY UNIT, N.Y.
STATEN ISLAND UNIT, N.Y.
SANDY HOOK UNIT, N.J.

May 17, 1993

Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Member, United States House
of Representatives
1628 Kings Highway
Brooklyn, New York 11229

Dear Mr. Schumer:

It has just been brought to our attention on May 14, 1993, that the New York State Assembly and Senate have just received new budget line discretionary dollars for recreation for summer '93. In light of the failure of the U.S. Congress to approve the Economic Stimulus Budget Package and snortfalls in our park's operating budget, some of Gateway's Summer programs cannot be conducted. One program which many of your respective constituents have expressed a strong interest in is Gateway's Summer Youth Day Camp Program at Floyd Bennett Field. We have over forty day camp operators from Brooklyn and the Rockaways who have expressed a desire in participating in this program because of the unique facilities and resources we have to offer. The program projects to accommodate over 4,000 youth weekly from July 7 through August 20, which will include approximately 10 various sports and recreational activities.

Due to the park's budget constraints, if we do not receive any further fiscal assistance, we will be forced to charge a fee of \$2.00 - \$5.00 per activity per person. This would potentially be cost prohibitive and not allow many of the youth the opportunity to receive this quality program. We already have partnerships with the New York City Junior Tennis League, New York City Police Athletic League, and the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation providing in-kind services and equipment for the program. A program description and the unfunded budget is attached for your information.

We ask that if you could take the lead in rallying our State Assembly Representatives and Senators in your District to earmark their new budget line discretionary recreation dollars towards this unfunded program, many of our City youth will greatly benefit. In order for the State Legislature monies to be transferred most effectively and expeditiously, our non-for-profit "Friends of

Gateway" organization would be the recipient of the dedicated funds for our 1993 Summer Day Camp Program. They would be responsible for the appropriate budget administration. We have been advised that this fiscal window of opportunity is extremely short and that this information has to be in the State Legislature's hands no later than Wednesday, May 19, 1993. We are sensitive to your busy schedule, but we would all be remiss if we allowed this opportunity to slip by without asking for consideration. Jim Rienhardt of my Headquarters staff is coordinating this program for me. If you, or your staff or any of the State Legislatures have any questions, please contact me at 718-338-3575 or Jim at 718-338-3505.

As always, thank you for your continuing support and assistance in making Gateway a premier National Recreation Area.

Sincerely,

Kevin D. Buckley
General Superintendent

Enclosures

Copy to your Washington Office

Similar letter sent to:
Honorable Floyd Flake



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Gateway National Recreation Area
Headquarters Building 69
Floyd Bennett Field
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11234

BREEZY POINT UNIT, N.Y.
JAMAICA BAY UNIT, N.Y.
STATEN ISLAND UNIT, N.Y.
SANDY HOOK UNIT, N.J.

K14 (GATE-IR&CO)

May 25, 1993

Mr. David Russell
Assistant Manager
Eastern Mountain Sports
611 Broadway
New York, New York 10012

Dear Dave:

This letter is a follow-up to our May 5, 1993 meeting and subsequent telephone calls regarding a potential partnership between Eastern Mountain Sports and Gateway National Recreation Area.

Your interest in assisting with our Floyd Bennett Field Brooklyn Youth Ecology Village Camping Program by donating some new camping equipment is greatly appreciated. As discussed at our meeting, this overnite camping program services over 8,000 youth annually from the five New York City boroughs and Long Island. Many of the youths come from community-based youth organizations and are from economically disadvantaged homes. This experience they receive may be in many instances, "once in a lifetime."

Due to park budget constraints, we are in desperate need of replacing and upgrading the following camping equipment:

- 100 ensolite pads
- 10 coolers (ice chests)
- 10 propane stoves
- 10 propane lanterns
- 10 pot and pans sets
- 50 compasses
- 30 sleeping bags
- 8 shepherd stoves ?
- 12 four person tents
(heavy nylon or canvas)

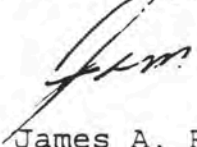
- 6 canopies w/ poles (10x12')

If Eastern Mountain Sports is able and willing to make this generous donation to this Nationally recognized program, we would be very grateful. Appropriate recognition, including a photograph ceremony and press releases will be done by our Public Affairs

Officer and the "Friends of Gateway.

We look forward to a favorable response and the start of a longtime public/private partnership. If you have any questions, please contact me at (718) 338-3505.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. A. Rienhardt", written over a horizontal line.

James A. Rienhardt
Director, Interpretation,
Recreation and Community Outreach

A38 (GATE-PAO)

Strumpf

June 9, 1993

Ms. Nancy Hazard
Northeast Sustainable Energy Association
23 Ames Street
Greenfield, Massachusetts 01301

Dear Nancy:

I'm following up this afternoon's phone conversation concerning the use of Gateway National Recreation Area's Floyd Bennett Field for a six-day electric car-oriented event next spring.

I am enclosing current and early spring program guides to give you an idea of the types of programs and special events we sponsor or host at the park. In addition, we are enclosing a descriptive folder which explains the park in more detail.

I suggest that you submit a proposal to Jim Rienhardt, director of interpretation, recreation and community outreach, Gateway National Recreation Area, Floyd Bennett Field, Brooklyn, New York 11234.

Thank you for your interest in Gateway National Recreation Area.

Sincerely,

Manny Strumpf
Public Affairs Officer

Enclosures 3

cc:
General Superintendent
Deputy General Superintendent
Superintendent, BP/JBU
Director, I, R & CO
Public Affairs Specialist

MStrumpf:cs:6/9/93:LTR - Electric Car Event



ON REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Gateway National Recreation Area
Headquarters Building 69
Floyd Bennett Field
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11234

BREEZY POINT UNIT, N.Y.
JAMAICA BAY UNIT, N.Y.
STATEN ISLAND UNIT, N.Y.
SANDY HOOK UNIT, N.J.

June 21, 1993

Mr. Alan Weisberg
Executive Director
Canarsie Neighborhood Development
Center
1106 East 95th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11236

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

In our recent discussions, we explained how we are attempting to develop a coalition of agencies receiving New York City Division for Youth funding under the City as Sports program. These agencies all have children and families that will be serviced by Gateway's summer Day Camp Program and Twilight Program. Agencies helping to open the gateway include the New York City Police Athletic League, Crown Heights Youth Collective, South Queens Park Association and yourself.

We are seeking help in funding as a result of the failure of the U.S. Congress to approve the Economic Stimulus Budget. Some of Gateway's summer programs cannot be conducted. Two programs which many of your respected population of which you serve have expressed a strong interest in Gateway's summer youth Day Camp Program at Floyd Bennett Field. We have over 40 day camp operators from Brooklyn and Queens who have expressed a desire to participate in this program because of the unique facilities we have to offer. The program is projected to accommodate over 4,000 youths weekly from July 6th through August 27th. Further, our Twilight Program aimed at adolescent, adult and family group participation is projected to serve 2,000 families.

Due to the parks budget constraints, if we don't receive any further fiscal assistance, we will be forced to charge a fee for our Day Camp activities of \$2.00-\$5.00 per person. This would potentially be cost prohibitive and not allow many of the youths to receive this quality program.

We would like you to become part of our family of agencies that have entered in partnership with Gateway National Recreation Area. They include the New York City Junior Tennis League, the New York City Police Athletic League, the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation and American Consultation Centers, all of which are providing various in-kind services and equipment for the programs. Program descriptions and on funded budget is attached for your information.

In our Day Camp Program we will be training not just campers but counselors as well in skills of basketball, soccer, tennis, volleyball, in-line skating, archery, fishing, kite flying and ultimate (frisbee). In each of these sports activities with the exception of fishing, we will have top notch high school and college coaches and/or players instructing in the sport, as well as professional sports counselors addressing the mental aspects of each of the sports. It is our belief that this would meet the criteria for the City as Sports program.

We will also be having a number of groups from your area involved in the various activities that are part of our Twilight Program, some of which fall under the City as Sports guidelines as mentioned above. In our softball and basketball leagues which will be co-sponsored by the Police Athletic League and the New York State Division for Youth, we will be offering sports counseling to coaches and players. We have enclosed an outline of other programs offered in our Twilight Program and would appreciate knowing from you how many brochures you would like for your service population, as well as what teams you would be interested in entering in our softball and basketball leagues. Further, we believe we have contacted day camps from your service areas, however, if you have any additional agencies that have not heard of Gateway's program, please either forward us their names and/or have them call Tom Cutrone or Susan Margolis at (718) 376-7417.

We are requesting from each of the following agencies, Crown Heights Youth Collective, South Queens Park Association, as well as yourself \$1,500 at this time for equipment cost to augment \$4,500 in equipment not covered, and \$5,000 towards sports counseling consultation fees and staff fees.

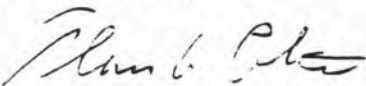
We would also like to offer your group the opportunity of participating in our camp sleepover program. We are offering all groups one night two days free usage of campground in a rustic site. For further information, please call Ranger Tami Marx at (718) 338-3799.

Page 3
Alan Weisberg

As you can see our main goal along with yours is serving the youth, families and providing training to counselors in the days camps and coaches in the twilight program which will allow the skills acquired during a day camp experience and/or a twilight experience be carried on in the community and be spread through various agencies and organizations.

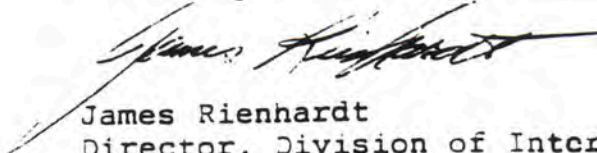
We would appreciate hearing from you at your earliest possible convenience as we are beginning this program July 6th.

Sincerely,



Thomas A. Cutrone, C.S.W.
Director, Consultative
Liaison

Sincerely,



James Rienhardt
Director, Division of Interpretation,
Recreation and Community Outreach



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Gateway National Recreation Area
Headquarters Building 69
Floyd Bennett Field
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11234

BREEZY POINT UNIT, N.Y.
JAMAICA BAY UNIT, N.Y.
STATEN ISLAND UNIT, N.Y.
SANDY HOOK UNIT, N.J.

June 21, 1993

Mr. Richard Murphy
Commissioner
New York City Division for Youth
10th Floor
44 Court Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Dear Mr. Murphy:

We have enclosed a copy of a letter sent to the following agencies, Canarsie Neighborhood Development Center, South Queens Park Association and the East Fulton Street Group, in an attempt to obtain City as Sports funding and equipment. We would further like to extend invitations to the Beacon Schools and the Safe Street programs for the areas surrounding Gateway, Floyd Bennett Field. We would also like to invite these agencies to participate in our Day Camp Program and Twilight Program. Therefore, we would appreciate listings of Beacon Schools and Safe Street programs in the city and their representative directors.

If you can see any other possible sources of funding that we might pursue at this time, this would be greatly appreciated.

Looking forward to a safe, fun filled summer for our youth and families we remain,

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Sutrone, C.S.W.
Director, Consultative
Liaison

Sincerely,

James Riennardt
Director, Division of Interpretation,
Recreation and Community Outreach

Enc.



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Gateway National Recreation Area
Headquarters Building 69
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Brooklyn, N.Y. 11234

BREEZY POINT UNIT, N.Y.
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SANDY HOOK UNIT, N.J.

June 25, 1993

Ms. Judy Green
Coordinator of Special Events
Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc.
112 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, New York 12601

Dear Judy:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for personally showing me insight into the interworkings of your great Clearwater Revival '93 Festival. It truly is a first-rate quality special event. I enjoyed having the opportunity to pitch in and assist the "Peacekeepers/Angels," as it even gave me more of a "behind the scenes" feeling of your 1200 volunteer cadre.

As discussed with you and briefly with Toshi Seeger, we are very interested in having Clearwater, Inc. consider utilizing our Brooklyn New York Floyd Bennett Field site and Jamaica Bay for your annual Clearwater Revival Festival. The National Park Service and Clearwater, Inc., have very common goals relative to natural resource protection and preservation, as we look to this expanded partnership. As you are aware, our Sandy Hook, New Jersey Unit has hosted the Monmouth County Friends of Clearwater Annual Festival for eighteen years. We think it would be a natural progression to host the "Revival," and it would also provide a land and water site opportunity.

After you have had a chance to catch a breath from post festival details, I would like to set a date that is convenient for you.

Tosni and John Mylod to visit and we will give you a Floyd Bennett Field and Jamaica Bay site tour. Once again, thank you for spending time with me and introducing me to various Festival coordinators. If you have any questions, please call me at (718) 338-3505.

Sincerely,

Jim Rienhardt
Director, Division of
Interpretation, Recreation
and Community Outreach



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Gateway National Recreation Area
Headquarters Building 69
Floyd Bennett Field
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11234

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JAMAICA BAY UNIT, N.Y.
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SANDY HOOK UNIT, N.J.

H34(GATE-P&PS)

August 11, 1993

Mr. Geoff Hays
U.S. Air Force Museum
USAFM - PC
1100 Spaatz Street
Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio 45433-7102

Dear Mr. Hays:

In regard to our telephone conversation of August 2, 1993, Gateway National Recreation Area is an urban recreation park in the New York/New Jersey metropolitan area consisting of 26,000 acres of land and water. Many properties previously belonging to the New York City Parks Department and the Department of Defense are now historical sites. One of these sites is Floyd Bennett Field, once a New York Municipal Airport and U.S. Naval Air Station used by many famous aviators such as Amelia Earhart, Howard Hughes, John Glenn and many more.

Presently, Gateway National Recreation Area is eagerly involved in preparing for the restoration of the historic hangar row area at Floyd Bennett Field consisting of eight hangars and the Administration/Control Tower Building. In the restoration process, we are looking for anything pertaining to the "hayday era" of Floyd Bennett Field as a municipal airport and as a naval air station.

The following is a general wish list of items we would be interested in obtaining:

Airplanes for static display only:

DC-3/C47
DC-4
DC-6
DC-7
F4U Corsair
Hellcat
PBX
Submarine search planes such as P2-V or PBX Catalinas

Any other types of Navy aircraft

Control tower equipment such as light guns, radio equipment, lights (runway or taxi-way), antennas, switch panels, teletype machine and any other equipment relative to a working control tower.

I am sure you can understand the excitement of being involved in a project of this kind and hope you will be able to assist the National Park Service in any way possible.

If you have any suggestions or recommendations, I will be happy to meet with you at your convenience to discuss or pick-up equipment at National Park Service's expense. I can be reached at 718 338-3631.

Sincerely,

Charles Pellicane

Director, Planning & Professional Services



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Gateway National Recreation Area
Headquarters Building 69
Floyd Bennett Field
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11234

BREEZY POINT UNIT, N.Y.
JAMAICA BAY UNIT, N.Y.
STATEN ISLAND UNIT, N.Y.
SANDY HOOK UNIT, N.J.

H14(GATE-P&PS)

Mr. Daniel J. Peterson
Regional Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
Eastern Region
Fitzgerald Federal Building
JFK International Airport
Jamaica, New York 11430

Dear Mr. Peterson:

This is to request the assistance and guidance of the FAA in the restoration of the Air Traffic Control Tower at Floyd Bennett Field.

The National Park Service is about to begin an exciting historical venture at Floyd Bennett Field and the FAA will have an essential role in providing knowledge and technical assistance in the history of aviation at Floyd Bennett Field.

Gateway was America's first urban National Park and is the fifth most visited of more than 360 National Parks in the United States. It was created by the Congress in 1972 and encompasses more than 26,000 acres in New York and New Jersey.

Gateway's units include Floyd Bennett Field in Brooklyn, which was New York's first municipal airport and scene of many historic flights by Wiley Post, Howard Hughes, Amelia Earhart, "Wrongway" Corrigan, John Glenn and others.

Primarily, we are looking for air traffic equipment of the *"hayday era"* of Floyd Bennett Field i.e., radio communication equipment, tower lighting and switches, speakers, signal devices, an old radar screen for display purposes and any other items of historical value with reference to aviation.

We hope you will be able to assist us in any way possible. I am available to meet with you at your convenience, or I can be reached at 718-338-3575.

Sincerely,

Kevin C. Buckley
General Superintendent

NEWS RELEASE

U.S. Department of the Interior

National Park Service

For Information Contact:
Public Affairs Officer Manny Strumpf
(718) 338-3687/8 - Office
(203) 874-9111 - Home

RELEASE ON RECEIPT

GATEWAY NATIONAL RECREATION AREA ACHIEVES LEGISLATIVE GOAL
WITH RE-OPENING OF WILLIAM FITTS RYAN VISITOR CENTER

BROOKLYN, NY--Sixty-two years after dedication of Floyd Bennett Field as New York City's first municipal airport and 21 years after the field's incorporation into the National Park Service as part of Gateway National Recreation Area, a new visitor center at the old airfield is open for park activities.

Gateway General Superintendent Kevin Buckley said that the park intends to utilize the William Fitts Ryan Visitor Center, the former administration building, for park programs and events throughout the year. Eventually, the center will become an informational resource where visitors may learn more about Gateway and other parks and historic sites within the national park system.

"We envision the Ryan Center becoming a focal point of park activities. The Breezy Point/Jamaica Bay Unit superintendent and his staff and the park's interpretive division and public affairs office will relocate there once office renovation is complete in order to serve the park and general public from a centralized location.

(more)

2 of 2 -- Ryan Center

"We also plan to make the center available to the general public for meetings, conferences and functions," Buckley added.

All requests from the public for use of the facility for meetings, programs and other activities during the day or evenings which are compatible with park goals will be considered. Food service for the Ryan Center is available through the concessioner who provides food for the park's Jamaica Bay District.

Information about public use of the Ryan Center is available by calling (718) 338-3506.

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