

A photograph of a forest with several birch trees in the foreground and a path leading into the woods. The trees have characteristic white bark with dark lenticels. The ground is covered with fallen leaves and some green ferns. The background shows a dense forest of trees with green and yellowing leaves, suggesting an autumn setting.

# East & West Pond Stewardship Plan

Virtual Open House

May 17, 2022

# Purpose of the Plan

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Preserve and protect this important natural area by identifying strategies to advance management goals. Strategies should help the park:

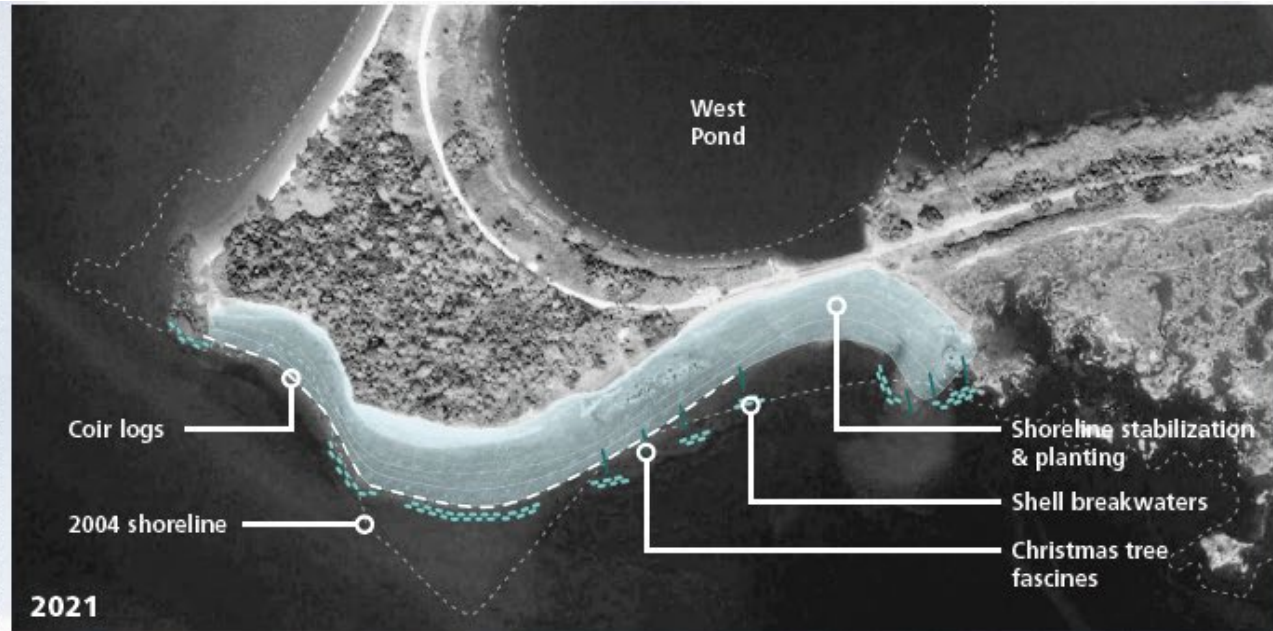
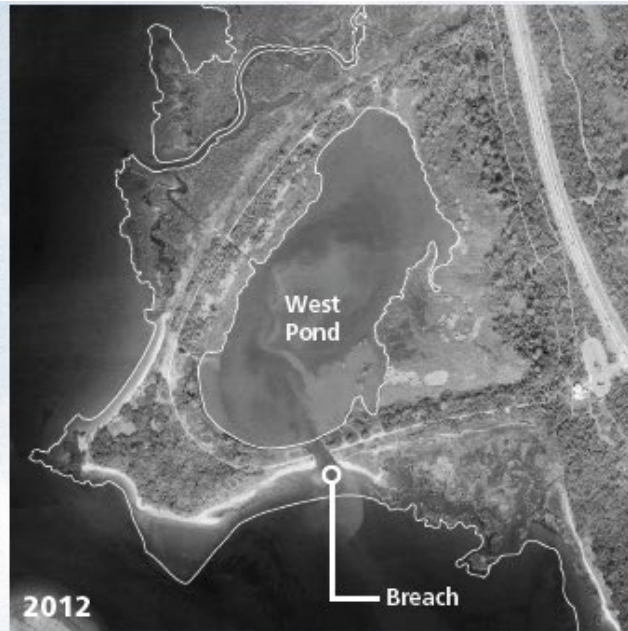
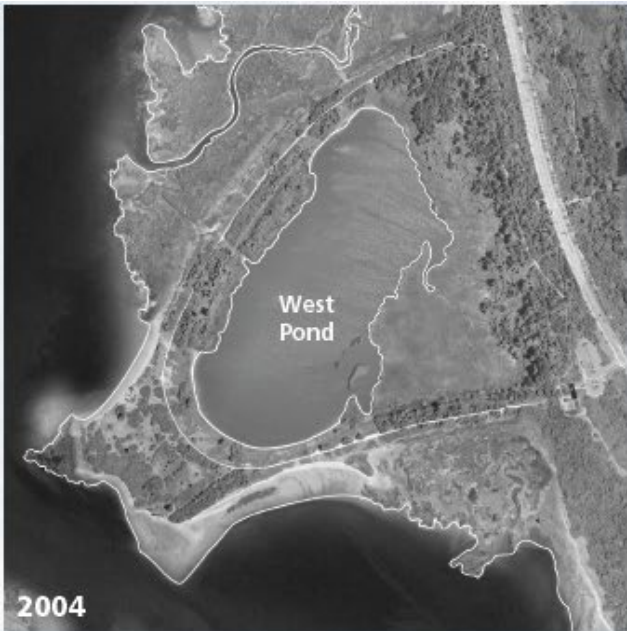
- Engage a diverse community of visitors and volunteers
  - Protect natural resources, including freshwater ponds, migratory bird species, resident wildlife species, aquatic resources, upland habitat, wetlands, and soundscapes
  - Support continued public use and enjoyment
  - Manage a robust volunteer workforce
  - Provide education and interpretation opportunities
- 



# The Jewel of Gateway



# Change Over Time



**FINAL**

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**RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**DATE:** 28 October 1981

OUR PLANS MISCARRY BECAUSE THEY HAVE  
NO AIM. WHEN A MAN DOES NOT KNOW  
WHAT HARBOR HE IS MAKING FOR, NO  
WIND IS THE RIGHT WIND "

- SENECA

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
GATEWAY NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

**V. JAMAICA BAY  
WILDLIFE REFUGE  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
MAINTENANCE PLAN\***

\* PREPARED BY JAMAICA BAY WILDLIFE REFUGE STAFF  
ROBERT COOK, DONALD RIEPE AND DAVID AVRIN



# Gateway's GMP Vision

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- Preserve the East and West Pond as undeveloped areas managed to protect natural resources while also allowing for passive recreation and enjoyment
  - Protect the most sensitive natural areas through scientific investigation, monitoring, and restoration
  - Provide space for nature study, environmental education, and nature-based interpretation
  - Engage youth and families through nature-based educational and stewardship programs
  - Provide facilities that facilitate self-guided exploration as well as interpretive tours and educational programming
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A New Vision for a Great Urban National Park

## Gateway National Recreation Area

Final General Management Plan  
Environmental Impact Statement  
April 2014



# GMP Public Engagement

GMP was the result of extensive public engagement, including:

- Dozens of open houses, listening sessions, and other public events held from 2009 to 2013
- Over 1,000 comments from members of the public
- Several rounds of GMP newsletters distributed to thousands of stakeholders



# Planning Process

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- Seek public input on issues to be addressed in the plan, thru 6/7
  - Incorporate comments into draft Stewardship Plan
  - Explore viable concepts and strategies, determine relevant indicators and thresholds, and gather information and expertise
  - Submit draft Stewardship Plan to the public and stakeholder review
  - Implement Stewardship Plan through the development of standard operating protocols
  - Provide a roadmap for serving visitors and conserving natural resources over the next five-to-ten years
- 







# How can you help?

Visit the link below **by June 7<sup>th</sup>** and answer the following questions:

- If you currently visit the East or West Ponds, what do you enjoy about the area?
- If you do not normally visit this area, is there any particular reason why?
- What is the park doing well at East or West Pond that you would like to see continue?
- Have you volunteered at these sites in the past? How do you think the park can effectively engage volunteers in the stewardship of these areas?
- How would you like to see the park implement the vision of the General Management Plan?

***<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/StewardshipPlan>***

You may also write to:

**Gateway National Recreation Area  
ATTN: East and West Pond Stewardship Plan  
210 New York Avenue  
Staten Island, New York 10305.**

“Building on years of work at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, the Stewardship Plan will provide an actionable plan for resource protection and public use at the popular East and West Pond area, while also providing a framework for managing projects and partnerships at the Refuge. To create a truly impactful plan, we need to understand the priorities of our visitors, partners, and neighbors. **With your help, this plan will demonstrate what we can accomplish together.**”

-Jen Nersesian, Superintendent, Gateway National Recreation Area

Question and Answer

1. Why were the bird feeders and bird baths removed from the Wildlife Refuge?
2. Why is the Park not putting up or replacing the bird boxes?
3. The East and West Ponds, and the areas around them, are artificial man-made areas. Why does NPS insist on treating these as “natural areas”?





4. Why doesn't NPS manage racoons? There are too many at the refuge and they end up eating all the terrapin nests.
5. NPS has allowed the ponds to become overgrown. Views of the bay and the ponds are blocked because the park has not maintained vegetation. Why can't the park just go in and clear out this vegetation?
6. What is the park doing about the East Pond outfall?

A red-bellied woodpecker is perched on a tree branch, facing right. The bird has a bright red cap, a black collar around its neck, and a back with black and white horizontal stripes. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting a dense forest or garden.

# Additional Questions

*Please chat additional questions to Daphne Yun*



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