



Visitor Programs and Events

Winter 2015

Staten Island, New York

Find Your Park

"Armchair to armchair experience" is the term often used to describe the full range of planning, visiting and savoring a visit to a park or historic site. Perhaps you can recall deciding on a destination, searching the internet, making the trip, and then enjoying the photographs, souvenirs and experience afterwards.

As we continue the celebration of the Centennial of the NPS and the focus of *Find Your Park*, winter is a perfect time to explore local indoor historic sites and to plan your warm weather excursions and travel.

There are twenty-two unique NPS sites in the greater NYC harbor area of which Gateway is the largest in acreage. Here is a link to the National Parks of New York Harbor (NPNH)

<http://www.nps.gov/npnh/index.htm> And here is a link to a map of the NPNH <http://www.nps.gov/npnh/planyourvisit/maps.htm> How many of these sites have you visited?

Winter is a good time to explore some of the great indoor sites in the area. You can learn about immigration history by visiting Ellis Island <http://www.nps.gov/elis/index.htm> and the Lower Eastside Tenement Museum <https://tenement.org/>. If you're in the Wall Street area, check out Federal Hall, <http://www.nps.gov/feha/index.htm> St. Paul's Chapel. <https://www.trinitywallstreet.org/about/stpaulschapel> where Washington's pew is displayed and then go to African Burial Ground <http://www.nps.gov/afbg/index.htm>.

A bit further out you can visit Sagamore Hill, in Oyster Bay, Long Island, <http://www.nps.gov/sahi/index.htm> recently reopened and glowing after being under renovation for more than two years. This shingle-style gilded-age home was the only permanent residence that Theodore Roosevelt owned and its furnishings are 90% original to the family.



In New Jersey the Thomas Edison National Historical Park, in West Orange, NJ,

<http://www.nps.gov/edis/index.htm> presents the home and laboratory of America's most famous inventor.

There will be many days this winter when planning your warm weather trips will provide much pleasure. The ease of exploring and discovery via the internet provides a great way to put together trips built around a theme and/or a geographic area. The area you choose may also present a theme to explore. Boston, for example, provides a wonderful array of Revolutionary War sites,

<http://www.nps.gov/bost/index.htm> as does Philadelphia

<http://www.nps.gov/inde/index.htm>. And if colonial history is your interest then a trip to Williamsburg, VA <http://www.visitwilliamsburg.com/> may be in order. But, as they say, the possibilities are endless. But whatever your theme, interest and geographic area may be, go explore and *Find Your Park*.

There are activities at Gateway for you to enjoy during these winter months. Check out the Guide to see what's available. Perhaps you wish to join us for the traditional holiday walk

Great Kills Sunset, by Joseph Pinto, Sr. was an entry in our 2015 Find Your Park Photo Contest.

on New Year's Day, for example.

Getting out on your own on sunny days can give you some bracing exercise and that breath of fresh air that you need, as long as you are properly dressed. Remember that it can be at least ten degrees colder near the shore and the wind across Jamaica Bay or off the ocean can be incredibly fierce.

But when the weather is really bad, and you're in your armchair savoring memories of warm weather, don't forget to plan for next season-- Spring is not that far away. Have a safe and wonderful holiday season. C. Markis

Do you receive email notifications of Gateway's programs and events? If you are not on our mailing list and would like to be, please send a message to Charles.Markis@nps.gov, with 'program guide' in the subject line and we will add you.

The ♥ symbol denotes a hike or walk of moderate activity. Improve your health, as you enjoy your park.

Change of Hours for Visitor Centers Beginning November 15

To best address visitor needs while effectively utilizing our staff resources, we are modifying the hours of operation of our Visitor Centers from November 15 through March 5

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge:

Wednesday through Sunday,
10 AM to 4 PM

Ryan Visitor Center

Wednesday through Sunday,
10 AM to 4 PM

Sandy Hook Lighthouse Keepers

Quarters: Sunday through Saturday,
10 AM to 4 PM

We will resume 7-day operation,
from 9AM to 5PM on March 6, 2016

Recurring Programs/Series Centennial Programs

Park of the Week

Building 120

Fort Wadsworth

Saturdays

January and February

11 AM– 12 PM

Join a park ranger for a slide show and discussion, celebrate the National Park Service's Centennial, and find out about a different national park site each week. Learn about how each of the parks discussed are connected to Gateway, and find YOUR park!

January 2: Yellowstone National Park Centennial Connections

January 9: Dayton Aviation National Historical Park and Wright Brothers National Memorial

January 23: Valor in the Pacific National Historical Park

February 6: Tuskegee Airmen National Historical Park

February 13: Fort Pulaski National Historic Site

February 27: Golden Gate National Recreation Area

Bird Walk

Great Kills Park (Entrance at Hylan Boulevard)

Sunday, Dec. 6 from 9 AM - 11 AM

Join Howie Fischer on a bird walk sponsored by the Friends of Blue Heron Pond Park. Stops will include the saltmarsh, field and beach areas to search for winter waterfowl and other expected arrivals. Dress for cold and windy conditions (rain cancels the program). Call (718) 354-4655 for additional information.

Staten Island OutLoud Presents "The Ice Palace"

Building 120

Fort Wadsworth

Saturday, January 16

2PM-3:30PM

Join Staten Island OutLoud for F. Scott Fitzgerald's seasonally-fitting, intriguing short-story "The Ice Palace," as well as light refreshments. Following the reading, tour wintry Fort Wadsworth with a ranger to evoke the ice palace in Fitzgerald's tale (weather-permitting).

History Walk at Fort Wadsworth

Fort Wadsworth Overlook

Sunday, January 17 from noon-1:30 PM

Join us for a 1.5-hour hike at Fort Wadsworth as we explore both the natural areas and the remnants of the former harbor defense system. Inclement weather will cancel the program. Reservations required. Call (718) 354-4655. (2 miles) ♥

National Park Service Centennial Connections

Huguenot Library, 830 Huguenot Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10312

Tuesday, January 19

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

Learn about the animals and plants at Gateway National Recreation Area; create an art project suitable for display. Call (718) 354-4655 for more information.

National Park Service Centennial Connections

South Beach Library, 21-25 Robin Road, Staten Island

Thursday, January 21 from 4 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Learn about the park's animals and plants; create an art project suitable for display. Call for more information: 718 354-4655.

History Walk at Fort Wadsworth

Fort Wadsworth Overlook

Sunday, February 14 from noon-1:30 PM

Join us for a 1.5-hour hike at Fort Wadsworth as we explore both the natural areas and the remnants of the former harbor defense system. Inclement weather will cancel the program. Reservations required. Call (718) 354-4655. (2 miles) ♥

Winter Waterfowl Art for Kids

Meet at Great Kills Park Education Field Station

Monday, February 15 from noon-1:30 PM

Join us for a walk and participate in an art competition. Reservations required. Call (718) 354-4655.

Gateway National Recreation Centennial Connections

Fort Wadsworth Visitor Center
Saturday, February 20 from noon-1:30 p.m.

Celebrate our urban parks and learn why the National Park Service was established. Activities include an NPS treasure hunt and quiz, art activities, nature/bird walk, yoga and more. All ages are welcome. Program is both indoor and outdoor. Call (718) 354-4655 for reservations and more information.

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