

Gateway

National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior

Gateway National Recreation Area
New Jersey / New York



Visitor Programs and Events – Summer 2012

Jamaica Bay Unit



Riis Landing Ferry Service

Once again, the American Princess Fleet will be operating ferry service between Pier 11 – Wall St., in Manhattan, and Riis Landing. The ferry will operate on weekends and holidays *only*. There will also be a variety of scenic cruises throughout the summer. For information on schedules, and fees, please visit their website at:

www.newyorkbeachferry.com

2012 Parking Fee Schedule

Jacob Riis Park, N.Y.

Hours of Collection:
7 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Vehicles under 20 feet long
Daily - \$10
Season - \$65

Vehicles over 20 feet long
Daily - \$20
Season - \$130

2012 Parking Fee Schedule

Sandy Hook, N.J.

Hours of Collection:
7 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Vehicles under 20 feet long
Daily - \$15
Season - \$75

Vehicles over 20 feet long
Daily - \$30
Season - \$150

What's With The ♥?

Gateway's programs are wonderful ways to stimulate your mind and your senses, but did you know that many of them provide fantastic opportunities to get some exercise? Our hikes, service projects, and paddles are great ways to get your heart going, while you enjoy the natural beauty and historic treasures that surround you. Just look for the ♥ next to the program listing for programs that require walks of a mile or more, or moderate physical exertion, and let Gateway pump you up!

Jamaica Bay Partners

American Littoral Society

www.alsnyc.org
(718) 318 – 9344

Floyd Bennett Garden Association

Have a "Green Thumb?" Learn at public gardening workshops. Find out about the Floyd Bennett Garden Association:
<http://www.fbga.net/>

Rockaway Artists Alliance

260 Beach 116 Street
Rockaway Beach, NY 11694
www.rockawayartistsalliance.com
(718)474-0861
e-mail:rockart116@aol.com

Rockaway Theatre Company

Have a night at the theater in Fort Tilden. See the 2012 Calendar:
rockawaytheatrecompany.org

Jamaica Bay Cruises

Jamaica Bay Sunset Cruises

Riis Landing

Wednesday, June 27

7:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Wednesday, July 18

7:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Thursday, August 2

7:15 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.

Enjoy a ranger-led ecology cruise aboard the *American Princess*.

You'll hear about the nature and history of Jamaica Bay and what the future may hold in store. We'll look for osprey, egrets, and other birds fishing in the bay and maybe find a peregrine falcon! The grand finale – a breathtaking Jamaica Bay sunset. Cost is \$13 per person; children under 5 are free. Call (718)318-9344 for more information.

Jamaica Bay to Sandy Hook Cruise

Riis Landing

Monday, July 30

Monday, August 27

Depart Riis Landing at 9 a.m., arrive at Sandy Hook at 10 a.m., then depart Sandy Hook at 12 p.m., and return to Riis Landing at 1 p.m.

Join us aboard the *American Princess* for a cruise to Sandy Hook. Enjoy a ranger-led narrated tour while on the boat followed by a fun-filled morning of activities at the Hook. Once we dock at Sandy Hook you can climb to the top of the Sandy Hook Lighthouse, explore the History House, or just relax on your own. Cost is \$20 per person; children under 5 are free. You must be 48" tall to climb the lighthouse; lighthouse climb is 95 steps plus a 9-rung ladder. Lighthouse tours are limited to the first 70 people to board (who will be given an assigned time slot.) Call (718)318-4340 for more information.

June

Walking with the Ancients

Plumb Beach Parking Lot

Friday, June 1

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

In an ancient ritual synchronized with high tides and the new and full moons, horseshoe crabs come ashore to mate and lay their eggs in shallow sandy nests along the waters' edge. Join National Park Service biologists for a walk along the Plumb Beach shoreline to witness this ancient ritual.

Horseshoe Crab Evening

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Sunday, June 3

7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Join a ranger to witness a millennia-old ritual – the mating of the horseshoe crabs. A brief indoor presentation will be followed by a walk on West Pond Trail to observe these prehistoric creatures close-up. Bring a flashlight.

Rose Moon Prowl ♥

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Monday, June 4

7:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Walk the west pond trail at dusk, observing a famous Jamaica Bay sunset and the rise of the full Rose Moon. Find out what animals and plants are up to at this special time between day and night. (1.7 miles)

Sunset Garden Hike Adventure ♥

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Saturday June 9

7 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Explore the garden paths while the sun sets on a night when the moon does not rise. Listen to the natural soundscapes. This 4+ mile moderate hike encourages participants to tune into their senses. Dress for the weather. Bring water, sturdy shoes, binoculars and flashlight. Rain or shine. Leader Anthony Sadasiva.

Seaweeds, Seashells and More ♥

Fort Tilden, Building 1

Sunday, June 17

9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Hike the seashore with American Littoral naturalist, Mickey Maxwell Cohen, author of *Adventures at the Beach*, to look for marine life, coastal birds, and seaside plants. Binoculars, and a magnifying glass will be helpful. (3 miles)

Tagging with a Scientist

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Visitor Center

Wednesday, June 20

9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.

You are invited to join National Park Service biologists to tag horseshoe crabs. Data that you collect will be part of a national database to help researchers and fisheries managers to better understand and manage horseshoe crab populations.

Horseshoe Crabs and Terrapins

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Saturday, June 23

11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Meet at the visitor center for a hike around the refuge to look for mating horseshoe crabs, nesting diamondback terrapins, butterflies and birds galore. Leader: Don Riepe. This is partnership program with NYC Audubon, Gateway NRA and the American Littoral Society. Call (718) 318-9344 to reserve.

Play by the Bay

Jacob Riis Park Bathhouse

Sunday, June 24

10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

The waters and beaches of Jamaica Bay have drawn people for a variety of reasons, for hundreds of years. Join a park ranger for a slide show and walking tour of Jacob Riis Park to learn the history of how people have used the beaches and bay to play.

Jamaica Bay Sunset Cruise

Sunday, June 24

Pier 2 Sheepshead Bay

3 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Join us for a special 3 – hour narrated tour of Jamaica Bay aboard the “Golden Sunshine” out of Sheepshead Bay. Meet 2:30pm at Pier 2 (Emmons Ave. & Bedford Ave., Brooklyn). Learn about the history & ecology of the bay and see migrating hawks, falcons, osprey, herons, egrets, ibis, shorebirds and waterfowl. Leaders: Mickey Cohen, Don Riepe. The cruise cost \$55 per person. Youth under 16 is \$25. For more information call (718) 318 – 9344 or e-mail: donriepe@gmail.com

July

Beach Campfire

Jacob Riis Park

Bay 14 (Boardwalk & B. 169 St.)

Tuesday, July 3

7 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Join park staff for a National Park Service tradition: the campfire program! Learn about the resources found in the park, and then join in a sing – along. Bring a chair or blanket, a musical instrument if you play one, and most importantly, marshmallows and s’mores fixings!

Star Gazing

Floyd Bennett Field

Radio Control Flying Field

Friday, June 8

8 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Come gaze at the wonders of the night sky over Floyd Bennett Field with the Amateur Astronomers Association. Weather permitting; clear or partly clear skies. Telescopes will be provided.

Hike the Trails of the North Forty Natural Area ♥

Floyd Bennett Field

Ryan Visitor Center

Sunday, July 15

9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Join American Littoral Society naturalist, Mickey Maxwell Cohen and discover the birds,

wildflowers, fruits and foliage in this developing coastal woodland. Participants will carpool to the program site at Floyd Bennett Field. Bring along drinking water, sun and insect protection and suitable footwear. Binoculars and a hand lens will be helpful. (2 miles)

Explore the Shore

North Channel Joseph P.

Addabbo Bridge

West Parking Lot

Sunday, July 22

3 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Everyone loves a day at the beach – not just people! Join a ranger to discover coastal plants, observe birds, and then meet some marine creatures face-to-face.

Shorebird ID Walk ♥

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Saturday, July 28

3 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Join naturalist Don Riepe for a hike around the East Pond of the refuge during peak shorebird migration time. Wear boots, bring binoculars. Call (718) 318 – 9344 for more info.

Comedy of Errors - Shakespeare in the Park

Riis Park

Bathhouse

Saturday, July 28

7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Enjoy the Hip to Hip Theatre Company’s free outdoor performance of Shakespeare’s *Comedy of Errors*. Bring your beach chair. No reservation required.

August

Exploring Dead Horse Bay♥

Floyd Bennett Field

Ryan Visitor Center

Saturday, August 11

9 p.m. – 11 a.m.

Hike the trails and shoreline of Dead Horse Bay with Mickey Maxwell Cohen, author of *Discovering the Trails of Dead Horse Bay*. Explore the nature and fascinating history of this little known area. Wear sturdy footwear. (2 miles)

Summer Blooms, Bugs, and Birds ♥

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Sunday, August 12

4:30 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Enjoy a walk around the refuge as you seek out some of the sights and sounds of summer. Butterflies, wildflowers, and a variety of birds will be making appearances. (1.7 miles)

7th Annual

Shorebird Festival

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Saturday, August 25

8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Join us for this annual event to celebrate the refuge as a mecca for migrating shorebirds. Day-long program includes walks and talks by Kevin Karlson, Lloyd Spitalnik and many other leading bird experts. This is a partnership program with NYC Audubon and Gateway NRA. For more information call Don Riepe (718) 318-9344; E-mail: donriepe@gmail.com

Beach Campfire

Jacob Riis Park

Bay 14 (Boardwalk & B. 169 St.)

Friday, August 31

7 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Join park staff for a National Park Service tradition: the campfire program! Learn about the resources found in the park, and then join in a sing – along. Bring a chair or blanket, a musical instrument if you play one, and most importantly, marshmallows and s’mores fixings!

Jamaica Bay Summer Boating Programs

Perhaps the best way that you can experience Gateway’s treasures, is from the water. Throughout the summer, the National Park Service is offering a variety of programs to give you the chance to get out on Jamaica Bay, and see for yourself. Programs are offered for all ages and skill levels, from beginners, to experts, and all are ♥ healthy! Dress to get wet, wear shoes that will not fall off, and bring water,

sunscreen and a snack. Boats, personal floatation devices, paddles and instruction will be provided. Reservations are required for all programs, unless otherwise noted. Call (718) 338 – 3799 for more information and to make a reservation.

Camp Gateway Paddles

Floyd Bennett Field

Seaplane Ramp

June 2, 23

Times vary based on tidal conditions.

Walk over from Camp Gateway and experience Jamaica Bay at first hand with a Park Ranger, on this beginner paddling trip. Kayaks, personal floatation devices, paddles and instruction will be provided. Children between the ages of 6 and 12 must each be accompanied by an adult in the same tandem kayak. Space is limited.

Individual Sailing Instruction

Gateway Marina

Thursday, June 28 – August 30th
6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Each class consists of three consecutive sessions where participants learn the basic skills of sailing. There is a \$50 fee for this program.

Camp Groups Paddle

Canarsie Pier

Fridays, June 29 – August 31

2 hour sessions

10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Camp groups can try out kayaking and learn about Jamaica Bay.

Kayak Skills Workshops

Riis Landing

Fridays, June 29 – August 31

10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Mondays, July 2 – September 3
1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Receive instruction and practice kayak strokes and skills each week. Children over 11 and adults are welcomed to participate in this program. No reservation required.

Walk-up and Kayak

Canarsie Pier and Riis Landing

Saturdays and Sundays,

June 30 – September 2

10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Kayak tryouts for those who have never done it before. Open to the public at both Canarsie Pier and Riis Landing. No reservation required.

Dead Horse Bay Paddle

Gateway Marina

July 2, 9, 23, 30, August 2, 6, 13,

20, 27, and September 3

Times vary based on tidal conditions.

Plumb Beach cove is the destination for this fun introductory 2 mile trip. Children between the ages of 6 and 12 must each be accompanied by an adult in the same tandem kayak.

Ruffle Bar Kayak Excursion

Floyd Bennett Field

Seaplane Ramp

July 3, 25

August 1, 8, 15

Times vary based on tidal conditions.

Paddle around this large island in Jamaica Bay on a 4 mile trip. Learn about the history of the island and the plants and animals that thrive there.

Pumpkin Patch Kayak Excursion

North Channel Bridge,

West side parking lot

July 4, 17, 19,

August 14, 21, 28

Times vary based on tidal conditions.

Paddle Pumpkin Patch Channel on this serene 2.5 mile trip into the heart of the wildlife refuge.

Riis Landing to Ruffle Bar Excursion

Riis Landing

Thursday, July 5

8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Paddle the incoming tide to Ruffle Bar and return to Riis landing on this 4.5 mile paddle.

Riis Landing to Rockaway Cove Kayak Excursion

Riis Landing

July 10, 26

August 9, 16, 30

Times vary based on tidal conditions.

Rockaway Point and back – this 2 mile trip, follows the scenic bay shore of Rockaway peninsula along the cove toward Rockaway Point.

Youth Group Sailing

Gateway Marina

Tuesday, Wednesday and

Thursday, July 10 – August 30

9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Groups will learn about sailing and the environment of Dead Horse Bay. Reservations required; call 718 338 3799 for more information and to make a reservation.

Floyd Bennett Paddle and Hike

Mill Basin Kayak Launch

Thursday, July 12

8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Paddle four miles with a National Park Ranger on the outgoing tide around Floyd Bennett Field. Land at Gateway Marina and then enjoy a 1.25 mile hike back to the start. Get a great work out and appreciate this remarkable estuary and the unique history of Floyd Bennett Field. Dress to get wet, wear shoes that will not fall off and bring shoes that you can hike in. Bring water, sunscreen and a snack.

Family Canoeing

Gateway Marina

Friday, July 20

9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Families will enjoy paddling and the environment of Dead Horse Bay. Canoes, personal floatation devices, paddles and instruction will be provided. Reservations required; call (718) 338 – 3799 for more information and to make a reservation.

Floyd Bennett Field Paddle and Hike

Gateway Marina
Thursday, July 24

8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Paddle four miles with a park ranger on the incoming tide around Floyd Bennett Field. After landing, enjoy a 1.25 mile hike back to the start. Get a great work out and appreciate this remarkable estuary and the unique history of Floyd Bennett Field. Dress to get wet, wear shoes that will not fall off and bring shoes that you can hike in. Bring water, sunscreen and a snack.

Explore the Great Outdoors, With Other Great ♥ Programs...

*Call (718) 338-3799, for
reservations.*

Bike with a Park Ranger

Floyd Bennett Field
Ryan Visitors Center
June 17, July 22

August 12
10 a.m. – 12 a.m.

Join a Park Ranger for a bike ride around historic Floyd Bennett Field.

Learn To Ride!

Kids Class with Bike NY

Canarsie Pier
Saturday, June 17
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Learn to ride a bike with the best. Register at
<http://www.bikenewyork.org>.

Camping Skills

Wiley Post Campfire Ring,
Floyd Bennett Field
Mondays, June 18, July 23
August 6

2:30 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Learn to set up a tent, build a fire and find out how to prepare for a fun environmentally friendly camping trip.

Continuing Programs

Family fun, all summer long!

Be a Bird Detective!

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Daily, 10 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Memorial Day – Labor Day

Many different birds make their home here. Some are just visiting. Learn how to use binoculars. Then, follow the clues to find out what birds do.

Geocache at Floyd Bennett Field

Floyd Bennett Field
Ryan Visitors Center
Daily

9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Use a GPS to discover off the beaten path historic sites. Figure out site specific answers and receive a Gateway memento. Call (718) 338-3799 for more information.

Historic Aircraft Restoration Project

Floyd Bennett Field
Hangar B

Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Tours Daily
2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Bring the family, and observe park volunteers, as they restore vintage aircraft. People with an interest in aviation or history are encouraged to join in this volunteer effort. Call (718) 338-3799 for more information or to schedule a group tour.

Junior Ranger Program

Floyd Bennett Field,
Jacob Riis Park (Beginning May 26) and Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Daily, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Kids ages 7 – 12 can pick up their Junior Ranger booklets, to have fun discovering the wonders of Jamaica Bay, and earn their junior ranger badge!

P.A.R.C.S. Model Aircraft

Floyd Bennett Field
Radio Controlled Flying Field
Open Daily

Join the Pennsylvania Avenue Radio Control Society at their “mini-airport in an airport.” Enjoy the antics of these pilots as they show off their flying skills with model planes, jets and helicopters.

Touch Table for the Curious

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Daily 1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Memorial Day – Labor Day

Touch and explore shells, feathers and other curious stuff. Is it food?

Is it armor? How does it move?

This family friendly program is good for newcomers to Jamaica Bay.

Family Camping in the Urban Outback

Floyd Bennett Field
Ecology Village
Saturday through Sunday
(Check in at 2 p.m. Sat.
Check out at 12 p.m. Sun.)

Learn to pitch a tent, build a fire, and cook out like a pioneer. Make some s'mores, tell some stories, and sleep under the stars. Enjoy kayaking, marine nature study, and hiking with National Park Service rangers. Bring the whole family – parents, kids, grandparents! The program is free, but reservations are required, and space is limited. Call (718) 338-4306, for more information, and to make a reservation.

Receive this guide electronically

If you would like to receive this program guide, published four times a year electronically, please email

Charles_Markis@nps.gov; put ‘program guide’ in the subject line. Thanks for your interest!