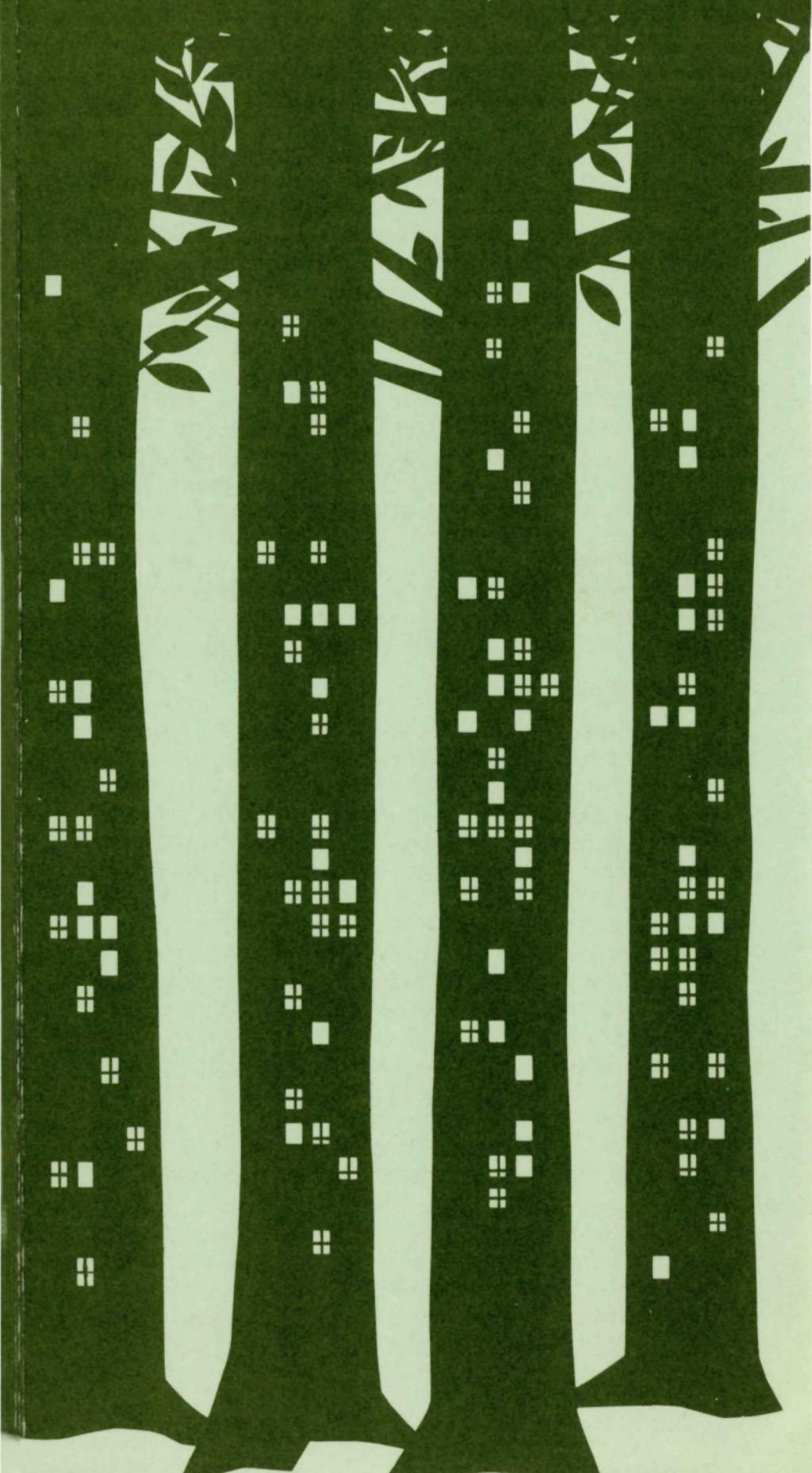


GATEWAY NATIONAL RECREATION AREA



Welcome to Gateway

In language common to the legislation of all great national parks of this country, the public law establishing Gateway states in simple clarity: "... 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."

But the goals intended for Gateway and its role in fulfilling recreational needs have a special dimension. They recognize the need not only to set aside the Nation's significant natural areas, but also to meet its grave urban recreation needs. The Gateway National Recreation Area brings parks to the people as part of a program designed to provide a better life for America's citizens. Gateway is unique in that it brings parks to the people of the city. Its four Units at Jamaica Bay, Breezy Point, Staten Island and Sandy Hook will offer 26,000 acres of land and water activities to the public. In each Unit the visitor will find facilities for swimming, sports, picnicking, walking and bicycling. In addition, each Unit will have facilities which are unique to it. The combined facilities of Gateway offer the urban dweller an opportunity to experience the many joys of nature. Admission to all Gateway's Units is free.

Breezy Point

Located on the Rockaway Peninsula in Queens, the Breezy Point Unit offers visitors a wide variety of recreational activities such as swimming, fishing, and boating as well as cultural and educational facilities. During the 1975 season, however, only Jacob Riis Park and Fort Tilden will be open to the public.

Last year some 2.6 million visitors crowded onto the beaches at Jacob Riis Park. Aside from swimming and sunbathing, visitors may make use of such recreational activities as fishing, hiking, boating and limited biking. There are also paddle tennis courts, handball courts, playgrounds and five softball, baseball and football fields. The Park is open to the public 7 days a week. Full services are provided from Memorial Day to September 30th from 9:00 A.M. to 8:30 P.M.

This year Fort Tilden will be open to the public on a limited basis. The National Park Service will make available to qualified groups under a "special use permit" certain facilities, on a limited basis. At Fort Tilden, fishing is available on a 24-hour basis by permit only; at Riis Park from 8:00

P.M. to 8:00 A.M. from May until September, and 24 hours from October to April, no permit needed; and at the Breezy Point jetty on a 24-hour basis.

For further information on the Breezy Point Unit of Gateway National Recreation Area write to Unit Manager, Gateway Breezy Point Unit, Fort Tilden, New York 11695.

Jamaica Bay Unit

When the last glacier receded from the North American Continent, Jamaica Bay was formed together with a series of sandy beaches and natural bays along the south shore of Long Island. The present shape of Jamaica Bay is an irregular circular expanse of calm waters, tidal marshes and inlets, sand dunes, grassy humps, and small beaches. Ringing this periphery of more than 13,000 acres are facilities and sites administered by the Jamaica Bay Unit of Gateway National Recreation Area for sports, open air recreation, and leisure activities.

Not many years ago, Jamaica Bay supported a large seafood industry and ranked next to the Great South Bay and the Chesapeake Bay in seafood harvests. Today, polluted waters and population pressures have changed the Bay, but it retains its viability as an incomparable natural laboratory. Each year thousands of New York City school children seek an experience in Environmental Education or marine science here. Jamaica Bay is world renowned for the Wildlife Refuge within its boundaries. Encompassing 9,000 acres of marsh and water, it is the first of its kind to be administered by the National Park Service. Situated along the Atlantic flyway, this area annually hosts more than 300 species of shore birds and water fowl, and provides natural food and shelter for numerous small mammals.

Jamaica Bay and the Jamaica Bay Unit are located entirely within the boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens, with the Shore Parkway forming the north boundary; the Rockaway Peninsula, the south boundary; Kennedy International Airport, the east boundary; and Plumb Beach and Floyd Bennett Field serving as the western border.

Floyd Bennett Field, site of the City's first municipal airport, is the largest area within the Unit. Consisting of over 1,000 acres of land suitable for intensive recreation, education, and cultural activities, Floyd Bennett Field also is the home of the headquarters for the entire Gateway National Recreation Area. For further information, contact the Area Manager, Jamaica Bay Unit, Floyd Bennett Field, Brooklyn, New York 11234.

Sandy Hook Story

The Sandy Hook Unit occupies 1,600 land acres of barrier peninsula reaching northward from the New Jersey coast into New York harbor. Since its appearance, thousands of years in the past, the growth of the Hook has been a dynamic process. The longshore current sweeping along the coast moves the beach sands from south to north. This ever continuing action results in the extension of Sandy Hook land further and further to the north. A ship's channel extending east and west across the Hook's end has been a factor in recent years, limiting the growth of the Hook.

Long a hunting and provision ground for native Americans, discovery by Europeans in the 15th and 16th centuries brought about a new role for the Hook. The strategic location in the harbor was quickly recognized, both as a military defensive position and as a navigational landmark. In 1764, the Sandy Hook lighthouse lamps were lit to remain to this day as a beacon for passing ships. A Life Service station was later established to provide assistance to vessels in distress. A modern Coast Guard station now occupies the tip of the Hook north of the Park area.

As a military base, there have been a variety of uses extending from the pre-Revolutionary period to the missile age of recent history. In the latter part of the 19th century, the Army established a proving grounds and countless weapons received their first trials on the Hook. The remains today of immense cement structures are remembering points for the periods when men were caught up in war and there was a need for gun emplacements to defend the harbor.

The Hook's variety of habitat—holly forest, sandy uplands thickets, tidal marshes, mudflats, ocean and bay beaches is seldom duplicated in so restricted an area. The Hook provides an exciting opportunity for the visitor, whose interest may be general or specific to come and to enjoy this unique area located in the urban congestion of the Mid-Atlantic coast line.

Interpretive Programs—Visitors can obtain information concerning a wide range of interpretive programs from the Park Visitor Center and Information Stations. For the present, access to the Fort Hancock historic area will be limited to conducted programs carried out by the Park staff.

Camping—Six primitive camp sites are available for use by organized youth groups on a reservation basis. These reservations must be made through the Unit Manager's office.

Information—A Unit Manager whose office is located on Sandy Hook is in immediate charge. Inquiries can be sent to Gateway National Recreation Area—Sandy Hook Unit, P.O. Box 437, Highlands, New Jersey 07732 or by telephoning (201) 872-0115.

Staten Island

Located on the Raritan Bay in Staten Island, the Staten Island Unit provides visitors with a wide range of recreational activities. The Staten Island Unit is primarily comprised of Great Kills Park and Miller Field Park.

Great Kills Park offers swimming along a beautiful two mile beach. Fishing is a year 'round activity with Raritan Bay offering a variety of fish including flounder, fluke, striped bass and bluefish. Crabbing is available from the bulkhead inlet adjacent to the marina. The marina offers boat launching and mooring facilities for a fee.

With its approximately 1,240 unspoiled acres, Great Kills Park is the ideal setting for hiking, bird watching and bicycle riding. Pheasant, muskrat, cottontail rabbits and turtles are among the animals to be seen daily.

Miller Field is the recreational center and headquarters site of the Staten Island Unit. The 180-acre Field offers facilities for baseball, softball, tennis, soccer, archery, football and basketball. All these facilities are available without charge but most require a permit.

Further information and permits can be obtained by calling (212) 351-8700 or by writing the Unit Manager, P.O. Box 37, Staten Island, New York 10306.

DIRECTION SUMMARIES

Riis Park

Mass Transit: 1. IRT #3, 4, 5 to Flatbush Ave.—Q35 bus to Park.
2. Buses B-6, B-41, B-44 to Flatbush and Nostrand Aves.—Q35 to Park.
3. IND A, E or shuttle to Rockaway Park, Q21, or Q53 to B. 116th St.—Q22 to Park.

By Auto: 1. Belt Parkway to Flatbush Ave. or Cross Bay Blvd. or south to Beach Channel Drive to Park.

2. Woodhaven Blvd. to Cross Bay Blvd. as above.

3. Atlantic Beach Bridge to Beach Channel Drive to Park.

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge North Channel Bridge

Mass Transit: 1. IRT #2 to New Lots Ave.—Q21A to both.

2. IND A or E to Rockaway Blvd.—Q21 to both.

3. IND A or E to Broad Channel—walk to refuge.

By Auto: Belt Parkway or Woodhaven Blvd. to Cross Bay Blvd. south to both.

Atlantic Beach Bridge to Cross Bay Blvd. to both.

Floyd Bennett Field

Mass Transit: IRT to Flatbush Ave.—Q35 to Field entrance.

By Auto: Flatbush Ave. to Field entrance.

Canarsie Pier

Mass Transit: BMT LL to Rockaway Parkway—free transfer to B-42 to entrance.

By Auto: Belt Parkway to Rockaway Parkway exit.

Plumb Beach

By Auto: Belt Parkway eastbound only to Plumb Beach entrance between Knapp St. and Flatbush Ave. exits.

Staten Island

Mass Transit: R103 and R111 to Great Kills, SIRT to R111 at Oakwood Heights station, R7 to R103 at Sand Lane and Hylan Blvd. Domenico Bus to Great Kills from PA terminal, R117 to Miller Field.

By Auto: Seaside Blvd. from Verrazzano-Narrows Bridge to Midland Ave. to Hylan Blvd. to: New Dorp Lane for Miller Field; straight to Great Kills.

Sandy Hook

Mass Transit: N.Y.-Keansburg-Long Branch Bus Co. from N.Y.C. to Highlands.

N.Y. and Long Branch Railroad to Red Bank-Boro Bus #4 to Highlands.

By Auto: Garden State Parkway (or Rt. 9 to Rt. 35) to Rt. 36 to Park.

Information Telephone Numbers:

MTA — 330-1234

Green Lines — 527-2400

Domenico — 448-6600

N.Y. and Long Branch Railroad — (212) 736-6000
(201) 352-7500

N.Y.-Keansburg-Long Branch Bus Co. —
(212) 233-8565
(201) 291-1300

Boro Bus Co. — (201) 741-0567

Staten Island Ferry — 566-8633 or 727-2508

Staten Island Rapid Transit — 447-1220

For Your Safety

In the enjoyment of all offered activities, please consider your actions carefully to protect yourself from accidents and the resource from harm. Swim only where lifeguards are on duty.

The ocean can be dangerous. Be alert for riptides and underwater obstacles. Keep children within reach.

For your safety, do not take glass containers, rafts, rubber tubes, snorkels, and masks to any beach.

Watch out for too much sun.

Protect your valuables. Place them in the trunk and lock your car.

Deposit trash in the proper receptacle. Litter clean-up costs money that could be spent on programs for you.

No open fires. Beach grass burns rapidly. Bring a grill or Hibachi.

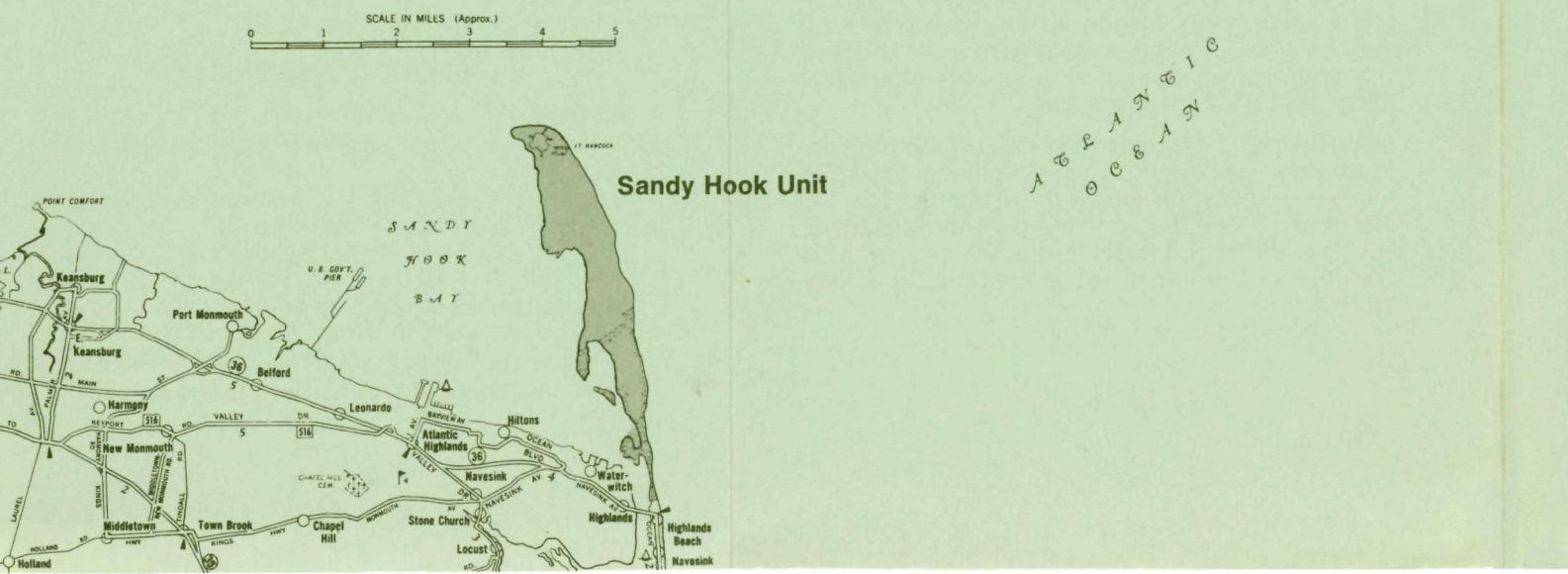
Dispose of burning charcoal carefully by soaking thoroughly with water. Burning charcoal can easily start a fire in a trash container, and burned feet can result when charcoal is dumped in the sand.

Dogs must be on a leash and walked in designated areas *only*.

Live organisms are not to be removed from the area or harmed in any fashion.

Consult park staff at each area for first-aid problems.

Some of the areas have large patches of poison ivy. Consult park personnel for location of poison ivy patches and be careful to avoid physical contact.



As a National Recreation Area, Gateway is a unit of the National Park System. The four areas of Gateway are administered and operated by the National Park Service, a branch of the U.S. Department of the Interior. As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities for water, fish, wildlife, mineral, land, park, and recreational resources. Indian and Territorial affairs are other major concerns of America's "Department of Natural Resources." The Department works to assure the wisest choice in managing all our resources so each will make its full contribution to a better United States—now and in the future.

Information

For further information on the Gateway National Recreation Area write to Gateway, Floyd Bennett Field, Brooklyn, New York 11234.



U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service



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