



The National Park Service is helping to make the New York metropolitan area a better place for the 16 million people who live here and the millions more who visit each year.

We are making travel to our parks easier and more enjoyable, improving the programs available to our visitors, and encouraging participation in the stewardship of historic sites and natural systems.

At the same time, we are reaching out to city and state parks,

government agencies and non-profit partners to solve common challenges, share scarce resources, and develop a continuous network of open space and jointly offered public programs.

Together, the National Park Service and our partners will create an unequalled network of urban parks that will strengthen the economic and ecological vitality of this area, enhance the region's beauty and identity, and create countless opportunities for learning and outdoor activity, personal renewal and inspiration.

The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education and inspiration of this and future generations.

National Park Service Mission



A researcher tags a diamondback turtle at Jamaica Bay National Wildlife Refuge



4th graders participate in a living history program at the Lower East Side Tenement Museum

Many people are surprised when they discover that there are national parks within the greater New York area.

These parks are part of the same system of 387 special places that encompass Yellowstone and Grand Canyon, Independence Hall and the birthplace of Martin Luther King, Jr. Taken as a whole, this system is representative of the American experience: the land, the people and our history.

Our parks are historical and natural treasures: symbols of our American identity, places offering unique educational and recreational opportunities, and precious habitat for native plants and wildlife.

In addition, the National Park Service manages extensive areas for outdoor adventure such as hiking and camping, sailing, ocean swimming and nature walks. Other recreational opportunities include the arts, athletics, gardening and pursuit of hobbies. Finally, many of our parks also offer urban residents opportunities to actively participate in the care of park resources through a variety of volunteer activities.

The mission of the National Parks of New York Harbor is to enhance the identity, visibility and public support of our sites. We will collaborate with others in the New York-New Jersey metropolitan areas in the care and appropriate use of all historic, recreational and natural resources, and to promote the National Park System.

These parks include Jamaica Bay in Gateway National Recreation Area, the largest continuous piece of open space in all of New York City,

and icons such as the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, recognized the world over.

The parks also include the cradle of our nation at Federal Hall on Wall Street, places in Manhattan where Presidents have lived and are memorialized, and Governors Island, the newest National Park on New York Harbor.

In all, the National Parks of New York Harbor comprise a network of sites that cover nearly 27,000 acres and are visited more than 12 million times each year.

Governors Island, Liberty Island and Ellis Island are at the heart of New York Harbor



Volunteers care for the lighthouse at Fort Wadsworth



The National Park Service creates quality visitor experiences and protects and preserves heritage sites and natural systems in our National Parks. And yet we strive to do more.

Our future depends on what we do beyond park boundaries. We must tie parks to one another along common storylines and link people to the parks through improved access to information and transportation. And we must promote a system of open space to support public recreation and protect ecosystems.

Our partners will help us to build and enhance your parks. These partners include universities and museums, governmental agencies, and other organizations.

We will also need the support of the corporate world and community leaders. New and existing partners will assist us in our outreach efforts.

These collaborations offer the National Park Service many new opportunities to serve our public and enhance the New York region.

Imagine the Possibilities.....



To discover more, please contact the Commissioner of the National Parks of New York Harbor at 718-354-4551 or visit us on the web at www.nps.gov/npnh.

...five minutes from home, a couple from Red Hook catches a multi-stop New York Harbor ferry. They enjoy a Civil War reenactment at Fort Wadsworth in the morning, then lunch and an art exhibit on Ellis Island, followed by a twilight concert on Governors Island...

...a retired executive and several high school students volunteer weekly to document artifacts at Hamilton Grange in Harlem. They correspond with Christiansted in the U.S. Virgin Islands, another National Park that tells the story of Alexander Hamilton, and post

their research on the Hamilton Grange web page...

...National Park Service Rangers take children from the Bronx on their first boat ride, presenting the ecology of New York Harbor, followed by a day of planting native saltwater grasses at Jamaica Bay and classes at Jamaica Bay Institute, a partnership research and learning center with the New York City Department of Education. They return one year later to count the number of nesting birds using the habitat they helped to restore...



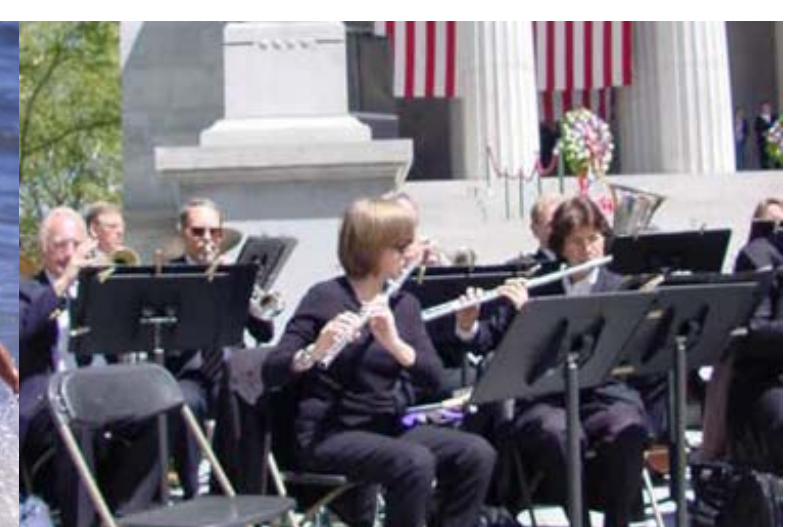
The National Park Service has cared for the Statue of Liberty, a World Heritage Site, since 1933



Volunteer stewards install a nesting box at Jamaica Bay National Wildlife Refuge



Children frolic in the Atlantic on a hot summer day at Jacob Riis Park on the Rockaway Peninsula



Open-air concerts and street fairs are regular events at General Grant Memorial



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A school group visits the Ellis Island Immigration Museum, entry point for 12 million Americans

Young explorers experience the surprises of nature firsthand at Floyd Bennett Field

Birdwatchers and hikers explore the trails at Fort Tilden and Jamaica Bay National Wildlife Refuge

Kayakers paddle around protected coves and open water at Sandy Hook in New Jersey