



## **Staten Island and Brooklyn Home Energy Smart Fairs to be Held This Winter**

At a time that energy bills may be biting harder than the cold winter winds, NYSERDA, Friends of Gateway (FoG) and the National Park Service will host two Home Energy Smart Fairs at Gateway National Recreation Area. These events will be held at Fort Wadsworth Visitor Center, Staten Island on January 27<sup>th</sup> 2007 and Floyd Bennett Field's Ryan Center (tower building) in Brooklyn on February 10<sup>th</sup> 2007. The events will demonstrate the benefits of energy efficiency and its relationship to a clean environment. The Energy Smart Fairs include exhibits, speakers and workshops and are free and open to the public.

NYSERDA is NY State's official energy efficiency program, which encourages the use of energy efficient products and the growth of alternative energy sources for New York. They work with building contractors and home and building owners to find money saving ways to cut home energy use without giving up comfort.

*In addition to recreation and stewardship, Gateway's visitor programs often promote education, including topics on sustainable lifestyles. "This event will help home-owners learn how to reduce energy costs, but it will do it in the relaxed atmosphere of their local National Park. This is going to be both fun and informative for all who attend" said Dave Avrin, Gateway's Staten Island Unit Superintendent.*

Friends of Gateway seeks to bring a green message to the Park's surrounding neighborhoods by introducing New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) programs to the homeowners of Brooklyn, Staten Island, and Queens. For additional information call (212) 228-3126 or send an email to: [rsvp@treebranch.com](mailto:rsvp@treebranch.com).

### ***January 27, 2007 at 10 a.m.***

Fort Wadsworth Visitor Center  
Bay Street and School Road  
Staten Island, NY 10305  
718-354-4500  
[www.nps.gov/gate](http://www.nps.gov/gate)

### ***February 10, 2007 at 10 a.m.***

Floyd Bennett Field  
Flatbush Avenue, south of the Belt Parkway  
Brooklyn, NY 11234  
718-338-3799

## **Volunteer Service leaves a Greener Gateway**

On a cold Sunday in November, volunteer families from the West End Temple in the Rockaways planted a strand of over 25 native white pines along Floyd Bennett Drive, the main entrance road of the park. On the Second Saturdays of November and December volunteer groups from the Boy Scouts of America and the Long Island City Community Boathouse added more white pine and enhanced the area with deciduous tree saplings.

The scouts also planted an area of the field that FoG has dubbed Fishers Beach with fruiting trees and shrubs. The “fishers beach” plantings are part of a larger project to make that area more family friendly. Other plantings were done by visiting school groups, including work in the Dead Horse Bay and North 40 Wildlife Areas of the Park.

FoG has also made Trees grown at its Gateway Greenhouse Education Center available to volunteers from the Floyd Bennett Garden Association who have used them to enhance an area of the Park near the City’s largest community garden.

Floyd Bennett Field is not the only area of the park to see new planting from stock grown at the Gateway Greenhouse. Working with the Jamaica Bay Keeper and local volunteers from the Broad Channel community, a long term greening effort along the Rockaway Gateway Greenway was begun. Additional plants were brought to Staten Island units of the Park by Gateway Botanist Mike Byer to be planted at volunteer events hosted by the park.

The Gateway Greenhouse Education Center and outreach for associated volunteer planting efforts have been made possible with grants from and smaller contributions from xxxxx and many other organizations who have helped care for greenhouse plants until they were big enough to plant.

## ***Aircraft Restoration Volunteers Needed***

NPS Rangers at Floyd Bennett Field are interested in adding new members to the volunteer project that works to restore vintage military aircraft. The Historic Aircraft Restoration Project, also known as HARP, has worked for the past decade in Brooklyn to restore a variety of aircraft including a C-47, a P2V Neptune, a PBY Catalina, an A-4 Skyhawk, and others. The volunteers who now work on these aircraft bring a variety of skills to the project. Some were aircraft mechanics in the military or civilian aviation fields; others are skilled machinists, mechanics, metal workers and carpenters. Those skills can now be passed on to others who join this historic restoration project.

To inquire about these volunteer opportunities, please call (718) 338-3799.

## **City College Planners re-imagine run-over sand field as a “Native Plant Trail”**

In National Parks all over our nation Native Plant Trails are used to show visitors the diversity of natural landscapes in miniature. Plants that would be spread over an entire habitat are collected, labeled and focused into a smaller place for ease of reference. In Fall, 2006 a City College graduate study planning team came to a disturbed waterfront upland area between the Gateway Greenhouse Education Center and Jamaica Bay in Brooklyn’s Floyd Bennett Field, and recommended improvements that would plant a demonstration garden and a Native Plant Trail in the Park’s education district.

At the entrance to what is now a tire tracked sand flat an ornamental garden will be planted that can show local homeowners how native plants can replace exotic and invasive garden plants in home

landscaping. Plantings will be grouped as they might be in a home garden with special attention to flowering ability and seasonal color. Behind the “formal” garden the land would be contoured into a more dune like appearance and a naturalistic native plant trail would be created. Here a specimen Jamaica Bay upland landscape would be recreated with as much micro-climate and plant variety as can be squeezed in. Both projects would take years to complete and be accomplished as educational programs for visiting students.

Next Steps: A park approval process, assembly of a team of expert advisers, preliminary land contouring, and fund raising for full scale implementation.

### **Images of America: Jamaica Bay**

Dan Hendrick's photo essay book on Jamaica Bay is a great piece of historic research and each picture IS worth a thousand words. Drawing on photographic and drawn records, the author weaves together the story of the Bay's checkerboard history from native American times to the present. From farmland, to industrial and aviation location, to seaside resort, to amusement area to garbage dump to residential community, all facets of the Bay's history are recorded. The usual book chains have copies. Hopefully the NPS bookstores at Jamaica Bay are also well stocked.

*Where the City Meets the Sea is the newsletter of Friends of Gateway, the friends organization of metro New York's unique National Park. FoG works to ensure the preservation of Gateway's significant natural and historic areas, while encouraging the addition of appropriate recreational, educational and cultural programs. **Comments and suggestions should be sent to [info@treebranch.com](mailto:info@treebranch.com).***

Visit Friends of Gateways web site [www.gatewaypark.us](http://www.gatewaypark.us).

### **The following is provided to appease the requirements of AOL.**

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