

Alternative B: Discovering Gateway – NPS Preferred Alternative

Overview

This alternative provides the widest range of activities and most recreation opportunities in dispersed locations throughout the park. New connections would be forged with park lands and communities adjacent and nearby Gateway. This alternative offers the most instructional programming and skills development and draws people into the park to increase awareness and enjoyment of Gateway’s historic resources and the natural environment. More convenient and affordable park access is developed through trail connections, bicycle infrastructure, public transit, and waterborne transportation. This alternative prioritizes joint management and operations for visitor services, orientation, programs, and facilities with New York City and other partners.

Jamaica Bay Unit

Under this alternative, Jamaica Bay will be Gateway’s premier outdoor recreation destination. The park lands at Jamaica Bay would provide an unmatched variety of recreational, interpretive and educational opportunities for New York residents and park visitors. New activities, programs and enhanced facilities will attract users of all neighborhoods, backgrounds, and ages, drawing a diverse audience of local residents, national and international visitors to enjoy all of the park’s offerings. Areas within the Jamaica Bay Unit including Floyd Bennett Field and the Rockaway peninsula parks (Jacob Riis Park, Fort Tilden, and Breezy Point Tip) would emerge as destinations for daily use and multiple day experiences.

Recreation and Visitor Experience

In partnership with New York City and other groups, the NPS would attract neighborhood, regional and distant visitors with new and improved amenities and recreation facilities (e.g., trails, camp sites); improved community-based recreation such as sports leagues and event spaces; and enhanced greatly expanded interpretive and environmental educational programming. With development of water trails, water skills programming, equipment rentals, and the expansion of beach access, the Jamaica Bay Unit would be established as a popular recreation destination for water-based activities. The combination of improved transportation infrastructure and widespread outreach and promotion, would ensure that these new opportunities for outdoor recreation, learning and skill building are accessible and popular among diverse audiences.



New activities, programs and enhanced facilities will attract users of all neighborhoods, backgrounds, and ages, drawing a diverse audience of local residents, national and international visitors to enjoy all of the park’s offering.



Under this alternative, the park lands would provide opportunities for youth and families to experience nature and to develop the skills and knowledge that would foster lifelong enjoyment of the outdoors. Improved and expanded facilities including trails, overlooks, viewing blinds, kayak launch sites, indoor and outdoor classrooms and campsites would provide more convenient access to natural areas and facilitate the exploration of Gateway's varied natural environments. These resource-based experiences would be complemented by opportunities to experience and learn about history and the park's significance through guided interpretive activities, interpretive media, and educational programming.

New multiple day experiences would be developed and promoted on NPS and New York City park lands throughout Jamaica Bay. A variety of camping options from special programs in unique locations to a variety of tent, structural and RV sites would enhance the national park experience. Lodging accommodations in historic buildings and associated support areas would be explored.

A multi-use trail network would be created throughout the area and would cater to different physical capabilities and recreation interests. The existing trail system would be greatly expanded and would provide paved as well as soft-surface trail experiences. The extensive network of trails would provide connections from adjacent parks and neighborhoods by tying into the Jamaica Bay Greenway.

Table 2-5. Jamaica Bay Unit - Alternative B - Summary of Visitor Experiences.

Desired Experience	Types of Change	Where Change May Occur
Physical and programmatic connections created to link Gateway sites, New York City parks and neighborhoods to Jamaica Bay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> △ Explore new linkages by trails, sidewalks, paths and bridges △ Work with NYC and other partners to introduce new recreational skills and educational and interpretive programs in adjacent parks and communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> △ Plumb Beach △ Bergen Beach △ Canarsie Pier △ Pennsylvania Avenue and Fountain Avenue Parks △ Spring Creek △ Frank Charles Park △ Hamilton Beach
Orientation portals established to provide information on sites and activities throughout all Jamaica Bay park lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> △ Create distinctive access corridors to parks and Jamaica Bay through art, signs and other visual expression △ Improve signs and wayfinding △ Use virtual and modern technology for orientation and maps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> △ Plumb Beach △ Canarsie Pier △ Spring Creek △ Floyd Bennett Field △ Fort Tilden
Recreation improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> △ New picnic and open space area at Bergen Beach and Spring Creek △ Improved areas for horse-related activities at Bergen Beach △ Improved launching areas for human powered boating and wind sports at Plumb Beach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> △ Bergen Beach △ Plumb Beach △ Jacob Riis Park △ Canarsie Pier △ Pennsylvania Avenue and Fountain Avenue Parks △ Spring Creek
Offer a wide variety of camping opportunities and support areas and services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> △ Create new areas for all types of camping △ Offer special camping programs in places like historic buildings or natural areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> △ Bergen Beach △ Floyd Bennett Field △ Fort Tilden △ Jacob Riis Park △ Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Connect park sites through trails and paths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> △ Convert former roads into trails △ Improve biking and walking infrastructure and circulation △ Improve access and linkages to Jamaica Bay Greenway 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> △ Unit-wide

Table 2-5. Jamaica Bay Unit - Alternative B - Summary of Visitor Experiences (continued).

Desired Experience	Types of Change	Where Change May Occur
Community gathering spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> △ Link athletic use/sports leagues with opportunities for NPS experience △ Accommodate small outdoor concerts and performances △ Create areas for gardens, markets, festivals and other community uses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> △ Pennsylvania Avenue and Fountain Avenue Parks △ Floyd Bennett Field △ Canarsie Pier △ Frank Charles Park △ Fort Tilden △ Jacob Riis Park
Natural immersion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> △ Create learning opportunities and services for activities such as kayaking and wildlife observation △ Formalize nature trails to bays and waterways for fishing, walking △ Establish overlooks for outstanding/distance views of Jamaica Bay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> △ Unit-wide
Environmental education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> △ Improve or develop places and facilities to learn about marine resources such as salt marsh, and wetlands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> △ Floyd Bennett Field △ Bergen Beach △ Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge △ Fort Tilden
Formal water trails established	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> △ Establish new water trails connecting to NYC parks and other Gateway areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> △ Unit-wide
Expand access to Jamaica Bay and other waterways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> △ Improve docking and marina area △ New boat sites, storage, shuttles, and equipment rental 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> △ Floyd Bennett Field △ Fort Tilden - Riis Landing △ Canarsie Pier △ Pennsylvania Avenue and Fountain Avenue Parks

Resource Management

Partners sharing the NPS vision for a healthy and restored Jamaica Bay are numerous. In both action alternatives, NPS would continue cultivating and leveraging partnerships to accomplish natural resource objectives. Improving water quality within Jamaica Bay would be prioritized along with restoring marine resources and degraded stretches of coastal habitats. In conjunction with partners, NPS would produce a system-wide study of wetlands throughout Jamaica Bay that would determine the extent of freshwater wetland habitat projects. This study would identify the relationship of these wetlands habitats at park areas throughout Jamaica Bay and the appropriate habitat restoration that should occur.

Natural resource protection and restoration efforts in the Jamaica Bay Unit would focus on softening hardened coastal edges, restoring wetland and coastal habitats, and creating additional freshwater wetlands. Increased use would be balanced with additional monitoring and management of wildlife and habitats. Conservation measures for threatened and endangered species, such as providing symbolic fencing with posts and signs around nesting birds, establishing buffer zones, and prohibiting certain recreational activities during breeding season would continue across all management zones, as needed.

NPS would work closely with New York City and other landowners to build the resiliency of coastal habitat and to improve conditions along the entire Rockaway coastline. Together the agencies would produce a holistic shoreline management plan that would help guide recovery efforts and future uses and development.

Select historic structures and landscapes would be stabilized, and preserved for recreation, visitor or commercial services, education, and sustainable energy. Creative solutions would be found considered to continue use and adapt to future flooding, storms and other climate change related events. Mobile technology and other innovative media would enrich communication about the park land's history and significance.

Transportation

Through improved bike infrastructure, public transportation, and park shuttles, access to and within Jamaica Bay would be made affordable and convenient to more people. In partnership with its New York City partners, NPS would complete and expand the Jamaica Bay Greenway and trail network. The Jamaica Bay park lands and surrounding communities would also be connected via a system of land-based shuttles as well as water trails, water taxis and ferry service.

Plumb Beach

~~Recreation Zone~~

Natural Zone

Beach/dune habitats would be protected and maintained. Formal trails would be established through the natural area to prevent trampling of vegetation, reduce impacts to wildlife, and



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ensure that restoration efforts are successful. Plantings of native coastal trees and shrubs and well as other techniques would help stabilize eroding natural areas. Some shoreline activities may be restricted to accommodate species of special concern conservation measures.

Plumb Beach would serve as a new orientation portal providing information on sites and activities for the Jamaica Bay park lands. The NPS would work with the NYCDPR New York City agencies to improve connections to outlying neighborhoods and other nearby park lands including Marine Park and Floyd Bennett Field. A water trail to Marine Park and Dead Horse Bay would be explored. Circulation and site improvements would enhance safety and enjoyment of the Jamaica Bay Greenway.

Beach uses would continue including be maintained and improved as a launching site for human-powered boating and wind sports. New visitor amenities such as bathrooms, rentals (bikes and wind sports), and food trucks, and launching areas would be developed. The existing building would be rehabilitated to accommodate administrative uses such as storage and a ranger office. Additionally, the building could be improved to offer limited visitor amenities such as food, restrooms, equipment rentals, and/or supplies for beach recreation (e.g. sunscreen, umbrella rental). The building could be jointly managed by the NPS and New York City.

Natural Zone

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Floyd Bennett Field

Recreation Zone and Community Activity Subzone

Floyd Bennett Field would become a bustling park and Jamaica Bay's premier destination for year-round outdoor recreation, community activities and environmental education. Much of the airfield's currently underused open spaces and structures would be energized and accommodate community events, outdoor recreation, skill development programming, entertainment, and learning. An extensive trail system would cater to hikers, bikers and nature lovers while water trails and launch sites would invite visitors to explore Jamaica Bay on kayaks, canoes, sailboards and other non-motorized boats.

In partnership with others, NPS would develop new recreation opportunities and host a wide range of activities and instructional programming. Recreational uses of the airfield would be offered year-round and cater to a diversity of visitors and skill levels. New opportunities for outdoor skill building (e.g., learn to camp, stargazing) and hands on environmental education would be explored.

The greatest amount and widest spectrum of camping facilities would be developed to attract a variety of overnight users. This diversity of camping opportunities would include instructional programs and equipment rentals to help people build new skills and confidence














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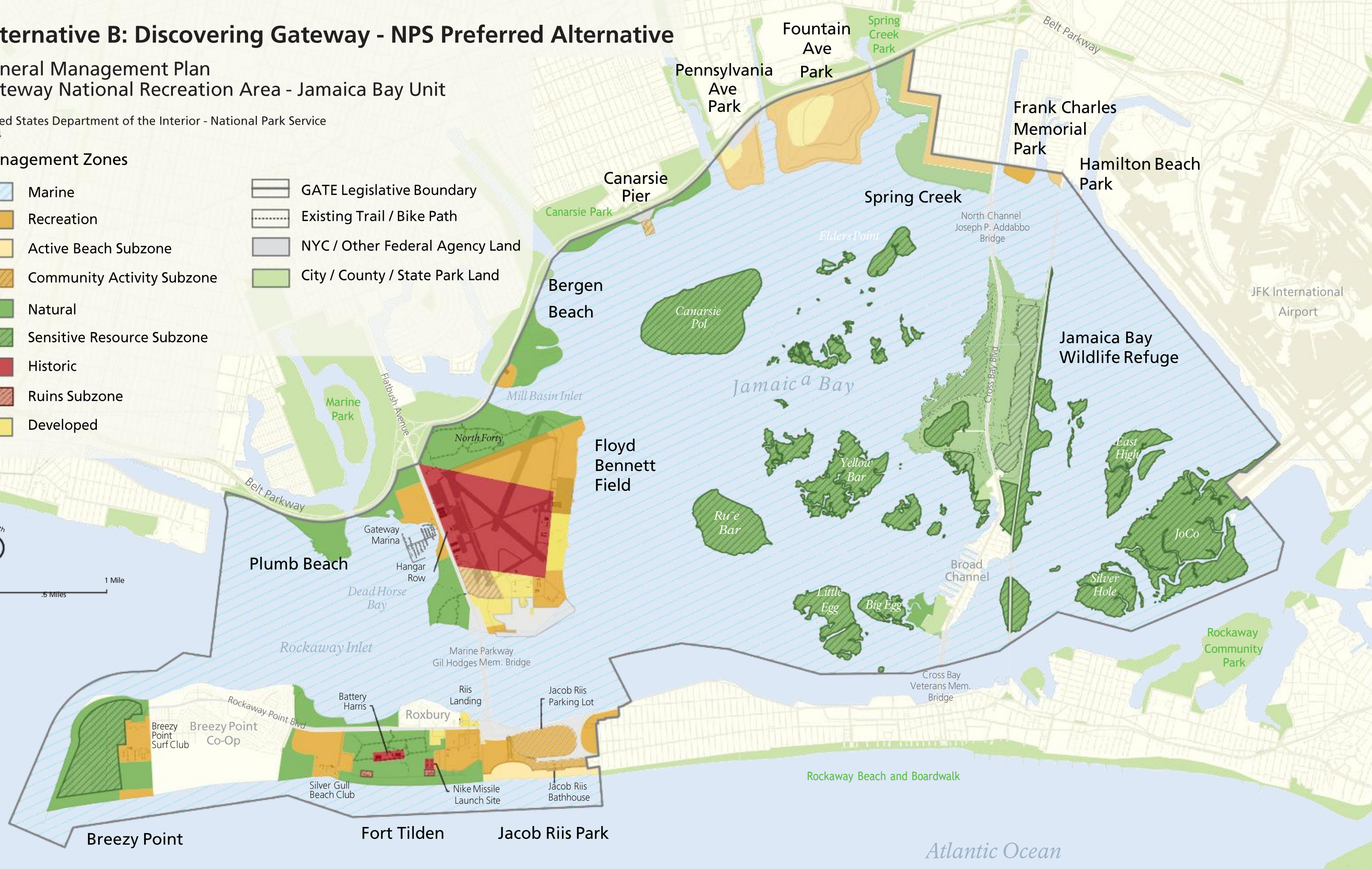
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General Management Plan Gateway National Recreation Area - Jamaica Bay Unit

United States Department of the Interior - National Park Service
2014

Management Zones

- | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
|  | Marine |  | GATE Legislative Boundary |
|  | Recreation |  | Existing Trail / Bike Path |
|  | Active Beach Subzone |  | NYC / Other Federal Agency Land |
|  | Community Activity Subzone |  | City / County / State Park Land |
|  | Natural | | |
|  | Sensitive Resource Subzone | | |
|  | Historic | | |
|  | Ruins Subzone | | |
|  | Developed | | |



in sleeping overnight in the great outdoors. In addition to camping, overnight lodging would be developed explored in cooperation with park partners and to the greatest extent possible, utilize an existing historic building.

An area along Hangar Row Flatbush Avenue would be designated as flexible open spaces intended to accommodate community activity such as picnics and group gatherings, and events. These areas could also be used for community uses such as gardens, markets, educational events and outdoor concerts and performances. Community activity spaces would be primarily located along Flatbush Avenue. Hangar B would be rehabilitated for an entertainment venue. Future uses of Hangar B would continue to be explored and may include the rehabilitation of the hangar and site for an entertainment venue.

With more miles of hiking and biking trails throughout Floyd Bennett Field and new signs, maps, multiple trailheads and a variety of trail features, Floyd Bennett Field would accommodate different skill levels and user groups. Connecting the airfield's main visitor facilities and internal trail network with the Jamaica Bay Greenway would ensure convenient trail access to the park.

The arrival sequence to the park would be improved with increased access to the airfield's main visitor facilities off Flatbush Avenue. Through improved circulation and way finding signs, a more welcoming sense of arrival would be established near the Ryan Visitor Center. Improved wayfinding, interpretive and orientation facilities and materials would orient visitors to the resources that can be found throughout Jamaica Bay and Gateway.

Improved transportation infrastructure would likely be divided between the Recreation Zone and the Developed Zone. Floyd Bennett Field would be established as the most accessible park in the Jamaica Bay Unit, and the airfield would serve as a multi-modal transportation hub developed to provide transportation access and visitor distribution (via public transportation, shuttles, bikes, water taxis, etc.) to park lands throughout Jamaica Bay.

Marine Zone

The marina park would offer more public uses, including boat rentals, water-based recreation, and boating/sailing lessons. The enhanced marina area would serve as the Jamaica Bay unit's primary portal for experiencing the bay by water. The marina would serve as a water-based access point for ferries, water taxis, and other boats. Guided interpretive boat tours as well as a designated water trail would encourage people to explore the airfield and other Jamaica Bay resources from the water. Additionally, greater shoreline access and several launch sites for human-powered boats (e.g. kayak, canoe) would create more boating and fishing opportunities.

Natural Zone

Habitats would be managed to improve resilience and healthy environments as part of the larger Jamaica Bay system. The restoration of freshwater and saltwater wetland habitat would be explored in portions of the North Forty natural area and along the shoreline. The shoreline would return to natural (soft) conditions through the removal of bulkheads and other hardened structures and allow natural sediment transportation processes to occur. The



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park would explore the development of a wetlands interpretive center with partners. This center would highlight fresh and saltwater wetland environments and may include an interpretive and environmental education center, trails and boardwalks, outdoor classrooms, observation facilities, interpretive media and educational exhibits.

Upland forest management would continue within areas of the North Forty not designated for wetland habitat, and expanded visitor use in the North Forty would be compatible with the protection of the remaining species-rich forest. Grasslands habitat would be managed and maintained for grassland birds.

Nature-based recreation and environmental education programming would be expanded. Along soft-surface trails, people would encounter facilities such as blinds, scopes, observation decks, and boardwalks. Along with interpretive materials, these facilities would be designed to facilitate nature study, wildlife observation, and immersion in a natural setting. Environmental education programming, as well as guided tours, would feature equipment rental facilities (e.g., bike, binocular, or tent rentals) developed to allow visitors to try new activities and to facilitate "gateway" experiences of the outdoors.

Historic Zone

The character-defining cultural landscape elements that reveal the airfield's historic municipal period (such as Ryan Center, Hangar Row, and runways) would be preserved and interpreted. The open pattern of the airfield landscape would be preserved through the maintenance of low vegetation and appropriately-scaled recreation facilities. Existing grasslands habitat would be managed and maintained for ecological function and values.

The historic aviation buildings along Flatbush Avenue known as Hangar Row would be rehabilitated for an aviation interpretive center and feature aviation exhibits, aircraft collections, and flexible interior and exterior space and would provide space for community activities, informal gatherings, interpretive programs, and special events. The exterior facades of the historic aviation buildings would be rehabilitated for an aviation interpretive theme. Flexible interior and exterior spaces at the historic aviation buildings along Flatbush Avenue known as Hangar Row would be rehabilitated for an aviation interpretive center and feature aviation exhibits and aircraft collections, and provide space for community activities, informal gatherings, interpretive programs, special events or other uses. The historic plane collection would be relocated from Hangar B to Hangar Row. The expansive views of the bay and orientation to the airfield's cultural landscape would be enhanced by elevated areas such as the Ryan Center tower, a tethered balloon, or other related facilities.

Developed Zone

The eastern and southern portion of the airfield would accommodate a variety of visitor and/or commercial services, transportation infrastructure, and operations and maintenance facilities. Uses in this zone would complement other uses on the field.

Visual shields would block views from maintenance and other functions, reducing impacts from these uses on visitors. Circulation throughout the airfield would be improved for operations, especially trucks and vehicles traffic. A separate access entrance would be

designated for commercial, operational and maintenance vehicles that allows for direct access to the Developed Zone. Dilapidated and underutilized buildings in this zone may be demolished and the spaces would either be reused to accommodate operations and maintenance or restored as natural habitats.

The park would explore development of alternative energy and opportunities for more sustainable operations, including waste management. A new composting facility that processes food waste, vegetation, and other organic matter from concession stands, restaurants, groceries and other sources in and around the park and local vicinity would be considered.

Bergen Beach

Recreation Zone

New connections would be explored from Bergen Beach to McGuire Park, Paerdegat Basin Park, Eco Park and Flatlands, Bergen Beach and Mill Basin neighborhoods. A new water trail would be developed to Paerdegat and Mill Basin inlet. Vehicular, bicycle and pedestrian access from the Jamaica Bay Greenway and Belt Parkway would be improved.

The NPS would maintain equestrian use and facilities. The NPS would work with the concession-run business to reduce impacts on the area's habitats through the designation of equestrian trails and improved signs and wayfinding. The park would be open to additional types of visitor uses in addition to equestrian uses and new facilities would be developed to accommodate expanded uses. Such facilities could include trails and picnic areas. A trail would be developed that provides access to the bay for fishing, walking and nature study. Additionally, the park could serve as another destination for water-based sports and provide launching sites, storage, shuttles, and equipment rental.

Natural Zone

Visitor uses would be expanded to include nature-based recreation opportunities. The condition of coastal habitats would be improved through increased restoration efforts as well as more tightly controlled visitor use. Bioengineering techniques would be used to stabilize eroding natural areas with plantings of native coastal trees and shrubs. Beach/dune habitats along with fringe wetlands would be protected and maintained. Visitor and equestrian use would be limited to designated trails to prevent trampling of vegetation, reduce impacts to wildlife and ensure restoration efforts are successful.

Canarsie Pier - Common to Both Action Alternatives

Recreation Zone – Community Activity Subzone

Canarsie Pier would become a vibrant destination for community-oriented events as well as water-related recreational activities. This site would serve as a new orientation portal for the Jamaica Bay park lands and Gateway. Given the park's close proximity to New York City's Canarsie parks, NPS would work closely with NYC agencies on programming, transportation and other management issues.



Visitor uses would be expanded to include nature-based recreation opportunities. The condition of coastal habitats would be improved through increased restoration efforts as well as more tightly controlled visitor use.



The former landfills at Pennsylvania Avenue and Fountain Avenue would be transformed into new park areas for recreation, community activities and outstanding views of Jamaica Bay.

The pier and its outlying spaces would be improved to better accommodate community events such as concerts, markets, and festivals. Additionally, spaces for picnics and group gatherings would be expanded and enhanced through shade trees and other plantings. The existing contact station could be adaptively reused to support community use and to provide expanded visitor amenities. Along the coast on either side of the pier, the NPS and its partners would develop improved spaces for fishing, kayaking, and other human-powered watercraft. Improvements would include lessons and a designated instructional and beginner paddling zone as well as equipment rentals.

Canarsie Pier would serve as another Jamaica Bay hub for waterborne transportation and water trail connections to other park lands. A launch site would provide access to a designated water trail for human-powered boat exploration. Additionally, ferry and/or water taxis access would be explored for both transportation and a launch site for guided Jamaica Bay boat tours. The NPS would work with NYC agencies to improve connections from Canarsie Pier to New York City's Canarsie Park and to improve trail linkages to the Jamaica Bay Greenway.

Natural Zone

Restoration projects to the east and west of the pier would strive to create a healthy shoreline habitat and an intertidal area. Signs, trails, and clear beach and water access points would be developed in order to control visitor traffic and minimize disturbance to the coastal habitat.

Pennsylvania Avenue and Fountain Avenue Parks

Recreation Zone

The former landfills at Pennsylvania Avenue and Fountain Avenue would be transformed into new park areas for recreation, community activities and outstanding views of Jamaica Bay. Former service/haul roads at each park would be converted into a multi-use trail system. Facilities such as viewing platforms and/or overlooks would offer ~~distance~~ distant views of Jamaica Bay. New visitor amenities such as restrooms, orientation and gathering areas would be developed. At the Pennsylvania Avenue Park, the NPS and partners would explore the potential of establishing a ferry portal and/or water taxi stop and would develop a launch site for human-powered watercraft. Physical connections between each of the areas and their neighboring communities as well as nearby park sites would be improved. **Natural areas would be maintained and/or improved.**

Developed Zone

Renewable energy development, such as solar, would be explored at both Pennsylvania Avenue and Fountain Avenue Parks. Additionally, areas for recreational activities and community activities would be provided. At Fountain Avenue **Landfill Park**, the NPS would explore the potential of a community gathering space with associated facilities that could accommodate **events such as** outdoor concerts and performances.

Frank Charles Park - Common to Both Action Alternatives

Recreation Zone

Existing recreation uses at Frank Charles Park would be maintained and continued and the park would remain an active community destination. The NPS and NYCDPR would work closely together on programming and other management issues at Frank Charles Park. As existing facilities are in need of replacement, NPS would develop shaded and flexible gathering areas as well as creative play structures for youth. Water access from the park to Jamaica Bay would be improved with trails, fishing access and boat launching/landing sites. Fringe wetlands would be protected and habitat along the shoreline improved.

Hamilton Beach Park - Common to Both Action Alternatives

Recreation Zone

Hamilton Beach Park would continue to provide open space and outdoor recreation opportunities for the communities outlying the park. New shaded picnic areas would be created in order to improve community-gathering areas. Water access from the park would be improved with trails, fishing access and boat launching/landing sites. Fringe wetlands would be protected and habitat along the shoreline improved.

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge - Common to Both Action Alternatives

Natural Zone and Sensitive Resources Area Subzone

The refuge would remain a popular destination for nature study, environmental education and nature-based interpretation while offering considerably more opportunities for nature-based and water-based activities recreation. Habitats at Jamaica Bay Wildlife refuge would be protected and maintained. Habitats would be managed to support a diversity of migratory birds. Migratory bird identification, counting and research would be increased. Monitoring and conservation measures for migrating birds would continue to be a priority.

Programming at the refuge would be expanded with an emphasis on engaging youth and families. In partnership with other, NPS would pilot a series of educational and stewardship experiences and programs that could be replicated in other areas. Efforts would also be made to tie the refuge programmatically into other park sites within the bay and their environmental education and nature activities so that complementary programs are offered across the bay. An expanded network of trails, boardwalks and nature study facilities (e.g. scopes, blinds, observation decks) would facilitate self-guided exploration as well as interpretive tours and educational programming throughout the Natural Zone.

Multi-modal transportation to and from the refuge would be improved. Greenway connections would link the refuge with Sunset Cove Park and other NYCDPR and NPS sites. Water-based shuttles could physically tie programming at Jamaica Bay Refuge with the proposed wetlands interpretive center at Floyd Bennett Field and other environmental and interpretive facilities ringing the Bay.

The refuge would remain a popular destination for nature study, environmental education and nature-based interpretation while offering considerably more opportunities for nature-based and water-based recreation.



Marine Zone

Water quality would be improved throughout the Marine Zone. Aquatic and benthic habitat restoration projects would continue to be studied, explored and implemented with partners.

The refuge would also be established as a portal for accessing Jamaica Bay waters. Additional water-based interpretive and recreation facilities would be developed including water trails, kayak instructional programming, equipment rental, offshore docks and additional landing/launch sites. NPS would work closely with NYCDPR to improve Sunset Cove Park and other areas as access points for water-based exploration of the refuge and Jamaica Bay waters. A designated water trail that hugs the shoreline with several launching points would allow visitors to venture into the bay and experience many of Jamaica Bay Unit's districts from the water. Primitive camping may be permitted on Canarsie Point and would be limited to NPS (or partner) guided camping trips. Water-based shuttles could physically tie programming at Jamaica Bay Refuge with the proposed wetlands interpretive center at Floyd Bennett Field and other environmental and interpretive facilities ringing the Bay.

Spring Creek

Recreation Zone

Spring Creek would serve as a new orientation portal for the Jamaica Bay park lands and provide access to the bay. New facilities would be developed to invite recreational use and to promote exploration of the Spring Creek area. Proposed new facilities would include trailheads and parking areas, orientation kiosk, trails, and picnic areas. Facilities to encourage water access would also be developed such as boat launch and landing sites, observation deck, and fishing access areas. A multi-use trail network would be established and would facilitate recreation within the park and improve neighborhood connections to outlying park sites and communities. Connections to the Jamaica Bay Greenway would be improved.

Natural Zone

Efforts to control and eradicate *Phragmites* and other invasives would be increased and complemented by native plantings. Monitoring and assessment of the saltmarsh and forested areas would be ongoing and these habitats would be restored, protected, and maintained to improve resiliency. To prevent trampling of vegetation, reduce impacts to wildlife and ensure restoration efforts are successful, social trails would be eliminated and access would be limited to designated trails. Water access would also be developed such as boat launch and landing sites, observation deck, and fishing access areas.

Jacob Riis Park

Recreation Zone, Active Beach and Community Activity Subzones

Jacob Riis would be transformed into a multi-season community activity area and a destination for both beach and water-based recreation. The park would attract and invite more community use and water-based and beach recreation with expanded facilities for

A wide variety of water-based recreational experiences, from traditional beach uses at a guarded swim beach, to learn-to-swim programming, splash parks, and a water skills park appropriate to the coastal location would be offered.



community activities such as shaded picnic areas, sports fields, and more educational, arts, and entertainment programming.

A wide variety of water-based recreational experiences, from traditional beach uses at a guarded swim beach, to learn-to-swim programming, splash parks, and a water skills park appropriate to the coastal location would be offered explored. The parking lot would be redesigned to potentially accommodate sports fields, courts, camping, an entertainment venue, transportation, as well as flexible open spaces for group gatherings. Physical connections between Jacob Riis and the other park lands on the Rockaway Peninsula would be improved through a shuttle, linkages to public transportation, and bike infrastructure.

The Jacob Riis bathhouse would be rehabilitated to accommodate visitor and community uses such as performances and events as well as group gatherings while providing a shaded indoor space and basic amenities for beach goers. Interpretive programming at the site and digital media would be expanded to communicate the story of the bathhouse, recreation on the Rockaways as well as climate change. Any offices, restaurant, or more permanent uses would be relocated to the second floor of the building. The boardwalk and other cultural landscape features associated with the bathhouse would be maintained (with the exception of the parking lot as noted above). The NPS would use portable and mobile facilities to the extent possible to meet visitor needs (e.g. mobile equipment rentals, food trucks).

Fort Tilden

Recreation Zone

Fort Tilden would become a destination for natural and cultural immersion activities. New overnight options, expanded programming and recreation opportunities would promote the Rockaway park lands as a premier multi-day excursion. The parade ground post area would become the hub for lodging and activities that supports the recreation and interpretive uses of Fort Tilden. Select rehabilitated buildings would provide overnight accommodates accommodations and visitor amenities needed to support overnight stays such as food service and equipment rentals. A variety of camping opportunities and support facilities would be developed including instructional programs and equipment rentals. Any new construction or substantial investment in rehabilitation at Fort Tilden will only be made, however, after evaluating whether these investments are located within the 100-year floodplain adjusted for sea level rise, and whether that investment within the flood zone could be avoided. Any improvements that are necessary within the flood zone will be designed to maximize flood resiliency.

The trails network throughout Tilden would be expanded and some trailheads and segments of the trails would be located within the Recreation Zone. Equestrian uses and facilities would be explored. Flexible open spaces would accommodate group gatherings as well as informal, recreation such as picnicking and an. Additionally, the parade ground area becomes the park's staging area for instructional programming, equipment rentals, and guided tours. The buildings would continue to accommodate community groups and other compatible uses. and could support additional interpretive exhibits and educational programming in the future.

The trails network throughout Tilden would be expanded and some trailheads and segments of the trails would be located within the Recreation Zone.



The Silver Gull Beach Club use would be maintained. Public use of the beach club would be expanded to include water-based and beach recreation opportunities such as educational and interpretive programming and guided kayak tours and lessons.

Natural Zone

Coastal habitats and processes would be restored, protected and monitored. Habitat value of the Rockaway Inlet side of Fort Tilden would be studied and coastal habitat and wetland projects would be initiated, where appropriate. Opportunities for environmental education programming and nature study would be promoted.

The ocean and bay shorelines would offer a natural coastal experience more than other Gateway beaches. Appropriate access points and visitor amenities would be developed to support increased beach use. An improved trail system with trailheads and a robust backcountry trail experience along designated routes would invite exploration of Tilden's natural environments and cultural resources. Tent camping and appropriate support facilities would be introduced for overnight stays within the Natural Zone.

Historic Zone

Fort Tilden would be the primary location for interpreting Gateway's coastal defense story within the Jamaica Bay Unit. Through enhanced interpretation, the site would offer a greater appreciation for the role of the fort in protecting New York. Battery Harris would be stabilized and the existing overlook would be improved and interpretive media and programming would be expanded. The Nike Missile site would also be stabilized and interpreted. Access to, and interpretation of, these resources would be improved through an expanded trail network, enhanced interpretive media, and increased programming.

Developed Zone

Circulation between Riis Landing and Fort Tilden and other park lands on the Rockaway Peninsula would be improved through shuttles, safer road crossings, and bike infrastructure. Fort Tilden would act as the orientation portal for park lands on the Rockaway Peninsula and provide information on resources and opportunities offered throughout Gateway. Additionally, trailhead and parking areas would feature orientation media. Riis Landing would continue to serve water-based transportation and recreation including as a ferry landing and kayak launch site. More public uses, including boat rentals, water-based recreation, boating/sailing lessons, and fishing access, would be considered on the inlet. Riis Landing and other established access areas would serve as portals for experiencing the bay by water. Guided interpretive boat tours as well as a designated water trail would encourage people to explore the Rockaway Peninsula and Jamaica Bay. The buildings at Riis Landing would be adaptively reused and leased for community and other uses. Operations moved from the Nike Missile Site at Fort Tilden would be relocated to Riis Landing or other locations within the Jamaica Bay Unit.



Breezy Point Tip - Common to Both Action Alternatives

Recreation Zone and Active Beach Subzone

The Breezy Point Surf Club use would be maintained. Public use of the beach club would be expanded to include water-based and beach recreation opportunities such as educational and interpretive programming and guided kayak tours and lessons.

Natural Zone and Sensitive Resources Area Subzone

Breezy Point Tip remains a natural area open to limited nature-based recreation. Habitats would be maintained, protected and enhanced through monitoring and restoration projects. Monitoring and conservation measures for threatened and endangered species would continue to be a priority. Conservation measures for threatened and endangered species, such as providing symbolic fencing with posts and signs around nesting birds, establishing buffer zones, and prohibiting certain recreational activities during breeding season would continue. Efforts to control and prevent invasive species in the freshwater wetland areas would be increased.

Fishing In the Natural Zone, fishing access would be maintained. The area would continue to offer a quiet, natural immersion experience. NPS would with partners to offer limited environmental education and natural resource stewardship volunteer opportunities.

Sandy Hook Unit

Recreation and Visitor Experience

Sandy Hook would remain a popular beach recreation destination where visitors find a variety of opportunities to have fun and enjoy the natural environment. New and expanded trails, boating launch sites, camping facilities and interpretive programs facilitate the coastal experience. Connections with neighboring communities including orientation, land and water trail systems, and linkages to related interpretive sites would provide for a richer experience at Sandy Hook.

Resource Management

Protection and restoration of the beach dune community as well as forest, shrub and wetland habitats at Sandy Hook would be increased in this alternative. To reduce impacts on these sensitive and rare habitats, access would be tightly controlled and restricted in some cases. Aggressive control of invasive species, strengthening healthy communities and repairing beach erosion would be management priorities. Additionally, research and monitoring of the unit's habitats would be increased.

With its lighthouse, lifesaving station, and long coastline, Sandy Hook would emerge as Gateway's focal point for maritime heritage interpretation. The preservation of these iconic structures along with expanded programming, activities, and interpretive media would engage visitors in the park's maritime story.

Sandy Hook remains a popular beach recreation destination where visitors find a variety of opportunities to have fun and enjoy the natural environment. New and expanded trails, boating launch sites, camping facilities and interpretive programs facilitate the coastal experience.

Preservation and protection of threatened and endangered species would continue through monitoring and enforcement and would be balanced with additional recreational opportunities. The monitoring and conservation measures for threatened and endangered species would continue to be a priority and occur throughout all management zones.

Transportation

A variety of transportation systems would be developed to make Fort Hancock and the entire Sandy Hook peninsula more convenient to access. Within Fort Hancock, ferry service would be expanded to include summer weekdays, shoulder seasons and special events. Additionally a seasonal water ferry/taxi connection would be explored from other communities and NPS sites. Opportunities to provide private/transient water access and dockage at Sandy Hook would also be evaluated.

A shuttle system would relieve parking issues and traffic congestion and provide convenient access to the park. The shuttle would collect visitors from surrounding towns, transportation stops and the ferry terminal and drop them off at Sandy Hook's beaches and activity nodes. Opportunities would be explored with partners to extend public transit service into Sandy Hook, and initiate a transit shuttle to connect the Highlands. Interpretive media would be incorporated into both the on ferry service and/or internal landside shuttle system.

An expanded multi-use path network would traverse more of the peninsula and accommodate cross-island travel so people could explore both the ocean side and the bay side. Designated on-street bike routes from the Highlands would connect with regional trails serving the park unit. Bike access would be encouraged to/from and within Sandy Hook, with bike rental stations at parking facilities near the park entrance and within the park.

Parking options would be evaluated for remote intercept parking lot(s) outside of the Sandy Hook boundary with transit shuttle and/or bicycle connections provided into the park. Advanced traveler information systems would be improved with partners.

Recreation Zone and Active Beach Subzone

Active beach recreation, including swimming on lifeguarded beaches, would continue. The location and size of these areas could change in the future depending on changes along Sandy Hook's Atlantic coastline. Visitor services and facilities would be redesigned to be more resilient to storms and flooding. At North Beach, expanded and improved facilities would be able to accommodate more Fort Hancock use.

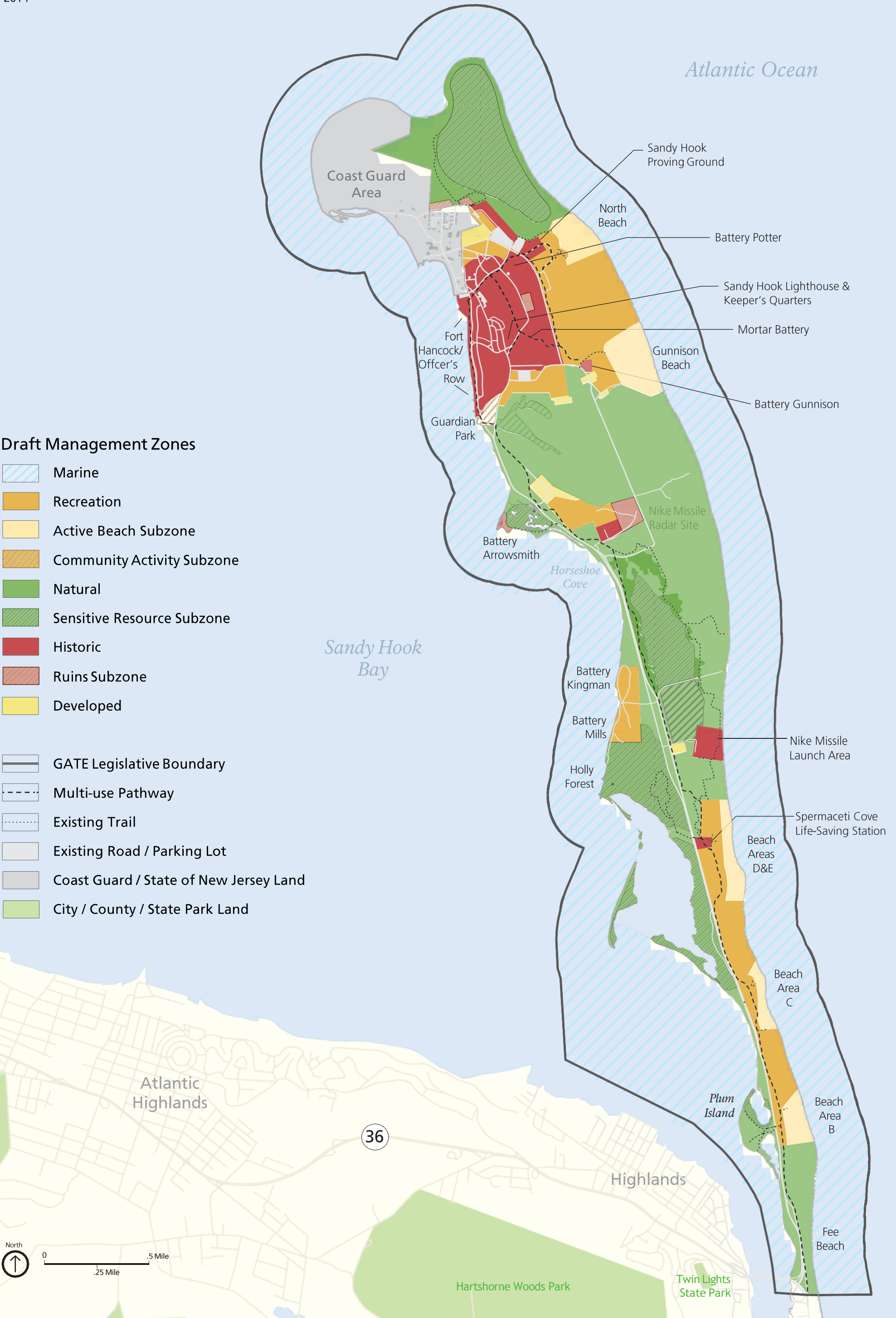
The Kingman and Mills batteries area would be developed as a recreation activity center. Trails would extend from the batteries allowing for exploration of the bayside shoreline and inland natural environments. The batteries would also serve as a launch site for water-based exploration with equipment rentals, instructional programming, piers, and launch sites. Also, guided programming, interpretive media, and exhibits would reveal the history of the batteries. Finally, the batteries and coastal landscape could also accommodate camping. Additional camping opportunities would be explored at several locations within the Recreation Zone.

Alternative B: Discovering Gateway - NPS Preferred Alternative

General Management Plan

Gateway National Recreation Area - Sandy Hook Unit

United States Department of the Interior - National Park Service
2014



Historic Zone

The Fort Hancock Area would become a premier New Jersey shore destination for outdoor recreation and historic interpretive experiences. The widest variety of potential adaptive reuses for the Fort Hancock buildings would be considered such as, but not limited to, ranging from lodging, to restaurants, conference space, and offices. The cultural landscape within the Fort Hancock area would be maintained. Areas within the cultural landscape would be rehabilitated to function as flexible open space areas for relaxation, gatherings, picnics, and community events. The Sandy Hook Lighthouse and Spermaceti Cove Life Saving Station would be preserved.

Nike Missile Launch and Radar Site would be stabilized and interpreted. New opportunities for guided and self-guided exploration of the area would be created. Batteries Potter, Gunnison, McCook and Reynolds (Mortar) would be preserved and interpreted through guided tours and/or interpretive media. Additional batteries within the Fort Hancock area would be stabilized, opened to visitor access and interpreted, including off site through digital media and/or exhibits.

Natural Zone and Sensitive Resource Subzone

Habitat conditions of the forest, shrub, and wetland habitats would be improved. Current natural resource management practices would be maintained and protection, research, and monitoring of sensitive habitat areas like the beaches on the northern tip and the maritime forest would be increased. The mosaic of coastal habitats would provide unique opportunities for experiencing and learning about natural systems and native plant communities.

A variety In the Natural Zone, a variety of natural immersion experiences would be created to increase visitor awareness and enjoyment of the natural environments including nature study, wildlife viewing, camping, and instructional programming.

Marine Zone

Water quality would be improved throughout the Marine Zone. Aquatic and benthic habitat restoration projects would continue to be studied, explored and implemented with partners.

Sandy Hook would be a popular recreation area for boating, wind sports as well as water-based interpretation and nature study. Water-based recreation would be encouraged through expanded guided tours via boat or kayak. Interpretive boat tours could link Sandy Hook physically and thematically with other NPS and local sites. Additionally, NPS would offer more instructional programming to introduce people to these sports and to build skills. This could include swimming, surf, kite boarding and kayaking lessons. Additionally, instructional and/or beginner zones would be designated offshore in order to create more comfortable learning environments.

A designated water trail focused on Sandy Hook Bay would provide a water-based connection between Fort Hancock, Highlands and the southern portion of the Sandy Hook peninsula. Several launch sites along the bay coastline as well as boat rentals and

Table 2-6. Staten Island Unit - Alternative B - Summary.

Desired Changes	Types of Change	Where Change May Occur
Physical and programmatic connections created to link Gateway sites, New York City parks and neighborhoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> △ Explore new linkages by trails, sidewalks, and paths △ Work with NYC and other partners to introduce new recreational skills and educational and interpretive programs in adjacent parks and communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> △ Fort Wadsworth △ Miller Field △ Great Kills
Orientation portals established to provide information on sites and activities throughout Staten Island	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> △ Improved contact stations, trailheads and parking △ Create distinctive access corridors to parks through art, signs and other visual expression △ Improve signs and wayfinding △ Use virtual and modern technology for orientation and maps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> △ Fort Wadsworth △ Miller Field △ Great Kills
Recreation improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> △ New picnic and open space areas △ Enhanced multi-use trail systems and connections △ Improved launching areas for human-powered boating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> △ Great Kills △ Fort Wadsworth △ Miller Field
Offer a wide variety of camping opportunities and support areas and services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> △ Create new areas for all types of camping △ Offer special camping programs in places like historic buildings or natural areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> △ Great Kills △ Fort Wadsworth
Connect park sites through trails and paths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> △ Convert former roads into trails △ Improve biking and walking infrastructure and circulation △ Improve access and linkages to NYC Greenway and paths 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> △ Great Kills △ Fort Wadsworth △ Miller Field
Community gathering spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> △ Link athletic use/sports leagues with opportunities for NPS experience △ Accommodate small outdoor concerts and performances △ Create areas for gardens, markets, festivals and other community uses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> △ Fort Wadsworth △ Miller Field
Natural immersion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> △ Create learning opportunities and services for activities such as kayaking and wildlife observation △ Formalize nature trails to bays and waterways for fishing and walking △ Establish overlooks for outstanding/distance views of bays 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> △ Great Kills △ Fort Wadsworth △ Miller Field

Table 2-6. Staten Island Unit - Alternative B - Summary (continued).

Desired Changes	Types of Change	Where Change May Occur
Environmental education	△ Improve or develop places to learn about bay-related resources such as forests and wetlands	△ Great Kills △ Fort Wadsworth △ Miller Field
Formal water trails established	△ Establish new water trails connecting to NYC parks and other Gateway areas	△ Great Kills △ Fort Wadsworth △ Miller Field
Expand access to waterways	△ New boating sites, storage, shuttles, and equipment rental	△ Great Kills △ Fort Wadsworth △ Miller Field

instructional programming at the Kingman and Mills recreation site would support travel along the water trail. An ocean water trail would be developed offshore and would link coastal features and attractions extending from Beach Area B to North Beach. Equipment rentals, boat storage facilities and shuttles at the beaches would facilitate the water-based exploration of Sandy Hook.

A mooring field would be developed within the Sandy Hook Bay. Moorings would encourage day and/or overnight trips to Sandy Hook and allow for greater physical and programmatic connections to other sites within the NY Harbor area as well as nearby New Jersey communities. Within certain Marine Zone areas, access may be restricted, such as Spermaceti Cover waters.

Developed Zone

Within this zone, existing systems, infrastructure and maintenance areas would remain, where appropriate. Location of new facilities would be determined in subsequent planning efforts.

Staten Island Unit

Recreation and Visitor Experience

Improved trailheads and more miles of trail within and between the Staten Island sites as well as picnic areas, camping facilities, and interpreted historic sites would create more recreation opportunities. Opportunities to access and experience Gateway waters would also be increased. Water trails, interpretive boat tours, launch sites, and expanded beach and fishing access would encourage exploration of the coastline and New York Bay. These water trails and guided tours would facilitate paddling from Fort Wadsworth out to Hoffman and Swinburne islands and/or down the coast to Miller Field and Great Kills Park. The NPS would evaluate the possibility of developing overnight accommodations and expanded the locations and types of camping available throughout the Staten Island Unit.

Resource Management

Habitats and current natural resource practices would be maintained including controlling invasive species, planting trees and monitoring beach erosion. Cultural resources would be preserved, stabilized and maintained, where appropriate.

Transportation

Improved public transportation and an expanded greenway, as well as, shuttles between the sites would make access more convenient. Also, bike infrastructure would be developed throughout the unit including a bike-sharing system, maps, and convenient bike parking to encourage more bike use at the parks and provide convenient connections with other Staten Island trail systems. A shuttle system linking the Staten Island Unit park sites with Saint George Ferry Terminal would be considered as a means of promoting sustainable access and a first point of visitor orientation to the Staten Island Unit from those arriving via the Staten Island Ferry.

Fort Wadsworth

Recreation Zone

Fort Wadsworth would become a destination for both outdoor activities and community use and would offer a wide range of recreation facilities as well as interpretive experiences. Expanded trails and interpretation, access to the water, and improved facilities, would enhance opportunities to recreate in a scenic setting amidst the impressive coastal defense batteries. Camping facilities would be expanded and include a variety of different types of camping closer to the coastline and for various skill levels.

A multi-use trail system would be developed that connects to the New York City Greenway (NYC Greenway) and adjacent neighborhoods and cater to different physical capabilities and recreation interests. The NPS would work with NYCDPR to expand the greenway so that it links Fort Wadsworth, Miller Field, and Great Kills Park together. The NPS would work with partners to develop a multimodal transportation system including improved public transit, bike paths, and a shuttle, that would link Fort Wadsworth with the Staten Island Ferry and other areas.

Biking and water-based recreational activities such as kayaking and fishing would be encouraged through instructional programming designed to introduce people to these sports and to build skills. Instructional and/or beginner zones would be designated offshore in order to create more comfortable learning environments. Equipment sharing and rentals would encourage visitors to try new activities and to facilitate "gateway" experiences of the outdoors. (e.g., bikes, binoculars or tent rentals).

Visitor orientation would be improved with new signs and wayfinding, Fort Wadsworth would be more visible and clearly identified as a park welcoming to visitors. A new contact station, possibly at the Gate House or Fort Tompkins, would be developed in order to improve the sense of arrival and better orient visitors through exhibits, media and staff contact.

Fort Wadsworth would become a destination for both outdoor activities and community use and would offer a wide range of recreation facilities as well as interpretive experiences.

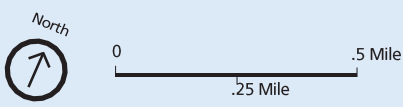
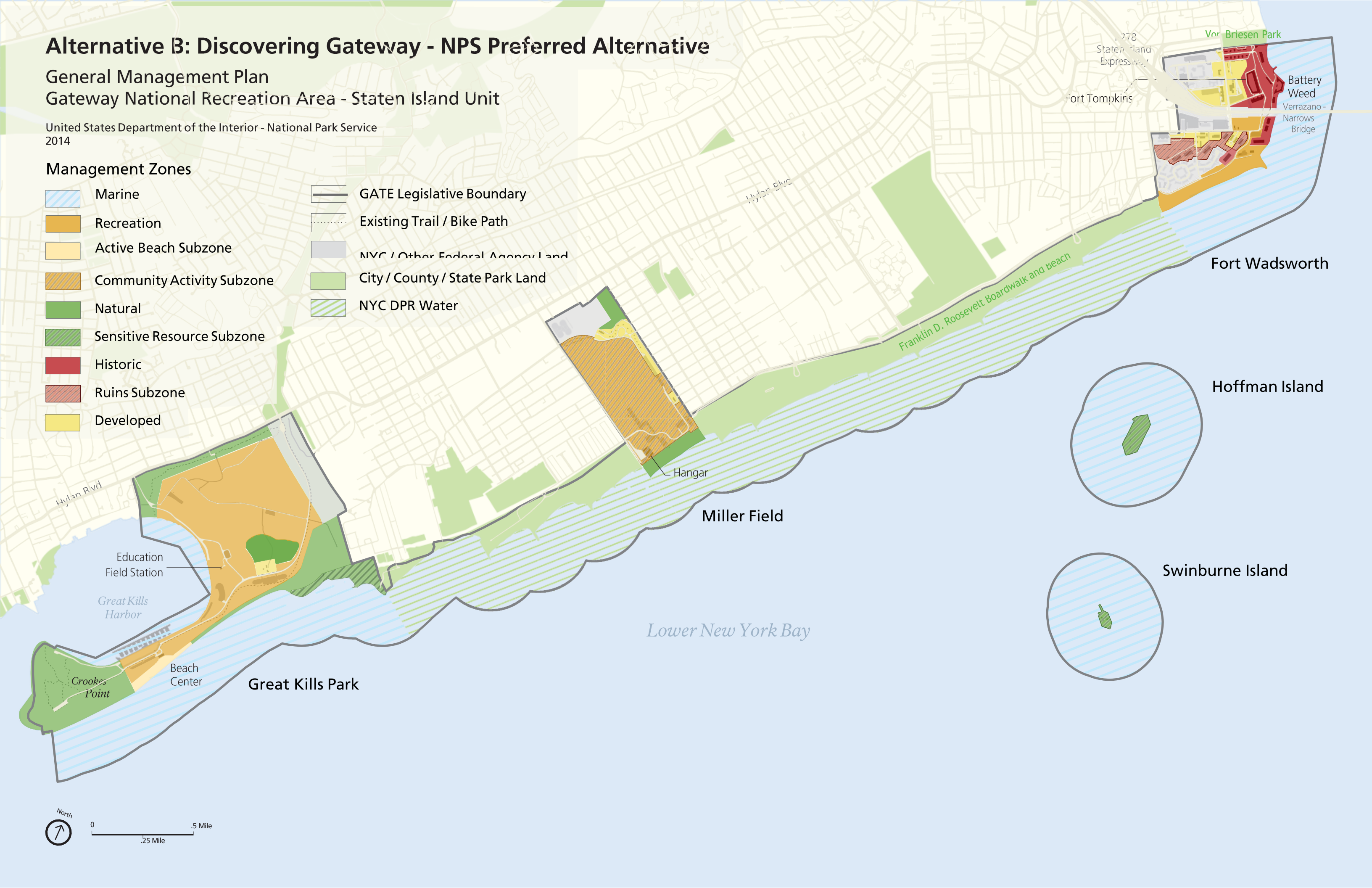
Alternative B: Discovering Gateway - NPS Preferred Alternative

General Management Plan Gateway National Recreation Area - Staten Island Unit

United States Department of the Interior - National Park Service
2014

Management Zones

- | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
|  | Marine |  | GATE Legislative Boundary |
|  | Recreation |  | Existing Trail / Bike Path |
|  | Active Beach Subzone |  | NYC / Other Federal Agency Land |
|  | Community Activity Subzone |  | City / County / State Park Land |
|  | Natural |  | NYC DPR Water |
|  | Sensitive Resource Subzone | | |
|  | Historic | | |
|  | Ruins Subzone | | |
|  | Developed | | |



Historic Zone

At Fort Wadsworth, interpretive programming and media related to the fundamental resources would be increased, allowing for a more in-depth and richer experience of the site's cultural defense resources and cultural landscapes. Battery Weed and Fort Tompkins would be preserved and open to more regular visitor use. Public access to both forts would be increased and interpretive programming of these resources would be expanded. The Battery Weed seawall would be repaired and fortified to protect the resource from storm surges. Additional batteries would be stabilized and their unique features incorporated into the recreational and interpretive trail system. A new "Coastal Defense Trail" would be developed among the batteries and offer expanded interpretation and up close experiences of the coastal defense resources. Additional foot trails would also be re-established at Fort Tompkins. The character-defining features of Mont Sec and New York Avenue would be preserved and both avenues would be incorporated into the visitor experience of Fort Wadsworth through improved wayfinding, signage and interpretation.

Natural Zone and Marine Zone

Natural resource protection of offshore habitats would be maintained within the Marine Zone. In cooperation with partners, NPS would take recommended measures to improve water quality within the bay and Hudson River.

Opportunities for water-based recreation would be greatly expanded at Fort Wadsworth. These activities would include greater fishing access, a coastal water trail extending to Great Kills and the islands, human-powered boat launch sites, and equipment rental. From Fort Wadsworth, a water trail would lead out to an offshore dock positioned nearby Hoffman and Swinburne Islands for distant wildlife observation.

Hoffman and Swinburne islands would remain natural areas. The wildlife and habitat value would be monitored and studied. NPS would explore the possibility of creating guided tours for limited visitor use. Through guided tours or self-guided boat trips along a marked water trail, visitors could gain greater access to the islands. NPS would explore the feasibility of developing a dock on Hoffman in order to allow visitors on the island. Alternatively, an offshore, floating dock would be developed to accommodate distant wildlife observation. In particular, the impact of increased use of the islands would be monitored and the degree of access adjusted as needed.

Sensitive Resource Subzone

Hoffman and Swinburne islands would be managed for their natural and cultural resources and no visitor access would be permitted on either island. The island's wildlife and cultural resources would be viewed from the water.

Developed Zone

The park's administration and operation functions and facilities would continue at Fort Wadsworth. Park housing would be maintained or adaptively reused to support interpretive programming and other visitor services and/or provide short-term park housing for park

Miller Field would remain a vibrant center for community-based recreation and offer new forms of recreation tailored to youth and their families. Fields designed for a range of sports uses including soccer, softball and pee-wee leagues would be upgraded to better accommodate intensive use.



A wide-variety of water-based recreational experiences from traditional beach uses at a guarded swim beach, to learn-to-swim programming, and kayaking lessons would be offered.

partners and volunteers. The character defining features of Mont Sec and New York Avenue would be preserved and both avenues would be incorporated into the visitor experience of Fort Wadsworth through improved wayfinding signage and interpretation.

Miller Field - Common to Both Action Alternatives

Recreation Zone and Community Activity Subzone

Miller Field would remain a vibrant center for community-based recreation tailored to youth and their families. Fields designed for a range of sports uses including soccer, softball and pee-wee leagues would be upgraded to better accommodate intensive use. In both alternatives, NPS would explore management of the ball fields and sports leagues with another entity. The NPS would explore opportunities to introduce more children and their families to the NPS, and other parks and experiences Gateway offers.

A multi-use Perimeter Trail would circumnavigate the entire park and connect the forest with the bay. Walkability throughout the park would be improved by expanding the width of multi-use paths and retrofitting park roads to slow traffic and include sidewalks or designated bike/walk ways. An active nature-based recreation experience that would appeal to youth and their families (e.g. bike trails/facilities, play features, nature adventure zone) would be offered and complement the sports league use.

The NPS would work with partners to host concerts, performances, tournaments and events. The community gardens would be expanded to accommodate more use. Additionally, the picnic and group gathering around the contact station would be expanded and improved. The hangar area would be redeveloped as a community activity area and could include a picnic pavilion, trailhead, and community event space. The hangar would be stabilized and new uses sought. Future uses of Hangar 38 would continue to be explored and may include the stabilization of the hangar and site for recreation or other compatible uses.

NPS would work with partners to develop more direct public transit routes that serve Miller Field. A bike-sharing terminal at Miller Field would encourage bike travel along the NYC Greenway up to Fort Wadsworth Park, and the NPS would work with partners to establish a designated bike route to Great Kills Park.

Natural Zone and Marine Zone

A kayak launch site, and kayak instructional zone would be developed on Miller Field's coastline. The Miller Field launch site would be an access point to the buoyed interpretive water trail that extends from Fort Wadsworth to Great Kills. The dune habitat along Miller Field's shoreline would be protected and maintained. Formal access points to the beach and shoreline would be established to protect the dune system. Restoration projects would improve habitat in the swamp white oak forest and provide an interpretive and education component.

Developed Zone

The park housing on Miller Field and the Visitor Contact Station would be maintained. Location of maintenance and operations area will be identified upon further study. Maintenance area will be located to complement recreational opportunities.

Great Kills Park

Recreation Zone and Active Beach Subzone and Marine Zone

The Great Kills Harbor would become a destination for a variety of water-based recreational activities. Recreational opportunities such as a ~~marina, kayak concessions, boating,~~ ~~kayaking,~~ water trails, instructional boating zones, sailing lessons, equipment rental, and tours would be offered. The feasibility of “boatels” or other water-based accommodations would be studied. Supporting facilities such as boat storage and other amenities would be appropriately located. A wide-variety of water-based recreational experiences from traditional beach uses at a guarded swim beach, to learn-to-swim programming, and kayaking lessons would be offered. Expanded visitor amenities would be developed in conjunction with the harbor. Circulation and pedestrian access between the beach center and harbor would be improved.

A variety of new ~~nature-themed recreation and~~ camping opportunities would be ~~developed~~ explored at multiple sites throughout Great Kills. RV, structural, walk-in tent, and drive-in tent camping options would be offered. Additionally, flexible open spaces to accommodate picnicking, ~~school groups,~~ discovery zones for youth, and other unstructured recreational activities would be created. The Education Field Station would be enhanced with a trailhead, outdoor classrooms, camping facilities, and a nature playground to create a fun and safe way for youth to connect with nature.

The popular multi-use pathway would be expanded to create a system of looped routes. Internal park trails would also tie into proposed community bike routes and the NYC Greenway. The NPS would coordinate with partners to complete missing pieces of on- and off-street trails and bike routes for connecting Great Kills to Miller Field. Improved bike infrastructure including bike rentals, maps and wayfinding, and bike parking facilities would also encourage park access by bike. Finally, the park would work with partners to determine the feasibility of introducing ferry service to Great Kills Marina that would provide links to other Gateway sites.

Natural Zone and Sensitive Resource Subzone

Current natural resource practices would be maintained including controlling invasives, planting trees and monitoring beach erosion. NPS would work with neighbors and partners to implement solutions for improving resiliency of beach/dune habitat of Great Kills and further east along Staten Island coastline. Habitat restoration efforts would continue on Crooke’s Point.