

Weathering the Storms at the Delaware Water Gap

This past March brought a series of unexpected, vicious winter storms to the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area—a 70,000-acre national park unit on the borders of New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania. The park suffered significant damage including fallen trees, topsoil loss and the destruction of entire trails. Beyond the vast loss of hundreds of hemlock trees and an estimated \$2.6 million worth of trail and infrastructure damage, the storms also exposed the unique water habitats of the park's cold-water streams to sun and invasive species. So strong were the storms, biologists and National Park Service officials fear that the ecological effects could be seen and felt for many years to come.

But, there's good news! Park employees spent the summer season repairing trails, fixing historic buildings and clearing debris. While several popular destinations (like Childs Park, pictured) will remain closed through 2018, most trails are now open.

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Curbing Congestion at Acadia National Park

Already one of the top 10 most-visited national parks in the nation, Maine's Acadia National Park has seen a significant increase in visitation in recent years. Rising visitation leads to issues of overcrowding at popular park destinations and also creates major congestion on the park's roads. The park's traffic, especially along its iconic Park Loop Road, creates a hazard for non-vehicular park visitors and threatens the fragile natural, cultural and historic resources in the park. To combat this issue, Acadia is investing in transportation planning to ensure the park is safe for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles alike.

This past June, Acadia National Park concluded its third public scoping session to collect comments on one possible solution, a proposed parking reservation system for Jordan Pond, Cadillac Mountain and Ocean Drive, three of the park's most popular spots. Over 6,000 NPCA members submitted comments on the plan and NPCA's Northeast Regional Office submitted formal comments in addition to documented research on transportation systems in heavily trafficked national parks across the country.

Top: A car travels to the top of Cadillac Mountain, Acadia National Park ©Aurora Photos | Alamy
Bottom: Cars line up on Acadia's Park Loop Road ©Luckydoor | Dreamstime.

Acadia is investing in transportation planning to ensure the park is safe for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles alike.

The final plan and environmental impact statement are scheduled to be released by the end of 2018. To learn more about Acadia's proposed transportation plan and find updates on this process, visit <https://parkb.it/pepcacadia>.



FIELD REPORT

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And in some extra good news, after a 70-year absence, peregrine falcons successfully nested this year in the Milford Cliffs area of the park (as noted in our last Field Report). While nesting pairs were first reported on these cliffs in the 1940s and 1950s, no active nests had been identified within the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area since then. Park staff are currently monitoring the much-anticipated chicks who are expected to take their first flight any day now.

For the most up-to-date information on trail openings and events at the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, please visit their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/DelWaterGapNPS/>



Above: A Peregrine falcon at home in New Jersey ©Harry Collins | iStock **Below Left:** Fallen tree at Delaware Water Gap ©bgwalker **Below Right:** Closure sign at George W. Childs Park at Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area ©Daniel Freel | New Jersey Herald **Bottom:** John Adams Birthplace, Adams National Historical Park, Quincy, Massachusetts ©George Ostertag | Alamy



Contact our membership department at npca@npca.org or join online at npca.org/give/join. To join NPCA by phone, call us at 1.800.NAT.PARK (1.800.628.7275) between the hours of 9AM and 5PM (ET), Monday through Friday.

JOIN NPCA!

Join NPCA today to help
protect our national parks
for future generations!



Two New Attractions to See at Gateway National Recreation Area

Enjoy a trip to Gateway National Recreation Area's Jamaica Bay unit for a full day of fun with two new exhibits to explore.

In April, the newly refurbished Ryan Visitor Center at Floyd Bennett Field opened to the public for tours and public education programs. The visitor center was fully restored to its original 1930s design when it served as the air terminal station for New York City's first municipal airport. During the Golden Age of Flight, famous pilots such as Amelia Earhart, Wiley Post and Howard Hughes came through Floyd Bennett Field.

Today, you can experience what it was like to take off and land at Floyd Bennett Field in the 1930s by discovering underground tunnels that led flight passengers from the runways to the visitor center terminal. Climb to the top of the air traffic control tower for a breathtaking 360-degree view of New York City and the Atlantic coast.

On a clear day, you can see the Manhattan skyline, Rockaway Peninsula, Brooklyn, Queens, Verrazano Bridge and Sandy Hook, New Jersey. The views alone are worth the visit!

Across the bay, at the heart of Jacob Riis Beach in Rockaway, Queens, resides the Jacob Riis Bathhouse. July 4th marked the grand re-opening of this historic art-deco structure after more than two decades of abandonment. Since 1932, the building served as a place of refuge from the

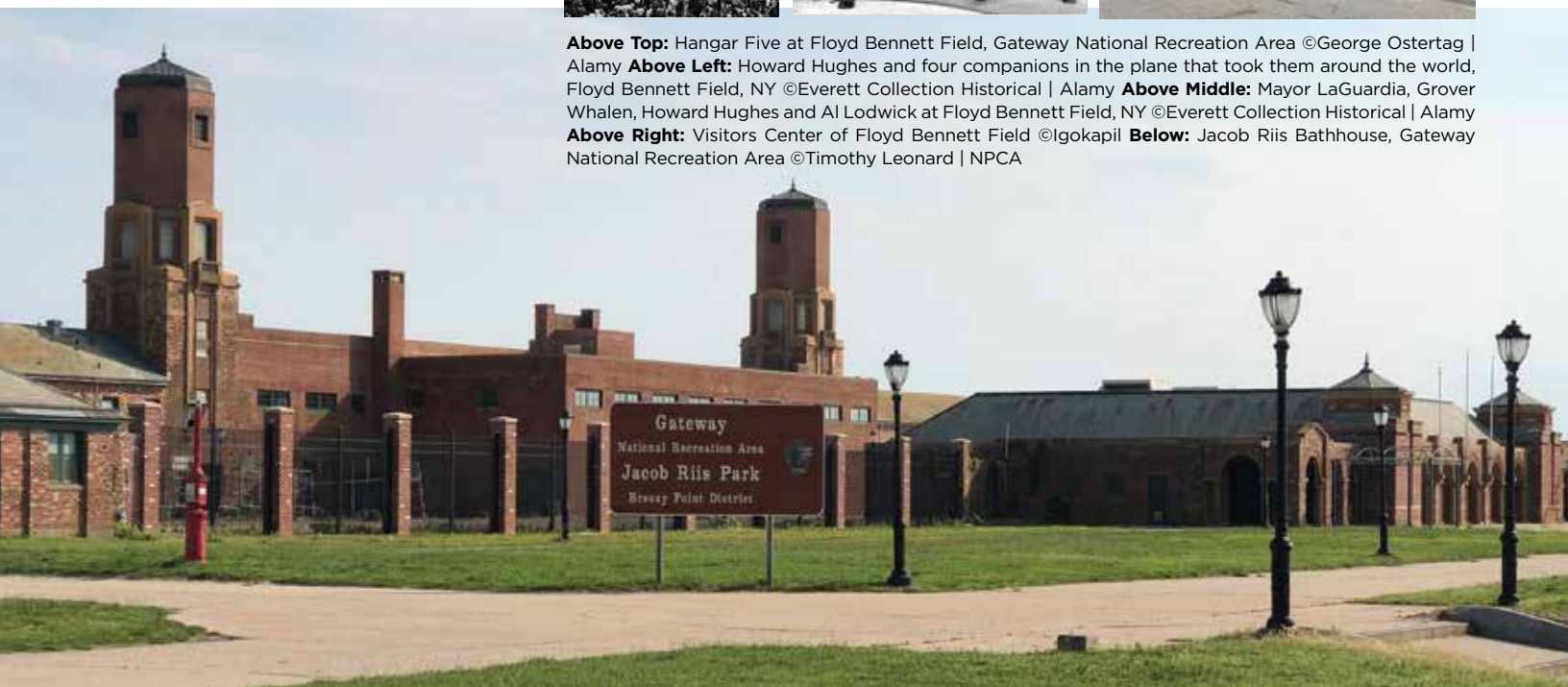
unforgiving sun and sand for New York City beachgoers before being occupied by Navy forces during WWII. When the National Park Service took it over in 1972, the Riis Bathhouse returned to its original use, welcoming beachgoers from every corner of NYC.

Much-needed renovations started on the building in the 1990s, though Tropical Storm Irene and Superstorm Sandy further delayed construction. With this year's

reopening, and after several million dollars in historic restoration work, the bathhouse has sprung back to life, complete with local food vendors, a beer garden, pop-up shops, concerts, overnight camping and a neighborhood volleyball league. Check out what's happening at Riis Park by visiting <http://riisparkbeachbazaar.com/> or experience what it's like to camp at Riis Park with Camp Rockaway. Visit <https://camprockaway.com/> to reserve your tent before it's too late!



Above Top: Hangar Five at Floyd Bennett Field, Gateway National Recreation Area ©George Ostertag | Alamy **Above Left:** Howard Hughes and four companions in the plane that took them around the world, Floyd Bennett Field, NY ©Everett Collection Historical | Alamy **Above Middle:** Mayor LaGuardia, Grover Whalen, Howard Hughes and Al Lodwick at Floyd Bennett Field, NY ©Everett Collection Historical | Alamy **Above Right:** Visitors Center of Floyd Bennett Field ©Ilgokapil **Below:** Jacob Riis Bathhouse, Gateway National Recreation Area ©Timothy Leonard | NPCA



Getting Folksy in Newport, Rhode Island



For the last two summers, HeadCount.org has invited NPCA to take part at Participation Row at the Newport Folk and Jazz Festivals, the storied annual events in Newport, Rhode Island. Participation Row provides an opportunity for concert-goers to engage in the political process on behalf of various causes. At NPCA's booth, we asked visitors to sign a postcard to their U.S. senator or representative calling for full funding of our National Park System. Folks couldn't wait to tell us what national parks they had visited or where their next park adventure might lead them. In turn, we were able to tell them about NPCA's work on the front lines to protect America's national parks and public lands. Over the course of two years, Newport's park-loving concert attendees have taken nearly 2,500 actions in support of parks.

This year, many postcard signers remarked that their senators were reliable park supporters. For these individuals, we asked them to make a different ask of their member of Congress—to support the Restore Our Parks Act (S. 3172) and Restore Our Parks & Public Lands Act (H.R. 6510). These two new pieces of congressional legislation address the dire funding needs of the national park repair backlog. To learn more about this legislation and the \$11.6 billion backlog, check out <https://www.npca.org/issues/ensuring-park-funding>.



Congressional postcard - a message to U.S. Senator Charles Schumer in support of national park funding ©Timothy Leonard | NPCA

If you know of another event or outreach opportunity where NPCA should be present, let us know! Email northeast@npca.org with suggestions and inquiries or to volunteer!

Above: Fort Stage, Newport Folk Festival ©Timothy Leonard | NPCA
Below: Building 5/6, Junior Officers' Quarters, Springfield Armory National Historic Site, built 1870 ©Timothy Leonard | NPCA



Join NPCA for the 4th Annual Northeast National Park Friends Group Convention & Workshop!

November 2-4, 2018
Springfield Armory National Historic Site
 Springfield, Massachusetts

Register and learn more here:
<https://www.npca.org/northeastfriends>

MEET THE INTERNS

Each year, NPCA's Northeast Regional Office hires a handful of interns to assist with our advocacy work. We offer paid intern positions in the New York City area in the fall, spring and summer. If you are interested in applying or want to learn more, contact us at northeast@npca.org.



Jean Kim, NPCA's Stonewall National Monument intern, organized events to celebrate Stonewall's anniversary during NYC Pride and managed a summer volunteer

program at the site. In Jean's words: "I'm a self-proclaimed introvert; I tend to enjoy quiet times in nature. I like to read and listen to music, but my favorite pastime is fishing. Overall, I enjoy working at NPCA because it allows me to do meaningful work." One of Jean's life goals is to visit Alaska and go salmon fishing at Glacier Bay National Park.



A native resident of the Jamaica Bay area, **Stephanos Koullias** represented NPCA on several transportation-related projects at Gateway National Recreation Area. Armed

with degrees in environmental law & policy and regional planning, Stephanos created a bike-share concept plan and spearheaded a study of waterborne transportation options, both for Jamaica Bay. He also assisted in NPCA's outreach to elected officials. Before NPCA, Stephanos established a sustainable waste management nonprofit in New York City.



Zainab Qazi, a student at Duke University, applied her graduate work in environmental economics and policy toward drafting NPCA's comments for Acadia National Park's

transportation plan (see page 1). Joining NPCA as a Fulbright Scholar from Pakistan, she is excited to draw on her experiences with advocacy for national parks and public lands management when she gets back home. In her spare time, Zainab enjoys reading, music and painting.

Q&A with Shirley McKinney, NPS Superintendent, Manhattan Sites



What is your current role and how long have you been with NPS?

I currently serve as the superintendent for nine amazing historic sites in and around Manhattan: African Burial Ground National Monument, Castle Clinton National Monument, Federal Hall National Memorial, General Grant National Memorial, Governors Island National Monument, Hamilton Grange National Memorial, Saint Paul's Church National Historic Site, Stonewall National Monument and Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace National Historic Site. I've been serving the public who visit national parks since 1980 when I was hired as a clerk-stenographer at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. So, I guess that's about 38 years!

Why did you want to work for the National Park Service? To be honest, I never really knew anything about the National Park Service growing up as a kid in Gary, Indiana. We stayed close to home and vacations were always to visit relatives in the South. I learned about the Park Service when I was working as the assistant director for the Disabled Veterans program at the Urban League of Northwest Indiana. My mission was to find employment for disabled veterans and, one day, I stumbled across a job announcement for maintenance positions at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. I decided to check it out and developed a great relationship with the park administrative team who helped me place several clients. I then developed a love for the mission of the Park Service and decided to apply for a position. I was hired to work for the park superintendent, and the rest is history!

Where did you work before becoming superintendent? I have served in several capacities at Gateway National Recreation Area, but prior to that I served as the administrative officer at Mount Rushmore National Memorial and Scotts Bluff National Monument as well as the budget technician and real property clerk at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.

What is the biggest challenge you face? Wow! There are so many challenges, but I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge declining resources, both fiscal and human. Park managers simply do not have adequate resources to provide the level of service that the public expects. I think we do a fine job of stretching our resources, but I feel we could do so much more with proper funding. Another current challenge is undertaking the planning process to develop a park operation and visitor experiences plan for Stonewall National Monument, the only National Park Service site designated for its association with LGBTQ history.

What's your favorite part about the role? I guess I'd have to say that I'm proud to be able to contribute (in a small way) to protecting precious park resources and historic sites for future generations. I also get a big kick out of visiting sister parks and sharing behind-the-scenes stories and hearing how other managers confront their challenges.

What has been your most rewarding work since becoming superintendent for the Manhattan sites? Oh my, I have to go with relocating and rehabilitating Hamilton Grange to St. Nicholas Park (a New York City park). There were so many obstacles that we had to contend with, but it was all worth it now that I reminisce and see the end result.

Do you have a favorite national park memory or experience? My favorite memory is when I transferred to Mount Rushmore. The first drive up the mountain to park headquarters when I saw the "faces" just appear out of nowhere was breathtaking! So much so that I almost drove off the road!

Above: Shirley McKinney
©National Park Service



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area is one of the top 25 most-visited national park units in the country with 3.4 million visitors recorded in 2017. Rich with hiking trails, campgrounds and the beautiful Delaware River, the Delaware Water Gap offers a vast array of natural resources and recreational opportunities for visitors and neighboring communities alike.

**NPCA
AT
WORK**

NPCA's Northeast Regional Office has spent more than a decade working on a wide range of advocacy, research and community engagement projects in the Delaware Water Gap area. Most recently, NPCA's Northeast and Mid-Atlantic teams started a collaborative effort with community organizations and local stakeholders of the Delaware Water Gap to generate interest in local commerce and small businesses around the park. By

organizing monthly roundtable discussions of these various groups from New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania, NPCA hopes to create a unified vision for the partnership to enhance the region as a whole.

To find out more about NPCA's work on the Wild, Scenic Delaware River, visit www.delawareriver.natgetourism.com or email northeast@npca.org

Below: Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area ©Prisma by Dukas Presseagentur | Alamy

