



Gateway National Recreation Area

Jamaica Bay Transportation Studies at

Floyd Bennett Field, Jacob Riis Park, Riis Landing,
and the Former Pennsylvania Avenue and
Fountain Avenue Landfill Sites



Gateway NRA Mission

Gateway NRA was established in 1972 to,
"*...preserve and protect for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations an area possessing outstanding natural and recreational features,*" (16 USC 460(c)). The park has accepted this mission, and seeks to extend its preservation and protection activities beyond its boundaries for the good of the community.



The Future of Gateway NRA and Jamaica Bay

- New opportunities will be offered within the park and by the park's neighbors
- Increased opportunities, and an increasing population, will lead to more visitors at the park
- Despite these changes, Gateway NRA will continue to maintain a park-like atmosphere









The Jamaica Bay Transportation Studies

- Recognize and protect natural, cultural, historical, and recreational resources
- Develop safe and efficient alternatives to provide improved access and circulation to park sites that will allow the park to grow without impacting these resources
- These studies will not reexamine decisions made about the future uses of the study areas







Purpose of this Meeting

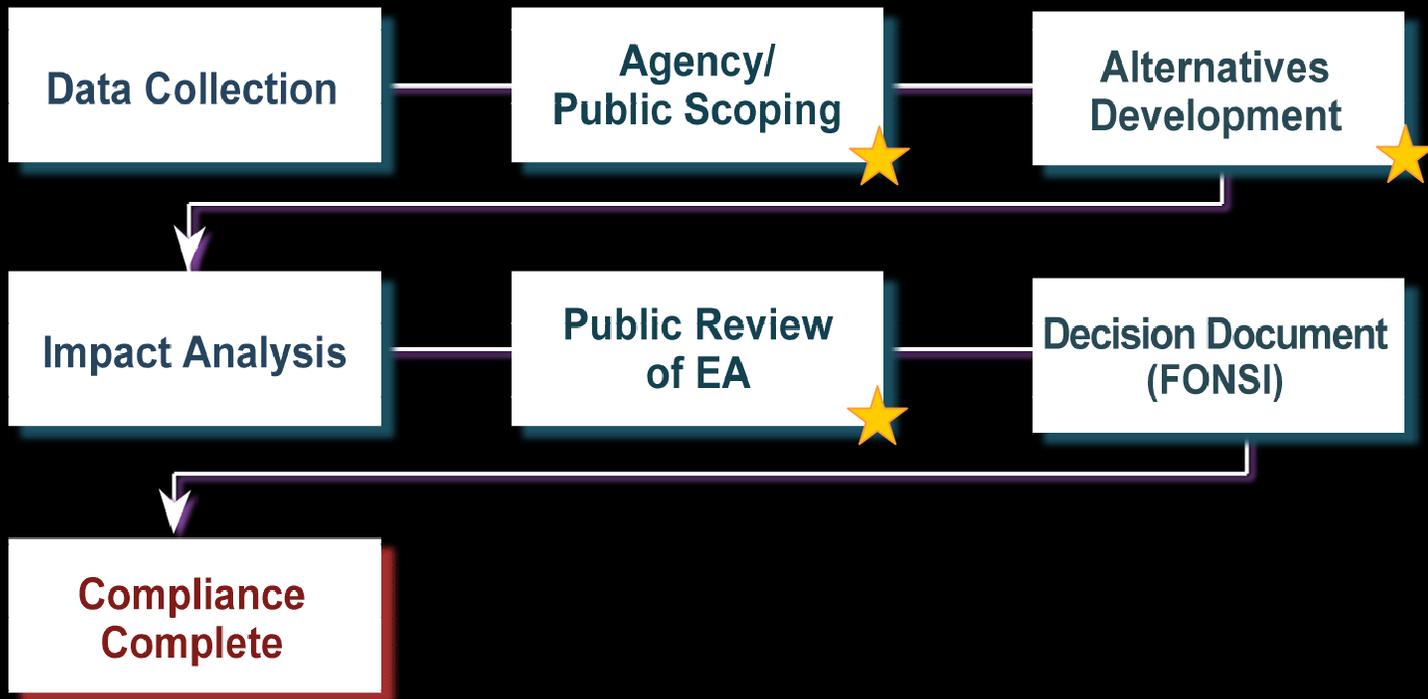


- This meeting is designed to:
 - ▷ Present the purpose and focus of these studies
 - ▷ Present information on existing conditions
 - ▷ Present general ideas for addressing the study areas
 - ▷ Solicit input from government agencies, private groups, and citizens on these study areas, existing conditions, and potential means of addressing these sites





The NEPA Process



★ Opportunity for Public Involvement

Riis Landing





Riis Landing – Current Conditions

- The site remains relatively undeveloped
- NPS uses are limited to fishing, seasonal ferry boat tours, and maintenance operations
- Site is used by a number of other institutions for water access
- Portions of the site are considered to be historic





Riis Landing – Proposed Future Conditions

- The site could be developed to support more regular visitor activities, including a regular ferry service, a bed and breakfast, and/or other visitor services
- The Coast Guard could hand over its portion of the site to the NPS
- Other institutions will continue to rely on the site for water access





Riis Landing – Issues and Concerns

- The site lacks the appropriate access or parking to support increased usage
- The site's historic resources must remain intact
- Proposed alternatives must consider how concession based operations can support development at the site





Riis Landing – Options and Alternatives

- The existing parking and entranceway may be modified to provide more efficient access
- Other local parking areas may be utilized to support the site, including the Jacob Riis parking lot and those in Fort Tilden
- A shuttle service may be needed to connect these parking areas to the site



Jacob Riis Park





Jacob Riis Park – Current Conditions

- The bathhouse is being rehabilitated in preparation for new activities
- Much of the site is considered to be historic
- Access from the east is limited, creating congestion and safety concerns which detract from the park and surrounding neighborhoods





Jacob Riis Park – Proposed Future Conditions

- As the New York City area's population increases, so will visitation to Jacob Riis Park
- New activities at the site will attract more visitors as well, potentially on a year round basis
- Activities in the surrounding area, including Riis Landing, will also attract more visitors





Jacob Riis Park – Issues and Concerns

- Impact of roadway and parking access improvements on neighborhoods
- The site's historic and natural resources must be protected
- Surrounding roads are owned by the city and will require close coordination prior to improvements





Jacob Riis Park – Options and Alternatives

- The gates on the bay side of the parking lot could be opened to provide new access points
- Existing intersections/traffic circles could be made more efficient and safe
- New intersections/traffic circles could be introduced to create more efficient access and circulation through the entire area

Floyd Bennett Field





Floyd Bennett Field – Existing Conditions

- The site is home to a vast array of natural, cultural, and recreational opportunities
- The site is used by a number of different users, some of which are not at the site for recreational purposes
- Because the current entranceway is used by all of the site's users, it creates conditions that detract from the park-like atmosphere



Floyd Bennett Field – Proposed Future Conditions

- A new sports complex will be developed that will operate for extended hours
- The site will continue to be used by multiple users
- The NPS will continue to offer a wide range of opportunities at the site





Floyd Bennett Field – Issues and Concerns

- Any changes to the site must respect its natural, historical, and recreational resources
- The site must continue to provide access for recreational and business users
- Flatbush Avenue is owned by the city and will require close coordination prior to improvements



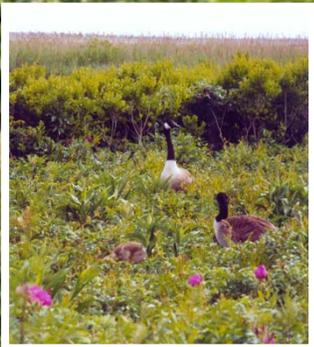


Floyd Bennett Field – Options and Alternatives

- There are multiple entranceways along Flatbush Avenue that are not currently being used. These could be accessed with a new/existing turning lane
- Internal circulation patterns could be altered to redirect other users through the site, reducing the impact on the park-like atmosphere



Fountain Ave. / Pennsylvania Ave. Former Landfill Sites





Former Landfill Sites – Current Conditions

- Sites have been closed and capped by New York City and New York State
- The sites are being landscaped and seeded with vegetation
- There is no permitted public access to these sites
- Upon completion of landscaping, the sites will be turned over to the NPS



Former Landfill Sites – Proposed Future Conditions

- Sites will be maintained by the NPS and open during regular park hours
- The two sites will support a range of native species
- The sites will be open for passive recreation: fishing, hiking, picnicking





Former Landfill Sites – Issues and Concerns

- Development may only occur on previously disturbed areas within the landfill sites
- Access and development must be designed to protect the integrity of the landfill cap
- The surrounding roads are owned by the city and will require close coordination prior to improvements
- Improvements should not adversely impact local or regional traffic patterns



Former Landfill Sites – Options and Alternatives

- The interchanges along the Belt Parkway could be modified to provide direct access to the sites. This is especially true at Pennsylvania Avenue
- Existing local roads could be improved to provide access to the Fountain Avenue site





Study Progress – Already Complete

- Baseline data on existing conditions has been collected, including natural, cultural, and recreational resources, as well as traffic patterns
- Agency coordination has been initiated.
- Initial concepts for addressing the study areas have been developed





Study Progress – Currently

- Initiating public scoping through this meeting, web postings, newspaper postings, and mailings.
- Continuing to refine alternative concepts.
- Continuing to document existing conditions and prepare NEPA documentation.





Study Progress – Through NEPA Process

- Fully develop potential alternatives and display for public review/comment
- Complete Environmental Assessment to analyze the impact of the alternatives and release for 30 day agency/public review
- Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), if appropriate, to complete compliance process





Project Progress – Beyond NEPA Process

- Upon completion of the FONSI, the NPS, with help from FHWA and other partners, can begin to identify and secure federal, state, local, or private funding for these projects
- When funding is secure, construction on selected alternatives may begin
- Construction will begin after 2008





For More Information Please Visit

http://www.epl.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/gateway_studies/

