

## **The Jamaica Bay Institute**

Hosted by the Jamaica Bay Unit of Gateway National Recreation Area

Funding for JBLC began in fiscal year 2002. A research coordinator for JBLC was hired in February and gradual establishment of JBLC has progressed since then.

### **Mission –**

**Lead improved stewardship of the Jamaica Bay ecosystem by connecting people with the environmental consequences of their actions, and creating a bridge between science and decision-making through research and education on the natural and cultural heritage of Jamaica Bay, its present state, and predicted future.**

### **Goals-**

1. To compile, summarize, and disseminate all research conducted on the Jamaica Bay Ecosystem primarily to policy makers, and ultimately to the public at large.
2. To expand research and surveys in order to achieve a more comprehensive understanding of the flora and fauna which occur in Jamaica Bay.
3. To foster appreciation, responsibility and accountability for the Jamaica Bay Ecosystem in the urban community.

### **2002 Initiatives**

- 1) Establish the JBLC Natural and Cultural Resources Library (in cooperation with the Library Science School of Rutgers University)
- 2) Develop a JBLC Web Site to function as the clearinghouse for all research and management conducted in Jamaica Bay. (in cooperation with the University of Rhode Island, and Columbia University).
- 3) Develop a vision for the future of Jamaica Bay that will be shared and supported by all of the Bay's stakeholders through a series of workshops hosted by the NPS Center for Parks and Partnership Planning.
- 4) Provide support in infrastructure improvements and equipment purchases to accommodate the needs of researchers, partners, and the visiting public.

(continued)

**Parks Involved-** The Jamaica Bay Unit of GNRA is the host and the prime focus of JBLC. As the Institute evolves and expands the scope of work will include all areas of Gateway, as well as potential to include all the National Park Lands within New York Harbor.

- Statue of Liberty National Monument
- Ellis Island
- Gateway National Recreation Area
  - Staten Island Unit
  - Sandy Hook Unit
  - Jamaica Bay Unit

**Partners-** The list of partners is steadily increasing as the JBLC establishes itself. We have established partnerships by enlisting partnerships already established by the Park, reinvigorating some older partnerships, and developing new partnerships. Our list of partners includes:

<b>Federal</b>	<b>City/State</b>	<b>NGO's</b>
USACOE	NYC Parks and Rec.	Audubon
USEPA	NYC DEP	NY League of Cons. Voters
USFWS	NY DEC	Friends of Gateway
	NYC Board of Ed	Jamaica Bay Task Force
		New Yorkers for Parks
		Natural Resource Defense Council
		Wild Metro
		The Nature Conservancy
		National Park Foundation
<b>Universities</b>		
University of Rhode Island		
Columbia University		
Brooklyn College		
Rutgers University		
Dowling College		
College of Staten Island		

**Facilities**

The Jamaica Bay Learning Center will be housed in Building 69 at Floyd Bennett Field, Brooklyn, NY. The proposed renovation of building 69 will include a visitor interpretative entranceway, a Natural and Cultural Resources Library, a Media Room (for development of graphics and other communications material), wet-labs for researchers, and a couple of classrooms for workshops and other small presentations. The second floor will be dedicated to office space. There are well-maintained dormitories on Floyd Bennett Field that will accommodate JBLC researchers and other partners. An auditorium for lectures, films, and other large presentation venues will be developed in the Ryan Center, the Jamaica Bay Unit's Visitor Center at Floyd Bennett Field.

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