

ENVISIONING GATEWAY

FACT SHEET

Public Design Competition

“Envisioning Gateway” is an international public design competition for Gateway National Recreation Area, a 26,600 acre park located at the entrance of the New York-New Jersey harbor. This area was established as part of the U.S. National Park System in 1972.

Competition Objectives

The goal of the competition is to generate innovative, visionary and compelling designs that reflect the unique potential of Gateway National Recreation Area as both a significant regional resource and a national environmental asset.

The launch of this public design competition will generate dialogue that will help redefine Gateway as a world-renowned national park and a global model for thinking about the role of federal parks relative to an increasingly urbanized national landscape, and the ways in which thriving cities and complex ecosystems can co-exist and enrich each other.

The focus of the competition will be twofold – competitors are being asked to address Gateway at the regional scale, and to propose a redesign of Floyd Bennett Airfield relative to its position within the Jamaica Bay Unit of Gateway, including the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Riis Beach and Fort Tilden. Floyd Bennett Field is a 1,358 acre piece of land that was New York’s first municipal airport, however today it suffers from a lack of identity, definition, and resources.

Competition Process

The competition requires registration and digital submission of anonymous design proposals. Members of a distinguished and diverse competition jury will evaluate the submissions and select first, second and third place winners as well as multiple honorable mention finalists.

Winners will be awarded prizes, and winning projects will be presented to the U.S. National Park Service (NPS) for potential inclusion in the next planning phase of Gateway’s General Management Plan, scheduled for 2009.

The competition is being held in anticipation of the NPS Centennial in 2016, which will provide an opportunity to reinvest in Gateway by focusing on a renewed commitment to environmental education based on an understanding that “nature” in urban environments is complex, actively constructed, and dynamic.

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Competition Jury

The 14-member jury includes **Ethan Carr** (National Park Service Historian and Landscape Architect), **Andrew Darrell** (Director, New York Region, Environmental Defense), **Patricia Harris** (First Deputy Mayor of New York City), **Marian Heiskell** (Newspaper Executive, Conservationist, Philanthropist), **Walter Hood** (Principal, Hood Design), **Patricia Kempthorne** (Founder and Executive Director, Twiga Foundation), **Peter Latz** (Principal, Latz + Partner Landscape Architects), **John Loring** (Design Director, Tiffany & Co.), **Anuradha Mathur** (Principal, Mathur/da Cunha and Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture, UPenn), **Wendy Paulson** (Trustee, The Nature Conservancy of New York and Board Chair, Rare Conservation), **Steward Pickett** (Plant Ecologist, Institute for Ecosystem Studies), **Lindy Roy** (Principal, Roy, Co.), **Adi Shamir** (Executive Director, Van Alen Institute), and **Mark Wigley** (Dean, Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture Planning and Preservation).

Competition Website

The entire Envisioning Gateway design competition is being presented and managed online at www.vanalen.org/gateway. All essential information for competitors – including registration, guidelines, program brief, site plans, photographs and submission – can be found on this website.

Extensive background information on Gateway is available on the website in the form of a Research Report prepared by a team of investigators at Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation. This written report is available for download throughout the competition and includes the 'Gateway Atlas' – a series of maps and diagrams describing Gateway's physical and organizational context.

Competition Timeline

<u>Competition Launch</u>	January 29, 2007
<u>Registration Deadline</u>	March 14, 2007
<u>Questions Deadline</u>	March 23, 2007
<u>Answers Posted</u>	March 30, 2007
<u>Submission Deadline</u>	May 7, 2007
<u>Jury</u>	May 2007
<u>Awards Ceremony</u>	June 2007
<u>Online Exhibition of Entries</u>	Summer 2007
<u>Public Display of Winning Entries</u>	Fall 2007
<u>Presentation of Winning Entries to NPS</u>	2008
<u>NPS Revision of General Management Plan for GNRA</u>	2009

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Gateway National Recreation Area

Located in the New York-New Jersey harbor, Gateway National Recreation Area was established as part of the U.S. National Park System in 1972.

Gateway was one of the first sites in the National Park System established to sustain both natural and urban ecologies while providing recreational opportunities for more than 22 million residents in the tri-state region.

Comprised of 26,600-acres, Gateway National Recreation Area was created from a conglomeration of abandoned airfields, army bases, city and state parkland, and tracts of undeveloped land, stretching from Queens across areas of Brooklyn, Staten Island, and to the northern tip of New Jersey.

Gateway is a key sanctuary for migratory birds on the Atlantic Americas Flyway, containing more than 330 bird species and an array of estuarine wildlife habitats.

Gateway's great expanse of open space and waterfront access offers unprecedented opportunities for year-round recreation in the region. Gateway contains a wealth of significant cultural treasures, including historic U.S. military forts, an air museum, American Indian sites, the nation's oldest lighthouse, and New York City's first municipal airport.

Current Threats to Gateway National Recreation Area

Since the creation of Gateway three decades ago, the park's facilities have essentially been neglected. New habitats, restored marshes, and modern recreational facilities are needed to welcome park visitors and to create an environment that is suitable for park visitors, native wildlife and plants to flourish alongside one another.

The open landscapes of Sandy Hook, Fort Tilden, and Floyd Bennett Field suffer from chronic funding shortfalls, resulting in dwindling visitor services, crumbling buildings, and threatened natural resources.

Comprised more of water and marsh than upland area, Gateway stands as one of the region's greatest opportunities but also presents a set of fundamental challenges, including the need to collaborate across diverse government agencies.

In addition to its ecological resources, Gateway is home to combined sewer overflows, treated wastewater effluent, former landfills and other regional infrastructural systems. Gateway must find new inspiration in negotiating its relationship with the communities that surround it, and in balancing the goals of historic preservation, environmental conservation and active recreation.

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Partners

The National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA), Van Alen Institute (VAI) and Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation (GSAPP) have joined together to launch the international public design competition to create a new vision for Gateway National Recreation Area.

National Parks Conservation Association

Since 1919, the nonpartisan, nonprofit National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) has been the leading voice of the American people in protecting and enhancing our National Park System. NPCA, its 320,000 members, and partners work together to protect the park system and preserve our nation's natural, historical, and cultural heritage for generations to come. For more information, visit: www.npca.org.

Van Alen Institute

Van Alen Institute (VAI) is an independent non-profit architectural organization that has sponsored, managed and facilitated regional and national public design competitions since 1904 – identifying critical issues and contested sites and developing responsive partnerships so that designers, policymakers, journalists, students, and interested citizens can better understand and engage the public sphere. The Van Alen Institute competitions program includes related conferences, forums and public exhibitions, and the entire process is synthesized in the publication of the *Van Alen Report*. For more information, visit www.vanalen.org.

Columbia University GSAPP

The Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation (GSAPP) is an independent academic institution dedicated to fostering a leadership role in acting as a laboratory for testing new ideas about the possible roles of designers in a global society. GSAPP's goal is an evolution of architectural intelligence and a commitment to the global transformation of the 21st century city. The school operates as a multi-disciplinary think tank and this research is one of the many research trajectories it supports. For more information, visit www.arch.columbia.edu.

Sponsor

The design competition is being underwritten by The Tiffany & Co. Foundation. The Tiffany & Co. Foundation made a major philanthropic gift of \$500,000 to the National Parks Conservation Association to support the public design competition for Gateway National Recreation Area. For more information on the Foundation, please visit www.tiffanyandcofoundation.org.

For more information on the competition, please visit www.vanalen.org/gateway

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