With its partners at the National Park Service, the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, and the New York State Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation, JBRPC works to expand public access; increase recreational and educational opportunities; foster citizen stewardship and volunteerism; preserve and restore natural areas, including wetland and wildlife habitat; enhance cultural resources; and ensure the long-term sustainability of the parklands.

Gateway National Recreation Area is part of the National Park Service and encompasses 27,000-acres of natural and historical wonders. Their education programs hopes to encourage new generations to become informed and environmentally passionate citizens.

With an Every Kid in a Park pass, 4th graders and their families can enjoy all federal lands, including National Parks for absolutely free!
   Go to www.everykidinapark.gov to learn more!

This project was made possible by a grant from the National Park Foundation through the generous support of donors from across the country.
Welcome to Jamaica Bay

Jamaica Bay is a special ecosystem at the edge of New York City. The unique habitats, like salt marshes and mud flats, connect Southern Brooklyn and Queens to the Atlantic Ocean.

The life you will find in this habitat is tough. Plants have to be able to survive where blowing sand and saltwater would kill ordinary plants. Animals protect themselves and hunt for food in so many amazing and unusual ways.

Use your observation skills as you explore the dunes, woods, marshes and the sandy beach under the big sky.

Leave it better than we found it

Jamaica Bay is a habitat that many animals call home. Because of this we want to make sure that we:

- Are careful where we step
- Leave all shells and rocks for animals who need them for shelter
- Observe wildlife with our eyes only
- Only take trash from the beach

Field Trip Info:

Trip Date:__________

Which park are you visiting?_________________________________

What kind of park is it? (circle one)

NY City Park..............National Park...............State Park

Weather:

Temperature:______ Circle one: Sunny........Cloudy

Wind (circle one) calm..........light breeze........strong wind........gale

Water (circle one) no waves....ripples....white caps....crashing waves
Scavenger Hunt

Look around you! Jamaica Bay has many treasures. How many of these things can you find and check off the list?

- **Horseshoe crabs** have been on earth longer than the dinosaurs and have blue blood.
- **Break waters** help protect the shore from waves and erosion.
- **Crabs** don't have a skeleton, but are protected by their hard shell, also called an exoskeleton.
- **Seaweed** gives the ocean its distinct smell and is protection for many small creatures.
- **Salt marsh grasses** provide habitat to many animals who live in Jamaica Bay.
- **Laughing Gulls** get their name from their bird call, which sounds like laughter. Can you hear them?
- **Whelk egg case** contains thousands of eggs which hatch to create a spiral shelled adult.
- **Wading birds** have long legs to walk through the shallow water looking for food.
- **Shells** were once home to many kinds of animals that filter the water.
- **Mud snails** will eat almost anything, and are often overlooked as tiny rocks.
- **Birds in flight** use their very strong wings to glide along the windy seashore.
- **Plastic** left behind by humans causing problems in our local ecosystem.
ZONES OF AN URBAN ENVIRONMENT

Draw the plants, animals, rocks and human-made objects that can be found in the different zones of Jamaica Bay.
There are 3 agencies that help to protect Jamaica Bay so that people can enjoy it now and in the future:

- The National Park Service
- New York State Department of Parks and Historic Preservation
- New York City Department of Parks and Recreation

Look below at the logos of these agencies. Each part of the logo symbolizes what the agency cares about.

- **The National Park Service**
  - The **arrowhead** shape of the National Park Service honors the history and culture that humans bring to these special places.
  - The **mountain** and **water** represent the beauty and fun people can experience when they visit National Parks.
  - The **Sequoia tree** and **bison** symbolize the plants and animals protected by NPS.

- **NYC Parks** has a leaf as its symbol.
  - The leaf is from a sycamore tree; a hardy, shady tree that can grow despite urban pollution.

**Draw your own symbol with things you would like to protect and preserve for future generations to enjoy.**
Write 3 questions you have about Jamaica Bay before your trip begins.

1. 
2. 
3. 

Write answers below.

What are 3 questions you have now that you have visited Jamaica Bay?

1. 
2. 
3. 

List 4 ways you can continue being an environmental steward of Jamaica Bay through your everyday choices.