



Social Science Program
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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Gateway National Recreation Area

Visitor Study



2015

DRAFT



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Gateway National Recreation Area

August, 2015

Dear Visitor:

Thank you for participating in this important study. We want to learn about the expectations, opinions, and interests of visitors to Gateway National Recreation Area. This information will help us improve our management of this park and better serve you, our visitor.

This questionnaire will be given to only a select number of visitors, so your participation is very important! It should only take about 20 minutes to complete after your visit.

When your visit is over, the adult in your group who will have the next birthday should complete this questionnaire. Seal it in the postage-paid envelope provided and drop it in any U.S. Postal mailbox.

If you have any questions, please contact Social Science Program Chief, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive, Fort Collins, CO, 80525-5596;
nps_nrss_social_science@nps.gov (email).





We appreciate your help. Sincerely,

Jennifer Nersesian
Superintendent

DIRECTIONS

At the end of your visit:

1. Please have the adult in your group (at least 18 years old) who has the next birthday complete this questionnaire. That will help give us a statistically reliable sample.
2. For questions that use circles (O), please mark your answer by filling in the circle with **black or blue ink**. Please do not use pencil.

Like this: ● Not like this:    

3. Seal it in the postage-paid envelope provided.
4. Drop it in a U.S. Postal mailbox.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: The Paperwork Reduction Act requires us to tell you why we are collecting this information, how we will use it, and whether or not you have to respond. This information will be used by the National Park Service as authorized by 16 U.S.C. 1a-7. We will use this information to evaluate visitor services and facilities managed by Yosemite National Park. Your responses are voluntary and anonymous. Your name and address have been requested for follow-up purposes only. At the completion of this collection all names and personal information will be destroyed and in no way be connected with the results of this survey. A Federal agency may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

Burden Estimate: We estimate that it will take an average of 20 minutes to complete the survey associated with this collection of information. You may send comments concerning the burden estimates or any aspect of this information collection to the Social Science Program Chief, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive, Fort Collins, CO, 80525-5596; nps_nrss_social_science@nps.gov (email).

A. Trip Description

NOTE: In this questionnaire, **personal group** is defined as you and anyone with whom you visited Gateway National Recreation Area on this trip, such as spouse, family, friends, etc. This does not include the larger group that you might have traveled with, such as school, church, scouts, or tour group.

TOPIC AREA 1 - GR3

1. Including yourself, how many people were in your personal group on this trip to Gateway National Recreation Area (Gateway)?

_____ Number of adults (18 years or over)

_____ Number of children (under 18 years)

TOPIC AREA 1 - GR1

2. On this trip to Gateway, what type of group were you with? Please mark (●) **one**.

Alone

Friends

Family

Family and friends

Other (Please specify): _____

TOPIC AREA 3 - TRANS1

3. Please indicate all of the forms of transportation you personally used to travel from your home to Gateway, on this trip. Please mark (●) **all that apply**.

Car, truck, or SUV (Number of people in vehicle, including you) _____

City bus

Subway or train

Long-distance passenger bus

Recreational vehicle or motorhome

Airplane

Tour bus or tour van

Public ferry or other water transportation

Bicycle

Walk/hike

Other (Please specify)

TOPIC AREA 1 - VISITHIST3

4. Including today, how many times have you visited the following places in Gateway within the past 12 months? Please enter a number **for each row**.

Place	Number of visits in the past 12 months (including today)
Fort Wadsworth on Staten Island	_____
Miller Field on Staten Island	_____
Great Kills Park on Staten Island	_____
Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge in Jamaica Bay	_____
Floyd Bennett Field in Jamaica Bay	_____
Jacob Riis Park in Jamaica Bay	_____
Fort Tilden in Jamaica Bay	_____
Breezy Point in Jamaica Bay	_____
Beaches at Sandy Hook	_____
Fort Hancock at Sandy Hook	_____
Other (Please specify) _____	_____

B. Trip Planning**TOPIC AREA 1 - KNOW2**

5. Prior to this trip, were you and your personal group aware that Gateway is managed by the National Park Service (NPS)?
- Yes
- No
- Not sure

TOPIC AREA 2 - TPLAN1

6. Prior to this trip, how did you and your personal group obtain information about Gateway? Please mark (●) **all that apply**.
- Did not obtain information prior to this visit
 - Friends/relatives/word of mouth
 - Inquiry to park via phone, mail, or email
 - Gateway website (nps.gov/gate)
 - Other website (Please specify) _____
 - App for smartphone/tablet (Please specify) _____
 - Local businesses (hotels, motels, restaurants, etc.)
 - Maps/brochures
 - Newspaper/magazine articles
 - Other units of the National Park System
 - Previous visits
 - School class/program
 - Social media (such as Facebook, Twitter, etc.)
 - State welcome center/visitors bureau/chamber of commerce
 - Television/radio programs/DVDs
 - Travel guides/tour books (such as AAA, etc.)
 - Other (Please specify) _____

TOPIC AREA 2 - TPLAN2 Variation

7. Did you have the information about Gateway you needed on this trip? Please mark (●) **one**.
- Yes
 - No (Please specify information you needed but didn't have on this trip)

C. Park Activities, Programs, and Services

TOPIC AREA 3 - ACT1 & ACT7 VARIATION

8. a) On this trip, which of the following activities, services, and facilities did you personally participate in or use within Gateway? Please mark (●) **all that apply**.
- b) If you were to visit the park in the future, which of the following activities, services, and facilities would you personally participate in or use within Gateway? Please mark (●) **all that apply**.

a) This visit	b) Future visit	Activity/Service/Facility
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Viewing wildlife, natural features, scenery, wildflowers, etc.
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Creative arts (photography, drawing, painting, writing, etc.)
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Visiting a cultural or historic site (missile site, lighthouse, fort, etc.)
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Visiting a park visitor center or museum
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Viewing indoor or outdoor exhibits
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Attending a ranger- or volunteer-led activity such as a tour or talk
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Walking/hiking
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Running/jogging
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Sports (baseball, soccer, golf, etc.)
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Bicycling
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Fishing
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Swimming/surfing/windsurfing
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Water travel (boating, kayaking, canoeing, sailing, jet skiing, etc.)
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Family recreation (family gathering/reunion, visiting playground, etc.)
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Participating with a child in your group in the Junior Ranger Program
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Picnicking
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Camping in developed sites
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Attending a special event (concert, festival, etc.)
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Other (Please specify) _____
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Other (Please specify) _____
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Other (Please specify) _____



Topic Area 3 - LEARN11 Variation

9. On this visit to Gateway, did you learn anything from park staff, programs, and/or exhibits about American history, nature, and/or culture? Please mark (●) **one**.

Yes (Please specify subjects you learned about)

No

TOPIC AREA 3- FVIS4

10. If you were to visit Gateway in the future, are there specific subjects you would like to learn about? Please mark (●) **one**.

Yes (Please specify subjects you would like to learn about)

No

Topic Area 1 - GR4

11.a) Did anyone in your personal group have a physical condition that made it difficult to access or participate in park activities or services during your visit to Gateway? Please mark (●) **one**.

Yes

No → **Go to Question 12**

b) If YES, what activities, services, or facilities did the person(s) have difficulty participating in or accessing? Please be specific.

c) Because of the physical condition, which specific difficulties did the person(s) have? Please mark (●) **all that apply**.

Hearing (difficulty hearing ranger programs, bus drivers, audio-visual exhibits or programs, or information desk staff even with hearing aid)

Visual (difficulty in seeing exhibits, directional signs, visual aids that are part of programs even with prescribed glasses or due to blindness)

Mobility (difficulty in accessing facilities, services, or programs even with walking aid and/or wheelchairs)

Other (Please specify)

TOPIC AREA 6 - OPMGMT4 VARIATION

15. It is the National Park Service’s responsibility to protect Gateway’s natural and cultural resources and the visitor experiences that depend on these and to provide recreational opportunities. How important are each of the following resources, experiences, and recreational opportunities for you at Gateway? Please mark (•) only one answer for each resource/experience/recreation opportunity.

Resource/Experience/ Recreation Opportunity	Extremely Important	Very Important	Moderately Important	Somewhat Important	Not at All Important
Outdoor recreation facilities (trails, boat ramps, fishing areas, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Family and group recreation facilities (picnic areas, playgrounds, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Group or team sports and exercise	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Individual sports and exercise	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fishing areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Beaches	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dark night skies/stars	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Historic features/buildings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Interpretive/educational programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Native wildlife and plants	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To escape urban settings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reflection or contemplation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

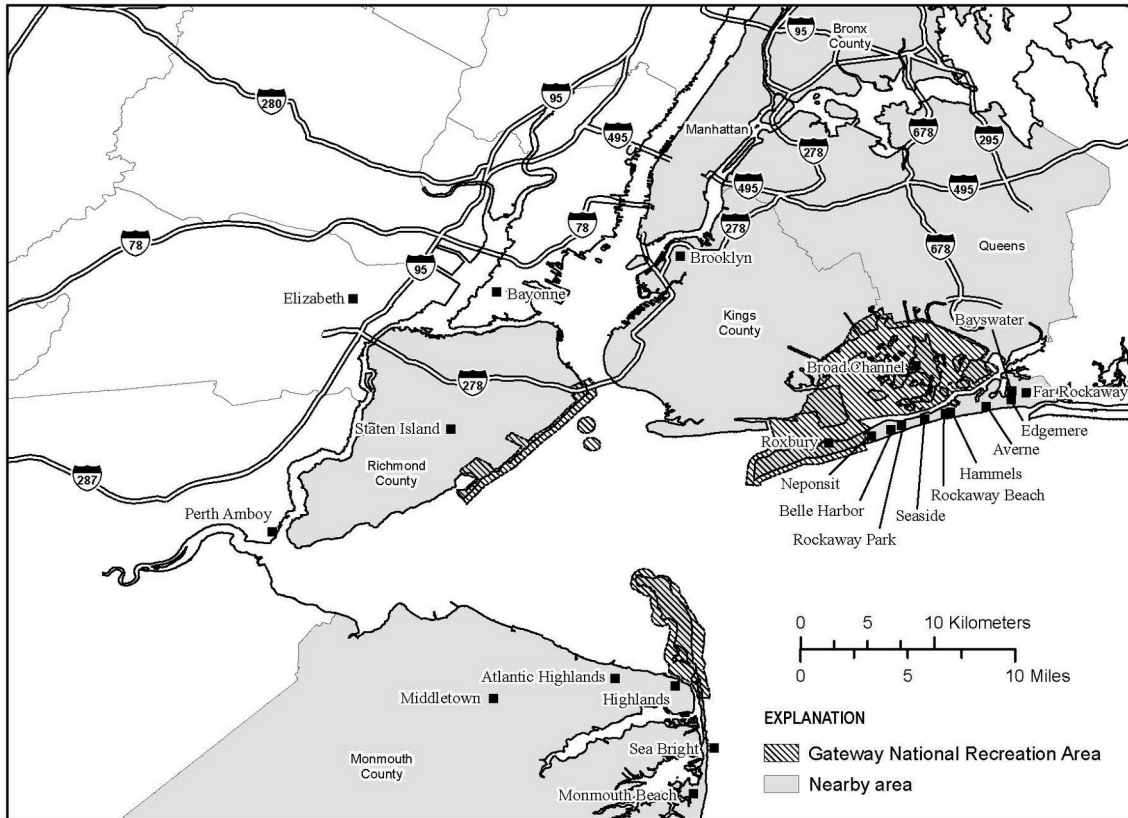
TOPIC AREA 6 - EVALSERV1

16. Overall, how would you rate the quality of the facilities, services, and recreational opportunities in Gateway? Please mark (●) **one**.

- Very good
- Good
- Average
- Poor
- Very poor

E. Expenditures on This Trip

Please refer to the enclosed map when answering the questions in this section.



TOPIC AREA 1 - RES1 Variation

17. Do you live within the highlighted area shown on the enclosed map? Please mark (●) **one**.

- Yes
- No

TOPIC AREA 3 - TRIPC3

18. a) On this trip to Gateway and the nearby area, did you stay overnight away from your permanent residence either inside Gateway or within the nearby area (within the highlighted area of the enclosed map)? Please mark (●) **one**.
- Yes
- No → **Go to Question 19**
- b) If **YES**, please list the number of nights you stayed in Gateway and/or in the nearby area (within the highlighted area of the enclosed map) on this trip.

Accommodation	Number of Nights
Camping in Gateway	_____
Camping outside Gateway	_____
Lodging outside Gateway	_____
Cruise ship	_____
Other accommodations (e.g., friends/relatives)	_____

TOPIC AREA 3 - TRIPC1 Variation

19. Was this trip to Gateway? Please mark (●) **one**.
- Your primary or sole purpose of your trip away from home?
- One of several equally important destinations on your trip away from home?
- Was one or more of the other equally important destinations located within the nearby area (within the highlighted area of the enclosed map)? Please mark (●) **one**.
- Yes
- No
- Just an incidental or spur of the moment stop on your trip away from home?
- Was your primary destination located within the nearby area (within the highlighted area of the enclosed map)? Please mark (●) **one**.
- Yes
- No

Topic Area 3 - TRIPC19 Variation

20. Did you visit any other National Park Service sites on your trip away from home? Please mark (●) **one**.
- Yes (Please specify)
- _____

No

TOPIC AREA 7 - ECON

21.a) Did you or anyone in your personal group purchase any package tours that included at least some meals, some lodging, and/or some transportation while on this trip?

Yes

No → **Go to Question 22**

b) What was the total length of your package tour(s)? # _____ days

c) What was the total cost per person for the package tour(s)?

\$ _____ per person

d) How many people in your personal group were on the package tour(s)?

_____ people

e) Which of the following were included in the package tour(s) as part of your visit to Gateway and the nearby area (within the highlighted area of the enclosed map)? Please mark (●) **all** that apply.

	Items included in your package tour(s) as part of your visit to Gateway and nearby area
Local Air transportation	<input type="radio"/>
Local Ground transportation	<input type="radio"/>
Local Water transportation	<input type="radio"/>
Local Lodging	<input type="radio"/>
Meals	<input type="radio"/>
Guide services	<input type="radio"/>
Fees (e.g., fishing licenses)	<input type="radio"/>
Gear (e.g., camping equipment, bikes, kayaks)	<input type="radio"/>
Admission to events or attractions	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please specify): _____	<input type="radio"/>

TOPIC AREA 7 - ECON4

22. Please estimate how much you and your personal group with whom you shared expenses (e.g., other family members, traveling companions) spent both inside Gateway and within the nearby area (within the highlighted area of the enclosed map) during your time in Gateway and the nearby area. If you reported expenditures for package tours, please only include individual expenses that were NOT part of your package tour(s).

If you no longer have your receipts, estimate as closely as you can how much you and your group spent. Please enter 0 (zero) if you did not spend any money in a particular category.

Note: Residents living within the highlighted area of the map should only include expenditures that were directly related to this trip to Gateway.

Expenses	Amount spent in Gateway and nearby area
Park entrance fee/parking pass	\$ _____
Gas and oil (e.g., auto, RV, boat, etc.)	\$ _____
Rental cars	\$ _____
Taxis, Uber, shuttles, and public transportation	\$ _____
Restaurants, food trucks, and bars	\$ _____
Groceries and convenience foods	\$ _____
Hotels, motels, resorts	\$ _____
Specialty lodging (e.g., B&Bs, hostels, cabins, vacation rentals)	\$ _____
Camping fees (tent, RV)	\$ _____
Recreation and entertainment expenses (e.g., beach clubs, Aviator event center, miniature golf, etc.)	\$ _____
Souvenirs, clothing, supplies, other retail	\$ _____
Equipment rental	\$ _____
Guides and tour fees	\$ _____
Other (please list) _____	\$ _____

OR

Don't know/Not sure

TOPIC AREA 7 - ECON6 Variation

23. For you and any members of your personal group with whom you shared expenses, please record any additional money spent outside of the map area during your trip away from home (for example, travel or food expenditures).

\$ _____

OR

Don't know/Not sure

TOPIC AREA 7 - ECON5

24.a) Including yourself, how many people in your personal group were covered by the expenses for this trip away from home?

_____ Number of adults (18 years or over)

_____ Number of children (under 18 years)

b) Including yourself, how many people in your group split these trip expenses?

_____ Number of people

F. Background

TOPIC AREA 1 - AGE1

25. For your personal group during your visit to Gateway on the day you were contacted for this survey, please provide the following. (If you do not know the answer, enter "DK.")

	Current age	U.S. ZIP code or name of country other	Number of visits to Gateway past 12 months, including this trip	Number of visits to other NPS sites in the last 12 months
Yourself	_____	_____	_____	_____
Member #2	_____	_____	_____	_____
Member #3	_____	_____	_____	_____
Member #4	_____	_____	_____	_____
Member #5	_____	_____	_____	_____
Member #6	_____	_____	_____	_____
Member #7	_____	_____	_____	_____

Topic Area 1 - ED2 Variation

28. For your personal group during your visit to Gateway on the day you were contacted for this survey, what is the highest level of formal education completed by each member of your group? Please mark (●) **one or more for each group member, including yourself. (If you don't know the answer, mark (●) "Don't know.")**

	Yours elf	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7
Less than high school	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Some high school	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
High school graduate or GED	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Some college, business, or trade school	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
College, business, or trade school graduate	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Some graduate school	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Master's, doctoral, or professional degree	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Don't' know	-	ODK	ODK	ODK	ODK	ODK	ODK

Topic Area 7 - ECON1

29. Which category best represents your annual household income? Please mark (●) **one.**

- Less than \$24,999
- \$25,000-\$34,999
- \$35,000-\$49,999
- \$50,000-\$74,999
- \$75,000-\$99,999
- \$100,000-\$149,999
- \$150,000-\$199,999
- \$200,000 or more
- Do not wish to answer

Topic Area 7 - ECON1

30. Including yourself, how many people are in your household?

_____ Number of people

Topic Area 1 - LANG1

31. When visiting an area such as Gateway, what language do you personally prefer to use? Please mark (●) **one for speaking and one for reading.**

	Speakin g	Reading
English	0	0
Spanish	0	0
Other (Specify) _____	0	0

TOPIC AREA 6 - OPMGMT3

32. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about Gateway facilities, services, or recreational opportunities?

Thank you for your help! Please seal the questionnaire in the postage-paid envelope and drop it in any U.S. Postal mailbox.