

Jamaica Bay BioBlitz 2009!
Floyd Bennett Field and Surrounding Areas
Brooklyn and Queens, NY
September 11-12, 2009

Thank you for volunteering your time to participate in the Jamaica Bay BioBlitz 2009. We are very excited about this event and are happy that you will be able to join us. The goals of the BioBlitz are to add to species lists for as many taxonomic groups present in the Bay as possible, and to increase public awareness of what biodiversity is and the fact that it can exist within our urban/suburban landscape.

BioBlitz Base Camp:

The base camp for the Jamaica Bay BioBlitz 2009 will be setup at the Ecology Village (Building #70) at Floyd Bennett Field. The base camp will provide you with an area to review your data, take a closer look at your specimens, or just take a break.

Overview of how it will work:

Upon check-in at the base camp, you will receive a set of maps for Gateway National Recreation Area for Floyd Bennett Field and surrounding areas. You will also receive tally sheets for the taxonomic group that you signed up for. After check-in, volunteers will meet with the scientists who will lead their groups. The groups will then move out into the preserve and inventory as many species as they can. After completing their field work, the groups will return to the base camp to report their findings.

Guidelines and Procedures:

The following guidelines and procedures have been established for all the volunteers partaking in the BioBlitz:

1. Check-in will begin on Friday, September 11 at 12:00 p.m., at the BioBlitz base camp located at the Ecology Village (Building #70), but the event does not officially start until 3pm. Everyone participating **MUST** check-in and fill out volunteer forms and photo waivers! Please record your arrival time, the approximate location of where you will be going, and your departure time. Please remember to sign-in!
2. The scientists' goal is to find and identify to species as many taxa as possible within the 24-hour time frame. Any organism that does not need to be "collected" for identification purposes should be observed and noted on the BioBlitz data sheet. If a vertebrate organism needs to be caught to be identified it should be handled or collected by researchers who hold current NPS or NYSDEC permits and promptly released. The collection of vertebrate organisms for museum or any other collections is not permitted during this BioBlitz. In the case of invertebrate animals, plants, or microorganisms, they should be handled as minimally

as possible and any collection of these organisms should be limited to what is needed for identification purposes. Any living organisms removed from Jamaica Bay should NOT be returned to their place of origin unless the researcher is otherwise authorized to do so. Any specimens that are collected and later preserved may be held in an external repository. Preserved specimens will be reported to the National Park Service and identified as part of the NPS collection. *All scientists and volunteers should emphasize non-destructive sampling techniques, and minimize habitat damage associated with their particular sampling methods. Vouchering of specimens is not required at the BioBlitz.*

3. Sampling Equipment – You may set up your sampling equipment ANYTIME on Friday, September 11 prior to 3:00 p.m., but you may NOT collect or identify anything prior to the scheduled 24-hour BioBlitz period. All equipment must be removed by 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 12. Please note that the BioBlitz site is open to public-use therefore any equipment or traps set up in the field are possible targets for vandalism or theft. Please use discretion when deciding what equipment to use in the preserve.

4. Data Recording Procedures:

- Species should be identified to genus and species if it is known. Common names should also be specified if available. Please also record an approximate location (according to the map provided at the base camp) for each individual species that you tally.
- If the group of organisms that you are working with cannot feasibly be identified during the BioBlitz, such as with many of the invertebrate groups, then please try to identify as best you can and note on the tally sheets. This will allow us to get an approximate total number of species for your group at the end of the BioBlitz. You can send us the final identity after the event (see below).
- Any data collected will need to be provided to us *before the end of the BioBlitz*. Therefore, please be sure to submit your completed data sheets at the base camp. *Please be sure to write neatly on the tally sheets!*
- Any further identification that is completed after the end of the BioBlitz should then be sent to: Dr. Rebecca Boger, Department of Geology, Brooklyn College, 2900 Bedford Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11210. *Please be aware that you are not required to ID any unidentified specimens beyond the scheduled BioBlitz date, but it would be helpful to the NPS and our final numbers.* We hope you will wish to identify any remaining specimens and add them to the lists of species, however, that is your choice.

5. Since this is an event located in a public park, it is likely that you may need to interact with the public in the field. Please try to be polite and answer their questions as best as you can. Feel free to also bring handouts or other materials that you would think might be helpful to give to people. We will have a table set up for literature that you would like to make available to the public.

6. Everyone participating in the BioBlitz MUST also checkout! Please submit all tally sheets when you checkout.

Additional Information:

- Free PARKING will be available at the Ecology Village and other locations, but space is limited.
- Indoor restroom facilities will be available at the Ecology Village throughout the full 24 hours. At other locations a combination of portable facilities and daytime access indoor facilities is available. A map given at registration will show restroom locations.
- There will be electricity available at the base camp.
- Refreshments and bottled water will be available at the base camp. No alcoholic beverages are allowed.

Things to Bring:

- Depending on where you are going, waterproof boots are recommended.
- Field equipment and supplies (nets, scopes, binoculars, waders, field guides, etc.). We will also have some supplies available at the base camp including a limited number of vials, 95% ethanol, and some field guides. We will also have a few dissecting scopes at the base camp. If you don't have something that you need, let us know and we will try to get it for you.
- Rain gear (let's hope we don't need it).
- Flashlight – if working at night.
- Insect Repellant.
- Sun block, sunglasses, hat, and individual needs you may have.

Contact Information

If you have any questions about Floyd Bennett Field and NPS, please contact Jessica Browning at 718-338-3338, ext 246; Jessica.Browning@nps.gov; or Rebecca Boger at 718-951-5000, ext 2159; JBbioblitz@yahoo.com.

JAMAICA BAY BIOBLITZ 2009 SCHEDULE

Friday, September 11, 2009

12:00 p.m.	BioBlitz registration, check-in begins
3:00 p.m.	Opening Ceremonies
3:00 p.m.	Check-in for Shift 1 (3:00-7:00 p.m.)
6:30 p.m.	Check-in for Shift 2 (7:00-11:00 p.m.)
7:00 p.m.	Shift 1 ends, Shift 2 begins
10:30 p.m.	Check-in for Shift 3 (11:00-3:00 a.m.)
11:00 p.m.	Shift 2 ends, Shift 3 begins

Saturday, September 12, 2009

2:30 a.m.	Check-in for Shift 4 (3:00- 7:00 a.m.)
3:00 a.m.	Shift 3 ends, Shift 4 begins
6:30 a.m.	Check-in for Shift 5 (7:00-11:00 a.m.)
7:00 a.m.	Shift 4 ends, Shift 5 begins
10:30 a.m.	Check-in for Shift 6 (11:00- 3:00 p.m.)
11:00 a.m.	Shift 5 ends, Shift 6 begins
3:00 p.m.	Shift 6 ends
3:15 p.m.	Closing Ceremonies