

**New York City Area Voters  
Share Their Knowledge and Views  
Of Gateway National Recreation Area**

Submitted to:  
**National Parks Conservation Association**

Submitted by:  
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## I. Methodology and Sample Characteristics

### Methodology

Zogby International conducted online interviews of 1,193 likely voters in the NYC DMA. Panelists who have agreed to participate in Zogby polls online were invited to participate in the survey. The online poll ran from 12/14/06 through 12/18/06. The margin of error is +/- 2.9 percentage points. Margins of error are higher in sub-groups. Slight weights were added to age, race, religion, and gender to more accurately reflect the population.

Sample Characteristics	Frequency	Valid Percent*
Sample size	1,193	100
Very likely to vote	1,170	98
Somewhat likely to vote	23	2
Democratic	620	52
Republican	323	27
Independent/Minor party	249	21
18-29	143	12
30-49	416	35
50-64	404	34
65+	226	19
Did not answer age	4	--
White	848	73
Hispanic	116	10
African American	128	11
Asian/Pacific	35	3
Other/mixed	35	3
Did not answer race	31	--
Live in large city	443	37
Live in small city	118	10
Live in suburbs	550	46
Live in rural area	79	7
Roman Catholic	490	42
Protestant	326	28
Jewish	140	12
Other (religion)	210	18
Did not answer religion	27	--
Protestant - Born-again	65	20
Protestant - not Born-again	261	80

<b>Sample Characteristics (continued)</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Valid Percent*</b>
Parent of child under 17	228	19
Not parent of child under 17	962	81
Married	657	56
Single, never married	300	25
Divorced/widowed/separated	192	16
Civil union/domestic partnership	36	3
Less than \$25,000	90	9
\$25,000-\$34,999	70	7
\$35,000-\$49,999	120	12
\$50,000-\$74,999	202	20
\$75,000-\$99,999	156	15
\$100,000 or more	383	38
Did not answer income	172	--
Male	570	48
Female	618	52

**\* Numbers have been rounded to the nearest percent and might not total 100.**

## II. Narrative Analysis

201. Are you aware that a 26,000-acre national park stretches across the New York-New Jersey harbor?

Yes	47%
No	47
Not sure	6

202. If a national park was located in close proximity to where you live, offered a wealth of recreational activities and nature study, and was easily accessible by public transportation, would you be inclined to visit?

Yes	72%
Maybe	22
No	4
Not sure	2

203. How familiar are you with the Gateway National Recreation Area, or any of its units, such as Riis Beach, Breezy Point, Jamaica Bay, Floyd Bennett Field, Great Kills, and Sandy Hook?

**Table 1. Familiarity with the Gateway National Recreation Area**

	%
<b>Yes—I am only familiar with some of the units</b>	46
<b>Yes—I am familiar with Gateway National Recreation Area and all of its park units</b>	20
<b>Yes—I am familiar with Gateway National Recreation Area, but none of its park units</b>	6
<b>No—I am not familiar with Gateway National Recreation Area or any of its park units</b>	25
Not sure	4

*(Asked only of those familiar with some units)*

204. Which of the following units are you familiar with? (Choose all that apply)

Sandy Hook	71%
Riis Beach	34
Jamaica Bay	34
Breezy Point	30
Floyd Bennett Field	29

Great Kills	6
Not sure	3

205. *When was the last time you visited Gateway National Recreation Area?*

Within the last year	17%
Within the last 2 years	8
Within the last 5 years	10
More than 5 years ago	23
Never	39
Not sure	5

*(Asked only of those who have visited the area.)*

206. *On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being poor and 5 being excellent, how would you rate the facilities of Gateway National Recreation Area, such as restrooms, beaches, historic buildings, and trails, compared to other national parks you have visited?*

1 Poor	3%		
2	10	<b>Below average (1-3)</b>	<b>44%</b>
3	31		
4	21		
5 Excellent	6	<b>Above average (4-5)</b>	<b>27</b>
Not sure	29		

*(Asked only of those who give ratings less than “4”)*

207. *Why do you give Gateway National Recreation Area a poor rating?*

Dirty water	19%
Few recreational opportunities	17
Poor beaches	14
Crumbling buildings	9
Closed park facilities	9
Lack of park rangers	5
*Other	19
Not sure	9

**\*Other:**

Overall, half of respondents give poor ratings for three reasons – dirty water (19%), few recreational facilities (17%), and poor beaches (14%). Still, there are some who cite crumbling buildings (9%), closed park facilities (9%), and a lack of park rangers (5%) as to why they give negative ratings.

208. Do you agree or disagree that New York State and /or New York City should help fund an effort to restore Gateway National Recreation Area?

**Table 2. Restoration Funding by the State and City**

	%
Agree—both New York State and New York City should help fund the effort	53
Agree—only New York State should help fund the effort	11
Agree—only New York City should help fund the effort	1
Disagree—New York State and New York City should not help fund the effort	10
Not Sure	24

209. Knowing that the National Park System currently suffers from an annual operating shortfall of \$800 million every year, do you think that Congress and the Administration should increase the budget, decrease the budget, or keep giving the same amount to help preserve and protect national parks, such as Gateway National Recreation Area?

Congress should increase the budget	63%
Keep the budget at the same amount	17
Congress should decrease the budget	5
Not Sure	16

210. On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being do not support and 5 being strongly support, please indicate if your support for the following statement about the National Park System. “Gateway reflects the values of our community and contains historically significant treasures.”

211. On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being do not support and 5 being strongly support, please indicate if your support for the following statement about Gateway National Recreation Area. “I support efforts to increase funding for Gateway National Recreation Area to ensure the restoration and preservation of this national park site for future generations to enjoy.”

**Table 3. Views on the Gateway National Recreation Area**

	Low			Medium	High			Not sure
	Total	1	2	3	4	5	Total	
I support efforts to increase funding for	7	4	3	20	26	33	59	15

Gateway National Recreation Area to ensure the restoration and preservation of this national park site for future generations to enjoy								
Gateway reflects the values of our community and contains historically significant treasures	<b>5</b>	2	3	22	23	23	<b>46</b>	27