Police expand search for Jennifer

By GLENN CHAPMAN ADVANCE STAFF WRITER

A helicopter, police dogs and a team of specially trained officers brought in from throughout the city scoured the marshes and brush bordering the Fresh Kills Landfill yesterday as the search for Jennifer Schweiger was expanded.

"Deputy Chief of Department (Robert J.) Johnston offered us any assistance we need, and told us to keep going," said Assistant Chief Samuel Marino, commander of Staten Island's police force. "Now we are extending the perimeter of the search."

Police officers and volunteer searchers have been working for more than three weeks in an effort to find the 12-year-old girl who vanished from the street near her Wardwell Avenue, Westerleigh, home on July 9. Witnesses and a bloodhound led investigators to the Staten Island Developmental Center (SIDC) in Willowbrook.

The SIDC facility had been the main focus of the police search for weeks. Volunteer groups have been targeting wooded areas, cemeteries and shoreline areas throughout the North Shore.

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A police helicopter searches the marshes near Fresh Kills.

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