The Trust for Governors Island

Governors Island to Begin Construction in 2012 on New Park and Public Spaces

Governors Island to remain open to the public Saturdays, Sundays and Holiday Mondays in the 2012 and 2013 public access seasons

Island will be open Saturday evenings in June for the first time

New York, NY: October 24, 2011: Governors Island will begin construction on its future park and public spaces in 2012, The Trust for Governors Island today announced. During construction, Governors Island will be open on Saturdays, Sundays and Holiday Mondays during its regular public access season from late May to late September. To facilitate construction, the Island will be closed to the public on Fridays. For the first time, the Island will be open on Saturday evenings in June during the public season.

"The Trust for Governors Island is making incredible progress by creating extraordinary public spaces that New Yorkers will enjoy for generations," said Leslie Koch, president of The Trust for Governors Island. "The Trust is honoring its commitment to remain open to the public during construction and I look forward to welcoming visitors and organizations to the Island for the 2012 and 2013 public seasons."

In 2012 and 2013, Governors Island will be open Saturdays, Sundays and Holiday Mondays from Memorial Day weekend through the end of September. The entire Historic District, 2.2 mile promenade and Picnic Point will be open every weekend for visitors. For the first time, portions of the Island will be open to the public on Saturday nights in June. This will provide an opportunity for a diverse array of arts and cultural groups to provide proposals for programming.

Also in 2012, the National Park Service will continue to offer guided tours of the Historic District Wednesday through Friday, requiring reservations for tours for groups of ten or more. They will also offer continue to offer park ranger programs on Saturday and Sunday.

The Island will be closed to the public on Fridays in 2012 and 2013 in order to facilitate construction. The houses in Nolan Park and Colonels Row will be closed to visitors in 2012 due to necessary stabilization work; however some of the Island's larger buildings will be open and available for art exhibits and other potential programs.

The first phase of construction on the Governors Island Park and Public Space Master Plan begins in 2012. This first phase restores green spaces in the Historic District, adds key visitor amenities, establishes a new welcoming gateway to the Island at Soissons Landing, transforms asphalt to green at South Battery, and creates new spaces in the center of the Island including Liggett Terrace, Hammock Grove and the Play Lawn. The Play Lawn includes two turf ball fields, with two fixed backstops that are sized for regulation softball and Little League baseball. Additionally, the Parade Ground in the Historic District is being re-graded to provide a flat area for field sports. West 8, a landscape architecture firm, is designing these spaces. The goal is to complete all of these spaces in 2013. The entire Park and Public Space Plan can be viewed online at www.govislandpark.com.

In 2012 and 2013, during the construction process, the six acre space behind Liggett Hall, as well as the South Island fields (an area currently only available to groups by permit) will be closed to the public. These spaces will be the future home of Liggett Terrace, Hammock Grove and the Play Lawn. These combined spaces will create 28 acres of open space for visitors once they are complete.

The Trust is also undertaking critical work on a variety of capital projects. In 2010, the Bloomberg Administration committed funding in its ten year capital plan to make major upgrades to the Island's infrastructure and systems. This work includes:

- Restoration of potable water – The Trust is building a new pipe to Brooklyn that will bring potable water back to the Island.
- Upgrading electrical and telecommunication systems – The Trust will replace 60 year old feeders and repair critical on-island electrical systems to maintain existing activity.
- Repairing the seawall - The Trust will replace the seawall and storm system for sections of the Island, and repair substantial portions of the remainder.
- Modernizing docks and piers – The Trust will modernize docks and piers on the Island and in the Battery Maritime Building.
- Stabilizing historic structures – The Trust will complete a stabilization program with roof and porch repair and other measures to address historic buildings.

During the 2012 public season, Governors Island will continue to welcome a diverse array of arts and cultural projects. Cultural and recreational organizations interested in bringing projects to the Island during the public season can visit www.govisland.com.

Governors Island closed for the 2011 season at the end of September after welcoming 448,000 visitors over a 57 day public season. The Island will reopen on May 26, 2012.

About The Trust for Governors Island

The Trust for Governors Island is the nonprofit corporation created by the City of New York that is responsible for the planning, redevelopment, and ongoing operations of

150 acres of Governors Island. The National Park Service administers Governors Island National Monument, which consists of twenty-two acres, including the historic fortifications Castle Williams and Fort Jay. The Trust's mission is to bring Governors Island back to life, making this island at the center of New York Harbor a destination with great public open space, as well as educational, not-for-profit, and commercial facilities. The Trust for Governors Island is the successor entity to the Governors Island Preservation and Education Corporation. For more information, visit www.govisland.com.

Governors Island National Monument

The National Park Service administers the Governors Island National Monument, which consists of twenty-two acres, including the historic fortifications Castle Williams and Fort Jay. The Monument is one of twenty-two sites operated by the National Park Service in the New York City area. Its purpose is to preserve and protect Castle Williams and Fort Jay, and to interpret them and the harbor's rich history and ecology for the public. More information can be found at www.nps.gov/gois.

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