

# THE TRUST FOR GOVERNORS ISLAND

## **The Hills on Governors Island to Open in Summer 2016**

*Opening to Public Nearly a Year Ahead of Schedule, the Hills Offer Unforgettable Views, Slides, Art and 10 New Acres of Park*

**January 21, 2016.** The Hills on Governors Island will open to the public in the summer of 2016, nearly a year ahead of the previously announced opening date, the Trust for Governors Island announced today.

“We are thrilled to announce today that the Hills’ construction is ahead of schedule,” said Leslie Koch, President of The Trust for Governors Island. “Thanks to an unseasonably warm fall and rigorous construction management, we can complete and open the Hills to the public in 2016 instead of next year.”

Previously, the Trust had announced that the Hills would open to the public in 2017, due to an estimated construction completion date of December 2016.

Made of recycled construction debris and clean fill material, the four Hills rise 25 to 70 feet above the Island. The summit of Outlook Hill will provide visitors with a 360-degree panorama of the Statue of Liberty, New York Harbor and the Lower Manhattan skyline.

- Outlook Hill, rising 70 feet above the Island will be New York City’s newest must-do destination. From the Outlook at the summit, visitors will enjoy breathtaking views of the Statue of Liberty and New York Harbor. Outlook Hill features a winding, accessible path, a granite scramble made of blocks from the Island’s seawall, and steep shrub-covered slopes.
- Slide Hill hosts four slides for children and families nestled in shady trees. Rising 40 feet high, Slide Hill features the longest slide in New York City.
- Discovery Hill, also at 40 feet, is the setting for the convergence of nature and art with a new permanent site-specific sculpture by acclaimed British artist, Rachel Whiteread.
- Grassy Hill provides a 25 foot high gentle grassy slope overlooking the Island’s new and historic landscapes and the Manhattan skyline.

In conjunction with the opening of The Hills, the 2.2 mile promenade around the edge of the Island will reopen to visitors for biking and walking for the first time since the Island’s construction program began in 2012. Picnic Point, the popular area just south of the Hills, will also be open with its lawns fenced off to allow grass to grow.

The Hills add ten acres of green space, 43,000 new shrubs, more than 860 new trees, four slides, pedestrian paths, lawns and the Outlook, with a 360 degree unforgettable view.

“The Hills will be New York City's newest landmark and a magnet for tourists and residents alike, said Ronay Menschel, Chair of The Trust for Governors Island.” The views are spectacular!”

The Hills are the culmination of the award winning Governors Island Park and Public Space Master Plan, designed by landscape architects, West 8. Released in 2010, the park master plan sets the stage for the Island’s future redevelopment while ensuring quality public spaces.

The first 30 acres of new park and public spaces opened to the public in 2014. The 30 acres include: Liggett Terrace, a lively, six-acre plaza with seasonal plantings, seating, water features and public art; Hammock Grove, a sunny ten-acre space that is home to 1,500 new trees, play areas and 50 hammocks, and the Play Lawn, 14 acres for play and relaxation that includes two natural turf ball fields sized for adult softball and Little League baseball. In addition, new welcome areas have been added at the Island’s ferry landings, along with key visitor amenities, including lighting, seating and signage throughout the Historic District.

Later this spring, the Trust will announce a schedule of construction preview tours and other events for the public and civic groups as well as more details about opening date and events. The Trust will continue to update the public via [govisland.com](http://govisland.com), [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

Visit Flickr for The Hills slideshow with downloadable renderings and progress photos: <https://flic.kr/s/aHskrp4LeR>.

In 2016, Governors Island will be open every day from May 28 through September 25. The Island will be open from 10 AM to 6 PM on weekdays and from 10 AM to 7 PM on weekends, Memorial Day, July 4 and Labor Day.

### **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 redevelopment and operation of 150 acres of Governors Island.

The Trust's mission is to transform Governors Island into a vibrant resource for New York City, making this island at the center of New York Harbor a destination with extraordinary public open space, as well as educational, not-for-profit and commercial facilities.

For more information, visit [www.govisland.com](http://www.govisland.com).

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