

THE TRUST FOR GOVERNORS ISLAND

The Trust for Governors Island and the Governors Island Alliance Invite New Yorkers to Preview the View from Outlook Hill

Visitors have two days only to tour the Hills under construction

Outlook Hill, the crowning feature of the Island's park, has just reached full height

Preview the Hills on September 26 and 27, 11 AM to 4 PM

September 10, 2015. The Trust for Governors Island and the Governors Island Alliance invite the public to preview the view from the top of Outlook Hill, 70 feet above New York Harbor. The Hills, the culmination of Governors Island's park, have just reached full height. To celebrate this milestone, The Trust and Alliance are opening the construction site to the public for two days only under the sponsorship of the Governors Island Alliance and its supporters. Without hard hats, visitors can walk to the top of Outlook Hill and experience an unparalleled 360 degree panoramic view of New York Harbor and the Statue of Liberty. The site will be open from 11 AM to 4 PM on September 26 and 27.

The Hills are the culminating feature of the new park on Governors Island, which was designed by West 8. The first 30 acres of the park opened to the public in 2014. Since that time, Island visitors have seen the Hills rising at the park's southern end. Made of recycled construction and fill material, The Hills rise 25 to 70 feet above the Island. The Hills provide dramatic new experiences and views of the Harbor. The Hills are scheduled to be complete in 2016.

This preview weekend is the first time ever that the construction site has been open to all Island visitors. The Trust and Alliance are joined by a wide range of civic and advocacy groups that are co-sponsoring this preview.

"The public has been involved at every step as we designed the new park and public spaces on Governors Island," said **Leslie Koch, President of The Trust for Governors Island**. "On this last weekend of the Island's season, grab your selfie stick, head to the construction site and experience the best views in New York City."

"As the Island gets ready to close out the 2015 season, what better way to look forward to future seasons than to experience what's next for the Island," said **Marc Ricks, Board Chair of the Governors Island Alliance**. "We are excited to invite all New Yorkers to see that the best of Governors Island is yet to come."

Governors Island is open from 10 AM to 7 PM on September 26 and 27. The Hills will be open from 11 AM to 4 PM on those days. The Hills are located within a construction site, therefore, closed toe shoes are required. Visitors of all ages are welcome. Transportation Alternatives will be running the T.A. Bike Valet by Spinlister at the entrance to the site, and stroller parking will also be available, as bikes and strollers are not permitted on the site. Volunteers from The Trust and Governors Island Alliance will be available on the Hills to provide fun facts and information about the Hills and also answer any questions that visitors may have.

The Trust also invites the public to post pictures of their visit on Twitter (@gov_island) Facebook (Governors Island), Flickr (GovernorsIslandgroup) and Instagram (@governorsisland) with #previewtheview and #govislandhills. Selfie sticks are welcome and will also be available for visitors to use. [Download a map](#) of the Hills in advance of your visit! [Images of the Hills](#) site are also available.

“Governors Island is a place where history, culture and recreation come alive. I am proud to have been a longtime supporter of Governors Island and to have played a hand in bringing federal resources to make its amazing attractions possible,” said **Congressman Jerrold Nadler**. “I look forward to the completion of the Hills, which will quickly become one of New York City’s newest must see destinations.”

“Governors Island is Lower Manhattan’s backyard,” said **Assembly Member Sheldon Silver**. “The Hills will make the Island even more of a destination for all New Yorkers and I hope that all Downtown residents will take a trip the last weekend of the public season to experience Outlook Hill, 70 feet above New York Harbor.”

"Governors Island continues to be the jewel of our Harbor Park -- a central park for the center of our city," said **State Senator Daniel Squadron**. "It's great news that visitors will have access to even more open space with interim access at the Hills as we enjoy the last few days of summer. I look forward to continued build-out of the Hills -- thank you to the Governors Island Trust and my colleagues, for their continued work on Governors Island."

“Governors Island is a tremendous resource for Lower Manhattan families,” said **City Council Member and Trust for Governors Island board member Margaret Chin**. “Visit the Hills, enjoy a breathtaking view of the skyline and get in one last visit to Governors Island this year!”

“Governors Island is a short ferry ride away from the Brooklyn waterfront, and an excellent place for an outing” said **City Council Member Brad Lander**. “I am so pleased that on the last day of the Island’s public season, there will be this exclusive chance to experience the Island’s newest landscapes while still under construction.”

“Governors Island is a jewel in New York Harbor,” said **City Council Member Stephen Levin**. “I encourage New Yorkers to take advantage of this opportunity to visit the Island and experience one of our city’s must-see destinations.”

“Governors Island offers a wonderful mix of history, culture and wide open green space for recreation,” said **Patti Reilly, Superintendent of Governors Island National Monument**. “The Hills provide a spectacular view of the island, the Harbor, and our sister park, the Statue of Liberty National Monument. This is a great opportunity before the island closes to experience them for yourselves.”

“Governors Island is an important free resource for Downtown families and residents,” said **Catherine Hughes, Chairperson of Community Board 1 and Trust for Governors Island board member**. “I am so pleased that the Hills will add even more green space that our residents can use to relax and play.”

“Everyone should visit Governors Island at least once each summer,” said **Rob Perris, District Manager of Community Board 2**. “If folks haven’t yet been this year, or even if they have, they should come out on the last weekend in September to see the new Hills as they’ve reached full height.”

“Governors Island is becoming a fantastic oasis for biking and walking,” says **Paul Steely White, Executive Director of Transportation Alternatives**. “We are proud to be a part of the transformation that is allowing more and more New Yorkers to experience this car-free paradise.”

“Governors Island is already an incredibly special place for Lower Manhattan and for the whole city,” said **Jessica Lappin, President of the Alliance for Downtown New York**. “We encourage everyone to get out to Governor’s Island on its last weekend of the season and enjoy what’s on the Island and get a peek at what’s next in store.”

“What a treat for New Yorkers – an extraordinary peek at the Governors Island Hills in progress,” said **Roland Lewis, Executive Director of the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance**. “The Hills will be one of the great additions to our harbor. We hope all visitors can enjoy this preview.”

“Once completed, the Hills will be a unique public space for New York City,” said **Tupper Thomas, Executive Director of New Yorkers for Parks**. “Acres of Governors Island has been transformed into an incredible park and we encourage New Yorkers from every borough to take advantage of this opportunity to experience the Hills for themselves.”

“Governors Island has undergone an incredible, inspiring transformation over the past few years,” said **Mary Rowe, Executive Vice President of the Municipal Art Society of New York**. “The next phase of this ambitious park—The Hills—will create yet another treasured piece of public space on this once-forgotten island and a new vantage point from which to behold the New York harbor where our City first took shape.”

“The transformation of Governors Island has been extraordinary,” said **David Burney, Acting Executive Director of the American Institute of Architects**. “We are excited to see the next chapter of the Island’s transformation - the Hills – and hope that all New Yorkers will take this opportunity to see them.”

“Having taken a tour of the Hills myself, I strongly encourage everyone to go out and see the unique design and amazing transformation of New York City’s next great place,” said **Kathy Shea, Executive Director of the American Society of Landscape Architects New York Chapter**.

“What a great chance to see a part of Governors Island never before open to all visitors,” said **Gregory Wessner, Executive Director of OpenHouseNY**. “We hope New Yorkers will take this opportunity to get in the spirit of OpenHouseNY weekend a little early to see this treasure of New York City.”

On weekends, ferries normally run every half hour from Manhattan and every hour from Brooklyn. **On the last day of the season, September 27, ferry service will increase between Governors Island and Brooklyn and ferries will run every half hour.** The Hills preview is being offered rain or shine on the last two days of Governors Island’s 2015

season. While Outlook Hill is designed to be fully wheelchair accessible, the construction site is not accessible by wheelchair. The Island is open from 10 AM to 7 PM on September 26 and 27. Governors Island closes to the public at 7 PM on Sunday, September 27.

About the Hills and the Governors Island Park

Made of recycled construction debris and clean fill material, The Hills rise 25 to 70 feet above the Island, and the summit of the tallest Hill will provide visitors with a 360-degree panorama of the Statue of Liberty, New York Harbor and the Lower Manhattan skyline. The Hills are scheduled to be complete in 2016.

Outlook Hill rises 70 feet above the Island and will be New York City's newest destination. Outlook Hill features winding paths and steep shrub-covered slopes. From the top of Outlook Hill, visitors will enjoy breathtaking views of the Statue of Liberty and New York Harbor. Grassy Hill provides a 25 foot high gentle grassy slope overlooking the Island's new and historic landscapes and the Manhattan skyline. Slide Hill (40 feet high), hosts four slides for children and families nestled in shady trees. The 40-foot high Discovery Hill is the setting for the convergence of nature and art with site-specific art along its shady pathways. The Hills will be home to 43,000 new shrubs and more than 860 new trees.

The first 30 acres of new park and public spaces opened to the public in 2014. The new 30 acres of park include Liggett Terrace, a sunny, 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, as have key visitor amenities, including lighting, seating and signage throughout the Historic District.

About The Trust for Governors Island

The Trust for Governors Island is the not-for-profit 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.

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About the Governors Island Alliance

The Governors Island Alliance is the private, non-profit partner of the Trust for Governors Island and the Governors Island National Monument. Its mission is to celebrate the Island's rich history, create memorable parks and public spaces, support the appropriate reuse of the Island and its historic structures, and provide private philanthropic resources, volunteering and public advocacy to ensure the highest quality of visitor experience on Governors Island.