



GOVERNORS ISLAND NATIONAL MONUMENT

DRAFT GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN AND
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT



Welcome ...



- Please sign in
- Purpose of this Open House



one: to showcase the four alternatives in the Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement



two: to answer any questions you may have about the plan or the National Monument



three: to obtain your written comments on the plan



Please note: There will be no presentation or plenary session at this Open House. A separate **public hearing** will be held for citizens to provide oral testimony and comments on the Draft GMP/EIS. Testimony will be made part of the public comment record.

Date: March 10, 2008

Time: 5-7:00 pm

Place: Federal Hall National Memorial
26 Wall Street
New York, NY 10005
2nd Floor Conference Room

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Governors Island National Monument ... *Location and boundary*



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior





The National Park Service ... *Mission*

NPS Mission

The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations.

The National Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.






Governors Island

National Monument ...

Purpose and Significance






Purpose



Governors Island National Monument was established to protect and preserve Castle Williams and Fort Jay, fortifications that historically served as an outpost to protect New York City from sea attack. The National Monument and larger island provide excellent opportunities for the public to observe and understand the harbor's rich history, its defense and its ecology.



Significance

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- Governors Island has long been a strategic location in one of the country's most important harbors.
 - Forts constructed on Governors Island were part of a national coastal defense system that spanned our country's East and West coasts.
 - Castle Williams (1811) and Fort Jay (1809) are two of the finest examples of defensive structures from the First and Second American Systems of Coastal Fortifications.
 - Castle Williams - a nearly circular red sandstone and granite fortification, commanding the island's northwest point, is the first American-designed fort with casemated gun emplacements, and its innovative design served as a prototype for seacoast fortification for decades.
 - Fort Jay - a star-shaped fortification of French design, surrounded by a dry moat and glacis, was constructed over remnants of earlier British and Continental Army earthworks on the island's highest point and is one of the largest and best preserved examples of its kind in the country.
 - The forts' proximity to one another and their setting, amidst a larger National and NYC Historic Landmark District, provide the context for understanding the evolution, over more the 200 years, of American defensive strategies and the growth of the U.S. Army as a professional federal force.
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The NPS GMP Process ... *and where we are now*



Step 1 Define project purpose and need

Step 2 Conduct initial scoping: public, other agencies, potential partners



Step 3 Develop preliminary management alternatives

Step 4 Present alternatives to public

Step 5 Refine alternatives to reflect additional research and public comments, as feasible



Step 6 Identify environmental impacts and select preferred alternative

Step 7 Prepare draft GMP / EIS document

Step 8 **Make document available for public review**



Step 9 Analyze comments on draft GMP / EIS

Step 10 Prepare final plan, including responses to public comments



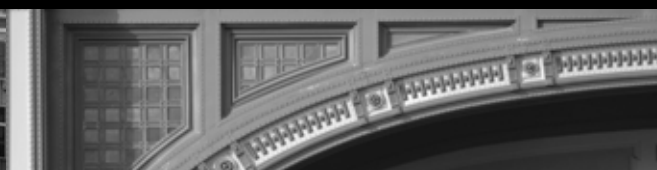
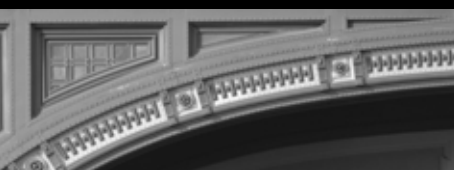
Step 11 Make final plan available to public and Congress

Step 12 NPS Regional Director issues a Record of Decision



Alternative A: No-Action

Status quo, with some notable improvements ...



Hop on ferries from several NY harbor locations and disembark on-island at Soissons Dock, Dock 101 and NPS's Dock 102, possible after repairs are made and a new floating dock is installed, which will accommodate a variety of vessels and provide additional emergency and public access options.

Pick up brochures, books, orientation and other information before your visit at the NPS bookstores inside the newly renovated Battery Maritime Building waiting room or on-island at Bldg. 140.

Explore the island through self-guided, Ranger-guided and special occasion tours - by foot, bike or shuttle.

Check out new wayside exhibits and kiosks throughout the National Monument for stories about the island's history - and about current programs and activities.

Explore the interiors and rooftop of Castle Williams and Fort Jay, made possible after NPS removes hazardous materials and stabilizes these buildings.

Enjoy and experience restored views, landscapes and the historical connections between the forts after buildings 251 and 513 and parking lot 504 are removed and these areas are re-landscaped.

Attend a variety of new and popular recurring seasonal public programs, activities and events on the parade ground and throughout the National Monument.

Elements Common to B, C and D *Actions include those described in Alternative A plus the following ...*



Develop a new landside shelter/visitor information station at Dock 102, providing shelter, island info and orientation.

Restore Fort Jay's main gate and eagle sculpture and re-landscape forecourt to better reflect the former defensive landscape features.

Rehabilitate Fort Jay and Castle Williams and program them with a variety of permanent and changing exhibitions, public activities and special events that are tied to the themes of harbor history, defense and ecology.

Establish in-residence programs at Fort Jay barracks for visiting artists, scholars, historians, scientists, performers and preservationists.

Complete the rehabilitation to Building 107, NPS administrative offices, to accommodate increasing operational and volunteer needs.

Re-landscape the Parade Ground, which includes developing a pathway between the 2 forts, turning demolition sites into recreational areas, removing former golf course features, removing diseased or dying trees and replanting specimen trees.

Develop a *Collections Management Plan* to guide the development of a collections program for the island and to make artifacts, oral histories and other data available for exhibits and research.

Develop a *Comprehensive Interpretive Plan* to guide the growth of interpretive programming and to better serve visitors with diverse interests, backgrounds, ages and abilities.



Alternative B: Governors Island History Center

A walk through history ...



The forts are fully rehabilitated and become the Governors Island History Center, the focal point for visitors exploring the island's history.

Castle Williams would showcase permanent and changing exhibitions, multi-media presentations, and artistic and musical performances that reflect the island's history and stories.

One or more barracks in Fort Jay would reflect military domestic life over the centuries, while other barracks would provide research space, used by scholars and the public, and dedicated space for an oral history program.

This Alternative focuses on activities within the Monument boundaries, with an emphasis on Ranger-led tours and programs.

Program emphasis: harbor defense, military history, life on the island.

Program examples:

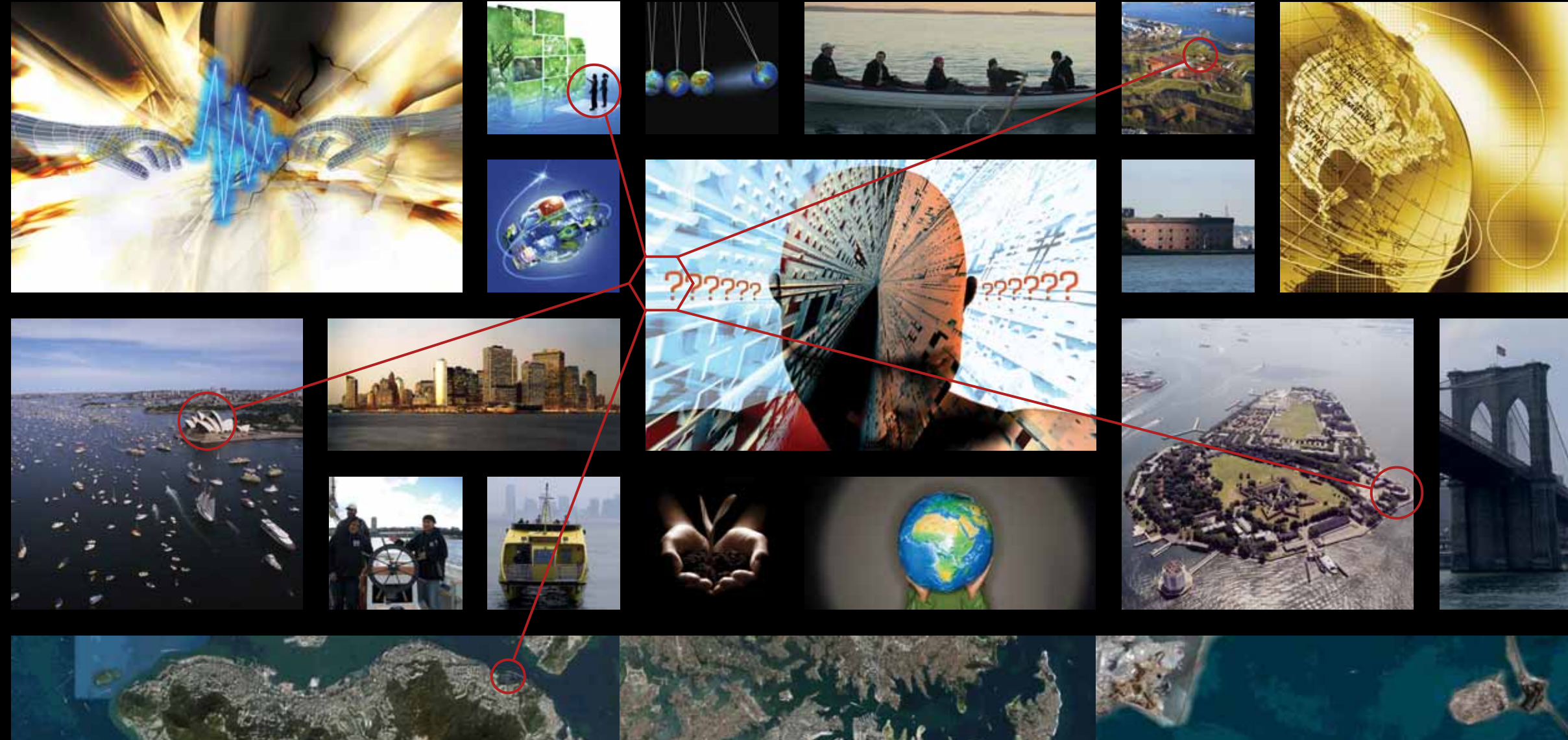
- **Costumed Living History Weekends** that commemorate Native American, Dutch and British heritage and occupation of the island, and that showcase roles that Governors Island played in all wars between the Revolutionary War and World War II. Weekends would include overnight encampments, musical performances, cannon and black-powder demonstrations, and food typical to the time or culture.
- **"A Day in the Life of a Civil War Soldier"** - including an overnight experience inside Castle Williams for children - aligned with NYC school curriculum and coordinated with scout troops, summer camps and organizations like Big Brothers, Big Sisters.

• **Famous (or infamous) Person Day** - commemorate people (from the past and present) who are associated with Governors Island. Visitors give a hero's welcome to our person of the day. Short speech by Person X is followed by a parade around the island and the unveiling of a new exhibit at Castle Williams.



Alternative D: Harbor Partnership

NPS's Preferred Alternative ...



NPS rehabilitates and develops the forts as a Harbor Center - a destination and activity center for visitors exploring a variety of New York Harbor attractions and issues.

NPS coordinates with other NY Harbor parks and attractions in the areas of reservations, marketing and water transportation to offer local and out-of-town visitors a year-round, stimulating array of harbor tours and experiences.

This alternative takes advantage of the research, activities and programs offered by other organizations and institutions in the NY metro area and builds on the National Parks of New York Harbor and NYC's Harbor District initiatives.

Castle Williams becomes the island's main interpretive center with a variety of permanent and changing exhibits, programs and installations, while Fort Jay barracks host harbor research, administrative offices and in-residence programs.

Program emphasis: the history of the harbor, its ecology and the economic, developmental and climate forces changing waterfronts nationally and internationally.

Program examples:

- Grab your canoe, kayak, sailboat or yacht and participate in an annual flotilla to celebrate New York's harbor. Boaters and landlubbers enjoy activities on Governors Island that focus on water and maritime themes. At dusk, special lighting around the island calls attention to the "heart of the harbor."
- Interact in real-time with scientists, marine biologists, architects and other professionals around the world who are developing new technologies and addressing climate and water level changes in their own countries.
- Watch a performance by a resident artist at Fort Jay, that creatively tells the life of a famous person or event associated with Governors Island - such as Wilbur Wright - and his first flight over water. Vintage aircraft demonstrations and hot air balloons culminate the show.