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U.S. Department of the Interior

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## Governors Island National Monument *News*

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**Date:** March 3, 2008

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Public hearing on Governors Island National Monument's Draft General Management Plan**

**New York, NY** – The National Park Service (NPS) is holding a public hearing on Governors Island National Monument's Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (GMP/EIS). During the hearing, speakers may present oral and written testimony to NPS which will become part of the public record. The GMP/EIS is required by law of all national parks and serves as a long-term plan to guide the management and use of park lands, whether they are natural areas or historic sites such as Governors Island National Monument.

**What:** Public Hearing

**When:** Monday, March 10, 2008  
5:00 – 7:00 pm

**Where:** Federal Hall National Memorial  
26 Wall Street  
New York, NY 10005  
[www.nps.gov/feha](http://www.nps.gov/feha)

**Web:** [www.nps.gov/gois](http://www.nps.gov/gois)

The Draft GMP/EIS is available for public review and comment for a period of 60 days, and will end March 18, 2008. During the review period, NPS will accept written comments on the plan. The document can be reviewed and commented on by visiting NPS' planning Web site at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>. Information on other means to view and comment on the document are available on the Governors Island Web site at [www.nps.gov/gois](http://www.nps.gov/gois).

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### ***About Governors Island National Monument***

Governors Island National Monument was established by Presidential Proclamation on February 7, 2003, for the purpose of preserving and protecting the island's historically significant military fortifications, Castle Williams and Fort Jay. The island, which is currently open during the summer and early fall, provides opportunities for the public to learn about the island's history, its role in world and national events, and about New York Harbor's rich history and ecology.

The National Monument occupies 22 acres of the 172-acre Governors Island. The remainder of Governors Island (150 acres) belongs to the Governors Island Preservation and Education Corporation (GIPEC). A partnership of New York City and New York State, GIPEC recently announced design plans for a new park and promenade on the island. While GIPEC and NPS work closely in the operations and redevelopment of Governors Island, management plans for their respective portions of the island are developed and implemented under different legal authorities.

Governors Island's strategic location, a few hundred yards off the southern tip of Manhattan, influenced its use and role throughout history. The island's coastal fortifications, Castle Williams and Fort Jay, formed a part of New York's inner harbor defensive system that included Castle Clinton in Battery Park, Fort Gibson (Ellis Island) and Fort Wood (Liberty Island). Governors Island is perhaps best known for the circular casemated battery that sits on the northern tip of the island. A former prison for Confederate soldiers, Castle Williams is the best preserved prototype of its kind and is one of only three such castles still standing. In 1966, the U.S. Army turned Governors Island over to the U.S. Coast Guard, which ceased operations there in 1997.

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