

# MAYOR BLOOMBERG AND OFFICIALS BREAK GROUND ON NEW GOVERNORS ISLAND PARK

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Last Thursday, the 24th of May, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg announced the groundbreaking of Phase 1 of the Governors Island Park and Public Spaces, designed by West 8. The Mayor's press conference also coincided with the official opening of the Island's 2012 summer season and the completed renovation of Castle Williams Fort. The plan for the first phase was delivered in February and is now officially under construction, set for completion in the fall of 2013.

Areas currently under construction are Liggett Terrace, Hammock Grove, the Play Lawns, Soissons Landing and historic areas on the North Island such as the Parade Ground and South Battery. In its design, the park fully celebrates the ecology, history, culture, and the magnificent beauty of the New York harbor, connecting New York's City to its waterfront. In addition to gardens, woodlands, and bikeways, West 8 has developed custom lighting, seating and signage. West 8 is also responsible for the Park and Public Space Master Plan, which lays out the plans for future phases such as Wetland Gardens, Hills, and a Great Promenade.

Leslie Koch, President of The Trust for Governors Island, stated the following on the day of the opening: "Today is a milestone for Governors Island and a great way to kick off the 2012 season". Open every Saturday, Sunday and Holiday Mondays, the public can enjoy the Island between the 26<sup>th</sup> of May and the 30<sup>th</sup> of September. Unlike previous years, the park will be closed on Fridays to facilitate the construction. During the weekend the public is likely to get an image of the immense redevelopment taking place.

more information: [Governors Island Park and Public Space Master Plan](#)