

# THE TRUST FOR GOVERNORS ISLAND

## **Governors Island's Tallest Building to be Imploded to Make Way for New Park**

*June 9 implosion of 11-story non historic building  
across from Statue of Liberty  
marks major milestone in Island's transformation*

*30 acres of new park now under construction*

*First structure to be demolished by implosion in the City of New York in more than a decade*

*Event to be streamed live on Internet and visible from  
Battery Park, Staten Island Ferry and Liberty State Park*

**May 29, 2013. New York, NY.** The Trust for Governors Island (The Trust) today announced that on June 9, it will implode the Island's largest non-historic building to make way for new public park spaces under construction. The implosion will take place on the morning of Sunday, June 9 and will be streamed live on the Internet and be visible from various points in and around the New York Harbor, including the Battery in Manhattan, the Staten Island Ferry, and Jersey City and Liberty State Park in New Jersey.

"The demolition of Building 877 is a major milestone in the transformation of Governors Island," said Ronay Menschel, Chair of The Trust for Governors Island. "A beautiful sports field will be constructed in the space cleared of this building as part of the Island's new park. The public will enjoy glorious views of the Statue of Liberty from all points in the park."

Building 877 is located on the Island's southern end. It is a 115 foot, 11-story brick building and was built in 1968. The building, also called the Cunningham Apartments, housed 165 duplex apartments for members of the Coast Guard and their families. Vacant since 1996, Building 877 is not landmarked and is located well outside the National Historic District on the northern half of the Island. This obsolete building does not comply with local or state building codes, was constructed with unacceptable levels of out of date materials and is therefore not fit for any future re-use.

As part of the Bloomberg Administration's investment in the Island's future, The Trust has been upgrading infrastructure, constructing new park spaces and demolishing obsolete buildings. The debris from Building 877 and the other demolished buildings is reused and recycled on the Island as fill in the creation of new park topography.

“It will require only ten seconds to implode the building,” said Leslie Koch, President of the Trust. “While it will be exciting to watch the implosion, it is even more exciting to see as an enormous step forward towards the Island’s future.”

Previously, the Trust announced and completed the demolition of six other non-historic structures on the Island. Building 877 is the first building to be imploded. Due to the building’s height, it is safer to demolish the structure by controlled implosion than mechanical dismantling, as it does not require workers to be working directly next to the building as it is coming down. The controlled implosion is conducted by detonating multiple explosive charges, at particular intervals, within the abated building. The charges are arranged to ensure that the building falls into itself and debris is contained within a specific, cordoned off area. The last structure imploded in NYC was the Keyspan Gas Tanks in 2001.

To prepare for the implosion, Building 877 was abated and all hazardous materials were removed. Its brick façade was taken down and the entire structure will be shrouded with black geo-textile fabric to ensure debris remains in a secured, cordoned area. The building will be demolished using more than 200 pounds of dynamite. The entire implosion from the word “go” to the building coming down will take approximately 30 seconds.

There will be no vibrations or loud noises generated by the implosion. A plume of dust may be briefly visible for approximately five minutes after the charges are fired. Such dust, which is non hazardous, is expected to settle directly on the implosion site and will not cause any health or environmental hazards. The implosion will not have any impact on any of the existing buildings on the Island, including the landmarked structures.

The implosion of Building 877 is being overseen by the NYC Department of Buildings and FDNY, which is observing all permitting and protocol requirements.

With the demolition of building 877, The Trust is moving forward with the transformation of 30 acres formerly closed to the public into new park. This park includes Liggett Terrace, a sunny, six acre plaza with seasonal plantings, seating, water features and public art; Hammock Grove, a shady ten acre space that is home to 1,500 new trees, play areas and hammocks; and the Play Lawn, 14 acres for play and relaxation that includes two turf ball fields sized for adult softball and Little League baseball. Construction of these 30 acres is on schedule for completion later this year. The southern ball field will be located in the footprint of Building 877. With this building’s demolition, visitors to the Island in the future will have unobstructed views of the Statue of Liberty from the ball field, and other points throughout the new park.

The implosion will take place on Sunday, June 9 at 7:36 AM. Governors Island will be closed to the public at that time and will not have any public access.

The implosion will be visible from other areas around New York Harbor, including Battery Park and Liberty State Park. Residents of high-rise buildings in lower Manhattan and Jersey City may also be able to view the implosion. Passengers on the Staten Island Ferry departing from the Staten Island Ferry Terminal at Whitehall at 7:30 AM should be able to view the implosion barring any change to the schedule. Air space up to 3,000 feet above Governors Island and

within a half mile radius will be closed during the implosion. The Harbor will remain open to boats outside a safety perimeter established and maintained by the US Coast Guard and NYPD.

Governors Island will open to the general public as it normally does at 10 AM on Sunday, June 9 and will be open for all regular public access season activities, including the Figment festival.

Members of the public will be reminded of the implosion on June 8 by the Notify NYC alert system and various news alerts.

Press wishing to cover the demolition must RSVP in advance by June 5 to [erapuano@govisland.nyc.gov](mailto:erapuano@govisland.nyc.gov).

#### 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 planning, redevelopment, and ongoing operations of 150 acres of Governors Island. The Trust is transforming Governors Island into a destination with great public open space, as well as educational, not-for-profit, and commercial facilities. The Trust broke ground on 30 acres of new park spaces scheduled to be complete in the fall of 2013 and is proceeding with an ambitious infrastructure program to ready the Island for expanded tenancy and activity. For more information, visit [www.govisland.com](http://www.govisland.com).

Contact: Elizabeth Rapuano/646.596.5321/[erapuano@govisland.nyc.gov](mailto:erapuano@govisland.nyc.gov)