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*Rendering & map available for download at https://bit.ly/3VUdNOk*
**CREDIT:** Rendering–Indigo River, Map–Trust for Governors Island

# TRUST FOR GOVERNORS ISLAND BEGINS REBUILD OF YANKEE AND LIMA PIERS, PAVING THE WAY FOR EXPANDED FERRY ACCESS

*City-funded investment will create a new year-round passenger ferry gateway at Yankee Pier, add a resilient second vehicle and emergency access point at Lima Pier, and prepare the Island for its next chapter of growth*

**NEW YORK (October 21, 2026) —** The Trust for Governors Island today announced the start of a $64 million, City-funded rebuild of two of the Island's waterfront workhorses: Yankee Pier and Lima Pier. The project will establish Yankee Pier as a primary passenger ferry gateway to the Island, doubling its ferry landing capacity, introducing new passenger amenities, and laying the groundwork for expanded ferry service. Lima Pier will be rebuilt as a dependable second access point for deliveries, construction vehicles and emergency services.

The investment comes as Governors Island continues its decade-long transformation from a seasonal destination into a year-round public resource for New Yorkers and visitors. Ferries are the only way to reach the Island, and the new piers are designed to meet that demand for decades to come.

"Every visit to Governors Island begins at the water's edge. This investment gives the Island a ferry gateway built for the year-round destination it has become, with room to welcome more routes and more New Yorkers in the years ahead," said **Clare Newman, President and CEO of the Trust for Governors Island**.

**Manhattan Borough President Brad Hoylman-Sigal said:** "Governors Island is one of our city's greatest public gems: home to a thriving arts community, 120 acres of open space, and the future home of the New York Climate Exchange. I'm elated to celebrate the rebuilding of Yankee and Lima Piers, which lays the groundwork for expanded ferry access and enables even more New Yorkers to engage with the programming and green space Governors Island has to offer. I'm grateful to Trust for Governor's Island President and CEO Clare Newman, Deputy Mayor for Economic Justice Julie Su, Congressman Dan Goldman, State Senator Andrew Gounardes, Assemblymember Charles Fall, Council Member Chris Marte, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and NYC Bird Alliance for their collaboration to make this project possible."

"Governors Island is an incredible public resource, and this major investment in Yankee and Lima Piers will significantly expand access and improve the visitor experience for Brooklynites heading to Governors Island," **said Council Member Lincoln Restler.** "Whether coming for a picnic or art exhibition, or just to see the stunning beauty of Governors Island, I hope every Brooklynite will make the short trip."

"Governors Island is an extraordinary public resource for New Yorkers, and investing in its infrastructure is essential to ensuring its continued success as a year-round destination," **said Alice Blank, Chair of Manhattan Community Board 1.** "The reconstruction of Yankee and Lima Piers will expand ferry access, strengthen resiliency, and help ensure that the Island remains accessible to more New Yorkers for generations to come. Manhattan Community Board 1

welcomes this important investment in the Island's future and its continued contribution to our city's public life."

Both Yankee and Lima Piers are 60 years old, and were originally built to serve the needs of the United States Coast Guard. These infrastructure projects are critical to supporting the Trust's mission to expand access and use of Governors Island, which has seen a remarkable transformation over the past decade from a seasonal to year-round destination, welcoming nearly 1 million visitors a year. Passenger service will continue to serve Soissons Landing in addition to Yankee Pier once completed.

Preparation for the demolition of Yankee and Lima Pier will begin this month. During construction, Yankee Pier will be out of service, with NYC Ferry's South Brooklyn route and the Trust's seasonal Brooklyn Ferry service diverted to Pier 101 starting November 2, 2026. The Yankee Pier Welcome Center will be moved to Pier 101 during this period. Public access to the Island's park and public spaces, including the waterfront esplanade, will not be impacted.

The redesigned Yankee Pier will feature a widened, rectangular deck accommodating passenger queuing for up to four routes, a floating ferry landing with expanded vessel compatibility, and passenger amenities including wayfinding and service information, a canopy for shading, seating, and lighting. Yankee Pier will be rebuilt to an 11' elevation, built to withstand flooding and severe weather.

The new Lima Pier will be able to accommodate dedicated deliveries for Island goods and services, construction materials for infrastructure improvements, revitalization of historic buildings, new facilities, and park improvements, plus additional access for emergency services. The new floating pier structure will also include additional mooring options for the Trust vessel fleet, and resiliency improvements.

The project has been approved by and coordinated with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. In-water work will follow seasonal restrictions that protect fish and other marine life. Lima Pier has hosted a colony of Common Terns, a state-listed threatened species, in recent years. The Trust has committed to working with NYC Bird Alliance on a floating dock to support tern habitats during pier reconstruction and beyond.

"NYC Bird Alliance has looked out for the Common Terns on Governors Island for more than a decade, and we're grateful that our partners at the Trust for Governors Island are creating a new habitat for these birds to nest," **said Dustin Patridge, PhD, Senior Director of Conservation and Science at NYC Bird Alliance.** "By prioritizing terns in the pier redesign, the Trust is setting an example for how cities can thoughtfully use waterfronts while protecting biodiversity. We look forward to welcoming the terns back to their new nesting habitat when they return from South and Central America in spring 2027."

The design and construction teams were awarded through competitive RFPs. The design of the pier renovations was awarded to a team led by Indigo River, a New York-based, women-owned transdisciplinary design studio, with support from Assemblage Landscape Architecture and COLLECTIF Engineering. Skanska USA Building will be the construction manager for the project.

For more information, visit govisland.org.

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**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 redevelopment and operation of 150 acres of Governors Island. The Trust's mission is to realize the full potential of Governors Island for the inspiration and enjoyment of all New Yorkers, demonstrating a bold vision for public space. For more information, visit www.govisland.org.