

GOVERNORS ISLAND

The Future of "Our Country Place In The City"?

While there is room for a Climate Center in some form on Governors Island, it should not be at the expense of the incredibly unique green urban refuge, free of high-rise high density development and traffic that currently serves as a safe, pastoral experience for NYC children and their families and provides space for environmental, educational, and arts projects.

When Governors Island was turned over to NYC in 2003, people worked very hard to have it be a public place and not fall into the hands of private developers. The resulting 2003 Deed set out to **"ensure the protection and preservation of the natural, cultural and historic qualities of Governors Island,"** so that the Island would serve as **"an educational and civic resource of special historic character and as a recreational and open space resource."**

The intent did NOT include:

- Essentially privatizing the island by turning it into a research campus
- Fueling the city's economic engine. "One billion dollars and 7,000 Jobs"? Really? Where is the data behind that? And **the GI deed requires that any income generated on Governors Island, "shall be applied solely" to the operation of Governors Island.**

The 2021 upzoning currently facing a legal challenge wasn't necessary to bring in a "Center for Climate Solutions", but the center was needed to sell the upzoning. **Simply extending the special zoning applied to the GI historic district in 2013 would have been more than adequate.** The actual intention here is not climate research or supporting GI, but to provide an "anchor tenant" with which to attract major developers. The other main developer incentive is the excessive building heights provided by the 2021 upzoning.

GI New York's "country place in the city " serves as a park even in places with buildings. Children experience a freedom unlike anywhere else in the city and New Yorkers of all income levels from all boroughs can afford a break from the stress of the city.

But the 2021 rezoning destroys this by, amongst other things:

- Allowing 225ft-plus building heights and high density development 3 times the height of GI's Overlook Hill on an island of completely low-rise structures (historic and other), vast open green spaces, and countless mature trees
- Creating parking for 200 vehicles on a traffic free island.

Everyday new yorkers enjoying GI are shocked and dismayed when told of the drastic 2021 upzoning. A frequent response is **"why Can't we have this ONE place?!"**

What is the best use of GI? the **community signon statement** signed by over 70 organizations and the **"Alternative South Island Visualization"** on the M.A.G.I.C. website provide answers.



Metro **A**rea **G**overnors **I**sland **C**oalition
<https://govislandcoalition.org>