



Progress Report: East Lyme's Overlook Park

by R.S. De Santo, East Lyme Public Trust Foundation, Inc.

Progress on the Niantic Bay Overlook walkway is particularly remarkable in this October update for two reasons. First, the Tropical Storm/Hurricane Irene that wreaked such havoc on the East Coast, including further erosion to the western half of the Niantic Bay Overlook Park, did not damage the Amtrak project to replace the eastern half of Niantic Bay Overlook Park. Second, the new walkway along the Amtrak reconstructed eastern half of the Overlook Park began on September 9th. The accompanying photograph shows the first section of the walkway having just been poured on September 9, 2011. It starts opposite Niantic Transmission's garage on Route 156, seen in the upper left of the photograph and is being poured from west to east. It will result in the 10 foot wide concrete walkway extending 2,549 feet from this point to the new Cini Park entrance that will bring visitors under the new Niantic River railroad bridge to the east end of Overlook Park.

Once completed, the original wire mesh fence used in the Park will be returned between the posts seen in the photograph along the beach side of the walkway. The original 53 memorial park benches that lined this half of the Park will be replaced in the same order as they were on the original Overlook Park. The benches will line the wall seen on the left in this photograph that separates the walkway from the new rail road track bed. The 50 memorial benches removed from the western half of the Park will continue to be stored by the East Lyme Park and Recreation Department until they can be returned to the western half of the Park once the Town determines how it will proceed with that reconstruction.

For more information on overlook progress visit online at: www.publictrustfoundation.org/news.htm.

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