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Beach construction is progressing from the west to the east and is sculpted by the sea to ultimately create a new curved coast line as a consequence of the new stone groin adjacent to the new bridge.

## Progress Report: East Lyme's Overlook Park

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

The work schedule on the Amtrak project of replacing the Niantic River Railroad Bridge and the eastern end of the Niantic Bay Overlook Park is receiving growing interest by the regional press.

Our efforts to give you information and insight into that project will also continue and, unlike other reports, will seek to provide detail and a perspective of public trust and less with the bridge alone.

From this perspective of benefiting issues of public trust in the region, the expansion of the public beach due to this Amtrak project will ultimately create approximately 9 acres of new sandy beach at Overlook Park. That result is a tribute not only to the federal government's commitment of Stimulus Monies to build both the new railroad bridge and the new beach but also to the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). It was due to the permit DEEP issued to Amtrak that the specifics of the construction process led to the results we see today.

When completed in the early summer of 2013, the project will be a tribute to our regional, state, and federal governments and their cooperative focus on improving both your regional quality of life and our economic recovery.

The above photograph of construction activities on the beach was taken from the observation deck on the roof of the railroad bridge control house on February 1, 2012. The design and construction of the beach is described elsewhere in detail (see: <http://publictrustfoundation.org/beach-nourishment.pdf>)

The new beach involves placement of 70,000 cubic yards of sand to create an 88 foot wide beach at Elevation +6.0. The leading edge of that sand assumes a theoretical 1:8 slope created each day by tidal action, storm waves, and the effects of the 230 stone groin to be built perpendicular to the Niantic River Channel where a construction wharf now exists. The wharf/groin traps sand that would otherwise be eroded off the beach to be carried along the shore to the east. For more information on project progress see: <http://publictrustfoundation.org/news.htm> .

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