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Progress Report: East Lyme's Overlook Park

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

The photograph above was taken on June 17, 2013, at 3:03 pm, when the tide was approximately one hour after dead low. It looks west near the first access stairway to the new beach. The camera was approximately 1,000 feet west of the underpass that takes you from the parking lot at Cini Park to the start of Overlook Park walkway. This eastern half of the walkway was opened to the public on June 12, 2013, approximately three years after Amtrak began its project to replace the Niantic River railroad bridge. Work was permitted in 2010 by a federal permit that included a requirement to rebuild Overlook Park. That requirement resulted in adding approximately 10 acres of new beach area as a consequence of a Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection condition that called for construction of a 220 foot stone groin at the eastern end of the park. Seventy-six thousand cubic yards of sand were trucked to the beach from Canterbury, CT. and spread over the original beach by machine and the tides. Sand is "trapped" by the groin, which thus expanded the new beach by an additional 10 acres. Note the sun bather seen on the above photograph.

The 12 foot wide new concrete walkway stretches 2,500 feet westward along the 1.1 miles park. Beginning in the fall of 2013, the Town of East Lyme plans reconstruction of the western half of the park in order to connect the eastern half with Hole in the Wall underpass at its western end.

Working in cooperation with the Town of East Lyme, the East Lyme Public Trust Foundation, Inc. continues to offer the public opportunities on its web site to donate tax exempt commemorative plaques for attachment to the walkway fence. The Foundation will also soon consider placement of additional park benches on the walkway, if there is public interest in making commemorative bench donations for that purpose.

For more information on Overlook Park, see: <http://publictrustfoundation.org/news.htm>.

Publication of news, event listings and press releases is provided free of charge for non-profit organizations every month on a "space available" basis

Deadline for submission:
by the 17th of the month
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