



## East Lyme's Overlook Park Progress Report #33

Robert S. De Santo, Ph.D., East Lyme Public Trust Foundation

Reconstruction of the western half of the Niantic Bay walkway (a.k.a. Overlook Park) continues to progress steadily. As of January 11, 2015, a total of 291 twin steel sheet piles, which is equivalent to 1,213 lineal feet of the required 2,750 feet of steel bulkhead (i.e. a retaining wall along a waterfront) is being extended westward from the end of the Amtrak constructed eastern half of the walkway. The bulkhead ending at Hole-in-the-Wall, is an especially critical design because it permits construction of an elevated concrete walkway starting at approximately 17.8 feet at its western end and sloping down to 11.3 feet about 60 feet east of the groin at the Hole in the Wall beach. That sloping elevation will protect the finished walkway from storm damage as intense as that expected from a storm with a 100 year return frequency. Such a storm would reach an elevation of 10.2 feet, as predicted based on present day scientific calculations.

The stone-armored steel bulkhead that begins at the end of the eastern half of Overlook Park is technically classified as a revetment (i.e. a coastal structure built to preserve existing uses of the shoreline and protect those coastal uses against erosion, such as the walkway (i.e. boardwalk). The present reconstruction of the walkway is being undertaken by the Town of East Lyme and its task of driving sheet piles as of January 11, 2014, was 44% complete. Once this part of the project is 100% complete, the revetment will extend 2,750 feet and carry the walkway to its western terminus within about 30 feet of the Hole-in-the-Wall underpass.

The accompanying photograph was taken at 1:48pm on January 14, 2015, and is a westward view from the end of the reconstructed walkway opposite Boats Incorporated on Main Street (i.e. Route 156). Recent snow showers left snow patches on the ground. The photograph shows the length of the completed 1,213 foot long bulkhead and its associated protective stone armor, which together comprise the revetment. Note the gravelly walkway foundation, which will receive another approximately 18" of compacted gravel base that will ultimately support the concrete cap and 6" thick concrete walkway. The concrete cap will be poured in place and thus encase the top of the bulkhead. The final walkway will slope 2% to drain runoff toward the sea and will be flush with the concrete cap. Bulkhead, cap, and walkway will thus unify and strengthen the entire integrated structure.

## Coastal Cuts

Old Lyme Marketplace - 860 434-2668  
Cuts, Colors, Highlights  
Lowlights & Perms



Let us help you fall back in LOVE  
with your hair this month.

Make your appointment TODAY  
with Jenn, Tina, Cathi or Darlene and let  
Cupid shoot his arrows your way this Valentine's Day!

Walk-ins Welcome



Gentlemen as Well

**BIRDS NEED  
WATER ALL YEAR**


*Wild Birds Unlimited*  
Come See Our Heated Bird Baths  
190 Flanders Rd., Niantic (860) 739-7302

---

**SEED & SUET SALE**

**FEB 14<sup>th</sup> - MARCH 1<sup>st</sup>**

*Wild Birds Unlimited*  
Our Seed is Better And We Can Prove It  
190 Flanders Rd., Niantic (860) 739-7302



**LIVECTA TRANSITION PROGRAMS**

**Mission:**  
Preparing Young Adults on the Spectrum for Life

- Community Based
- Person Centered Planning
- Post Secondary College & Career Support
- Digital Media Classes
- Workshops
- Social Groups
- Residential Program (ages 18-21)

[www.livectaprograms.com](http://www.livectaprograms.com)  
 Email: [livecta@lhcampus.com](mailto:livecta@lhcampus.com)