



## East Lyme's Overlook Park Progress Report #53

*Robert S. De Santo, PhD., East Lyme Public Trust Foundation*

The accompanying photograph was taken from a vantage point on a condominium balcony overlooking the Northeast Corridor AMTRAK railroad — the busiest railroad corridor in the United States. It connects Washington, DC with Boston MA, with twenty-six intermediate stations. Here, Niantic Bay Overlook Park is seen at railroad Milepost 115.16 along Niantic Bay, Connecticut. ACELA locomotive #2011, consisting of six cars and two locomotives on Track 1, is flying past at about 85 MPH on August 25, 2016 at 5:46 pm. This perspective looks east to show nearly all of the 1.1 mile long Niantic Boardwalk that hugs the railroad alignment as it curves around Niantic Bay on the south shore of Long Island Sound.

More than 210 park benches line the Boardwalk from its western to its eastern end at the Niantic River railroad bridge (a.k.a. NAN at Milepost 116.74). A few examples of the benches are seen in the foreground of this photograph. They each carry commemorative engraving that donors have given in remembrance of friends, family, special events or sentiments that they wish to share with those who visit the park. Aligned with their backs against the safety fence, which separates the railroad right-of-way from the pedestrian walkway, approximately 100,000 visitors each year visit Niantic and walk the Boardwalk by entering the facility during daylight hours through Hole-in-the Wall parking lot or Cini Park, both connected to Main Street (i.e. CT Route 156) that runs through down town Niantic.

More information on all aspects of the Niantic Bay Boardwalk and the East Lyme Public Trust Foundation, Inc. is available on the internet at: <http://www.publictrustfoundation.org/>. That source gives a history of this public trust project, which includes the various environmental state and federal permits granted (<http://publictrustfoundation.org/focus.htm>), the storm damage that destroyed the western half of the Boardwalk (<http://www.publictrustfoundation.org/media.htm>), and the reconstruction of the Boardwalk (<http://www.publictrustfoundation.org/news.htm>) between 2013-2016.

*This is the last in the series of reports about the Niantic Bay Boardwalk and its Overlook Park that began in the August, 2013 issue of Post Road Review. We'd like to thank Dr. De Santo for his diligence in keeping our readers up to date on the project so well over the years - The Post Road Review*

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