

# CRMC, partners to install hybrid shoreline at Rose Larisa Park in EP



*A view of the park and eroded bank*

The City of East Providence is partnering with the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) and The Nature Conservancy to create two different types of hybrid shoreline in East Providence, to examine how they might slow erosion on the area’s steep coastal bluffs at Rose Larisa Park.

The project includes two phases using different shoreline treatments, and is part of a larger regional project in New England coastal states designed to analyze different nature-based infrastructure used for erosion control. The project is funded through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) Coastal

Resiliency Fund.

The over-steepened bluffs at the site of the former Crescent Park and adjacent shoreline rise 20 to 30 feet above the narrow beach. Erosion has carved out the lower third of the bluff in several sections of the shoreline. Fallen trees where the root systems have been undermined are common features.

Phase I of the project will be the construction of an intertidal stone sill, consisting of three low stone structures that will be topped by seawater at high tide, and about three feet high at low tide. Sand fill will be added landward of the sill and planted



*A section of an older, failed revetment*

in order to create saltmarsh.

Phase II is a bluff treatment that uses stone at the base and logs made of coconut fiber farther up the slope. The bluff will be planted with native vegetation. Both shoreline treatments are considered hybrid because they use “hard” (stone) and “soft” (biodegradable materials and vegetation) elements. Unlike concrete or stone walls the hybrid shorelines are designed to prevent erosion while also improving habitat.



*The project site at the Rose Larisa beach*

“Much of Rhode Island’s coastline is eroding, and it’s a problem with no easy fix,” said CRMC Chair Jennifer Cervenka. “This nature-based erosion control is one of the first of its kind in Rhode Island, and New England, and it could mean

a better solution for coastal managers like the CRMC, and for coastal property owners. We can’t stop erosion completely, but living shoreline infrastructure like this might buy our shores some valuable time.”

[Learn More](#)

## Aquaculturists: Tips for being a good neighbor

At a recent Vibrio workshop held by the CRMC and its partners, Robert Rheault, executive director of the East Coast Shellfish Growers Association (ECSGA), also included tips on being a good aquaculture neighbor.

- The appearance of your lease and your shore-side facilities is vitally important. Neat, tidy rows of gear will draw fewer complaints than piles of gear strewn about;
- Be mindful of the odor of drying gear and shell piles. Who is downwind?
- Sign up to serve on conservation groups, harbor management committees, and zoning boards;
- Engage with your neighbors, your state reps, and your regulators. Invite them on tours and share some product. Listen to comments and don’t argue;
- Never drop trash, zip ties, or cigarette butts in the water;
- Use trawl lines for bottom cages instead of dozens of individual buoys

For more tips, click on the link at the right—

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