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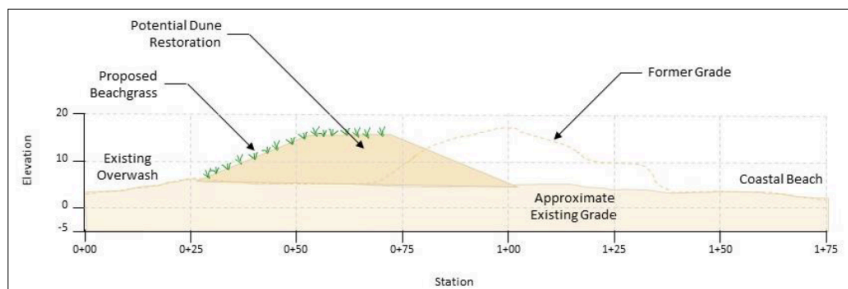
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Dune and coastal road resilience projects in Ipswich and Edgartown receive funding from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM)

In partnership with Dukes County, the Town of Edgartown and Town of Ipswich the two projects will work to adapt vulnerable locations to the impacts of climate change, including storm surge and sea level rise.



ABOVE LEFT: A built dune can serve as a barrier to storm surge, preventing coastal flooding and erosion. The design above shows the proposed dune design prepared by Woods Hole Group, working with The Trustees and Town of Edgartown.

ABOVE RIGHT: Argilla Road is threatened by both storm flooding and “blue-sky” flooding events, during normal high tides.

Edgartown & Ipswich, MA – August 26, 2021 – The Trustees of Reservations ([The Trustees](https://www.thetrustees.org/)) will partner on two coastal resilience projects in cooperation with the towns of Edgartown and Ipswich, following grant awards totalling \$316,000 from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs’ (EEA) Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Coastal Resilience Grant Program.

The two projects to receive funding are part of a \$4 million Coastal Resilience Grant round, supporting 19 projects in Braintree, Chatham, Dartmouth, Edgartown, Falmouth, Gosnold, Hingham, Hull, Ipswich, Marblehead, Marion, Mattapoisett, Orleans, Salem, Tisbury, and Wareham.

On Martha’s Vineyard, CZM awarded \$240,674 grant to the town of Edgartown to restore the primary coastal dune on South Beach and Norton Point Beach, relocate one of three bathhouses 50 feet inland, and remove an asphalt lot. Project partners include The Trustees and Dukes County. The restoration will use native plants and compatible dredge material to construct the dune. It will also move the current OSV trail further inland, away from its current location through the dune overwash area, with the goal of strengthening the resiliency of coastal infrastructure and publicly accessible shorelines.

“This dune restoration will take place along a vulnerable stretch of beach, where repeated overwash events from tides and storms have completely eroded the primary dune,” noted Tom O’Shea, Trustees Managing Director of Resources and Planning. “By restoring the primary dune we can help to protect the vital habitat on the beach and behind it, and maintain public access to this beloved property, which faces accelerating challenges in coming years from the impacts of climate change.”

Working with Woods Hole Group, the project team has planned for a 14-foot-high dune with a 10:1 slope ratio, after conducting analysis and modeling to determine what would be most resilient to erosion and storm surge. With funding in hand, the team will now work to identify a local source of sand with dune construction anticipated to be completed by June 2022.

“The Town of Edgartown Park Commission is pleased to have The Trustees as a partner in this phase of this retreat and restoration project,” said Jane Varkonda, Edgartown Conservation Agent and Park Commissioner. “The town and The Trustees share a common boundary between South Beach and Norton Point. At this easternmost portion of South Beach all vehicle traffic entering and exiting Norton Point converges with pedestrians, bicycle traffic and cars parking for South Beach. South Beach provides a mile of public beach open to all the visitors to the island. We maintain and staff five lifeguard stations and park patrol staff who respond to emergencies on the beach and also to our abutting beach managers as needed. The town is extremely grateful to CZM and their staff for their guidance in getting this project to the construction phase. CZM awarded the town a grant last year to provide funding to engineer and permit the project. After the close call with Hurricane Henri this past weekend, the need to do both projects is even more evident. Neither the town or The Trustees’ dune restoration and enhancement projects can stand alone and must be managed with the same goals and objectives. The Edgartown Park Department looks forward to continuing our collaboration with managing the beaches in Edgartown with The Trustees and the County as our neighbors.”

On the North Shore, a \$75,642 grant will fund the next phase of a coastal road resilience project in Ipswich. A partnership between the town and The Trustees, the project will bolster the resilience of Argilla Road—a key point of access for thousands of visitors to the Crane Estate and Crane Beach as well as for residents, fishermen and clammers—as it faces increasing challenges from flooding events. This essential road and the surrounding landscape were identified as one of The Trustees’ properties most susceptible to climate change impacts by an extensive climate vulnerability assessment (CVA) carried out in partnership with the Woods Hole Group in 2017. The CVA forecasted a 100% probability of inundation for Argilla Road in the next 10-50 years.

“This innovative project, which represents an opportunity to pilot an approach that can serve as a pilot model or blueprint for other coastal roads across the state, is now in its third phase,” added O’Shea. “With three phases already funded through previous Coastal Resilience Grants, the project team will now be able to complete the Single Environmental Impact Report, prepare and submit the Notice of Intent Application, and renew the Order of Resource Area Delineation, to move this work forward.”

The project ultimately seeks to raise an approximately half-mile stretch of Argilla Road between the Castle Hill and Crane Beach entrances. Along with raising the level of the pavement, the team is planning for nature-based designs to protect the side slopes of the elevated road from erosion, and replace a culvert under Argilla Road with a larger design that will allow for greater exchange of tidal water in the salt marsh. The next phase of work is anticipated to be complete by June 2022, to prepare the project for future construction. To learn more about this work, explore the project’s Storymap: onthecoast.thetrustees.org/argilla-road-project.

“The Town of Ipswich is thankful to CZM for the continued funding support for the design & permitting efforts for this project,” said Frank Ventimiglia, Director of Operations Public Works for the Town of Ipswich. “As the design and permitting work towards completion the Town and Trustees are working hard to secure the needed funding for construction.”

With 120 miles of coastline in its care, The Trustees is the largest private owner of protected coastline in the state, and is focused on trialing new, innovative solutions on and around its vulnerable shores. These two grant awards, announced on August 16, follow the August 4 release of The Trustees State of the Coast report, which explores current and future climate change-related risks to Martha’s Vineyard, Nantucket, and the Elizabeth Islands, as well as potential paths for adaptation and action. In 2020 the inaugural report focused on 13 coastal zone communities on the North Shore, including Ipswich. To explore the report findings, including interactive maps, visit: thetrustees.org/coast.

“We are so grateful for the continued support of EEA and CZM, as we work to protect and adapt our vulnerable coastal properties to the impacts of climate change,” said Jocelyn Forbush, Trustees Acting President and CEO. “As our State of the Coast reports show, impacts such as storm surge and sea level rise are expected to accelerate in as little as 30 years—the time for action and collaboration is now.”

The Coastal Resilience Grant program supports local efforts to analyze and address climate impacts, plan for adaptation efforts, and raise community awareness. Including the latest \$4 million round of funding, the Baker-Polito Administration has invested \$23 million in 155 coastal resilience improvement projects through the Coastal Resilience Grant Program since 2015.

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More about The Trustees

Founded by landscape architect Charles Eliot in 1891, The Trustees has, for 130 years, been a catalyst for important ideas, endeavors, and progress in Massachusetts. As a steward of distinctive and dynamic places of both historic and cultural value, The Trustees is the nation’s first preservation and conservation organization, and its landscapes and landmarks continue to inspire discussion, innovation, and action today as they did in the past. We are a nonprofit, supported by members, friends and donors and our 120 sites are destinations for residents, members, and visitors alike, welcoming millions of guests annually. www.thetrustees.org.