



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Town of Ipswich in Partnership with The Trustees Receives a \$163,000 Coastal Resilience Grant for 2nd Phase of Argilla Road Adaptation Project from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM)



1: The Crane Estate in Ipswich, MA. Photo courtesy Above Summit

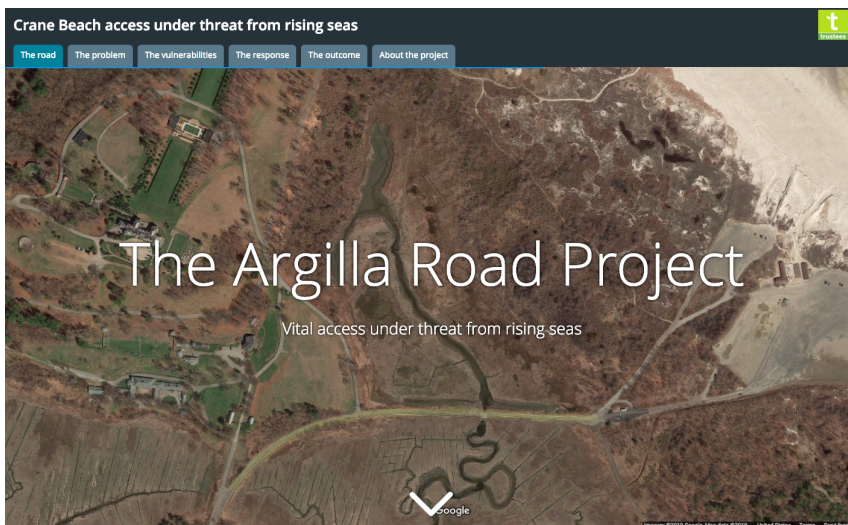
Boston & Ipswich, MA – September 16, 2019 – The Trustees of Reservations ([The Trustees](#)) and [Town of Ipswich](#) (Town) are pleased to announce that the Town has been awarded a \$163,732 Coastal Resilience grant from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs’ Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM) for the second phase of an innovative climate change adaptation project [currently in progress along Argilla Road](#), a key point of access for over 350,000 visitors to the Crane Estate each year.

Owned and managed by The Trustees, the Crane Estate is a 2,100-acre conserved complex of three iconic yet highly vulnerable coastal properties—Castle Hill, Crane Beach, and Crane Wildlife Refuge—which all represent significant historical and ecological importance and serve as a treasured community resource and important part of the local economy. Situated along the coast on the Commonwealth’s north shore, Argilla Road is the entry point to the entire estate which faces escalating challenges from increasingly frequent and severe storms, flooding, and rising sea levels.

“Our coastal properties are on the ‘front lines’ of the impacts from our changing climate, and we know we must act now to monitor changes, pilot solutions, and be prepared for the future,” says Barbara Erickson, Trustees President & CEO. “We are grateful for the continued support from our supporters and organizations like CZM and look forward to reaching more milestones as we move into the second phase of this important and groundbreaking adaptation project.”

During a March 2018 storm, The Trustees' Eastern and coastal properties experienced widespread tree and structural damage, as well as coastal erosion, with overwash particularly significant on its Crane Estate and Island properties. Locally, beach access was temporarily closed from flooding of roads and entrances to Crane Beach and the Crane Beach Gatehouse were lifted nearly 12 inches to avoid damage from entrance flooding.

The accelerated vulnerability of Trustees coastal properties, including Argilla Road and its surrounding landscape, was underscored in an extensive [Climate Vulnerability Assessment](#) (CVA) conducted with Woods Hole Group. The CVA identified Crane Beach and Crane Wildlife Refuge as two of the most vulnerable Trustees properties and, for Argilla Road, forecasted a 100% probability of inundation in the next 10-50 years. As the largest private owner of protected coastline in the state with 120 miles of coastline in its care, The Trustees was the first conservation nonprofit to commission a study of this kind, making it a priority to proactively care for its vulnerable coastal assets and protect its beautiful cultural and historic icons for generations to come, by trialing new, innovative and nature-based solutions.



2: This StoryMap, developed by the Trustees and partners, serves as a visual guide of the project's progress and goals.

In August 2018, CZM awarded the Town of Ipswich and The Trustees a [\\$156,155 Coastal Resilience grant](#) to jump start the first phase of the Argilla Road project which will protect vital road access for residents, visitors, fisherman and emergency personnel. The first phase developed 30% of the initial design for nature-based, green infrastructure approaches to help protect the road from increased flooding and climate change impacts. With the latest CZM grant, the Town and The Trustees will move into the second phase to further develop and finish the designs and move forward

with the permitting process for the next phase. The funding will also enable The Town and The Trustees to host roundtable discussions with some of the permitting agencies and organize public outreach sessions to engage and inform the community on the complexities of the work. The Town of Ipswich will contribute matching funds for this effort, and The Trustees will provide in-kind support.

Phase II is scheduled to be complete by June 30, 2020, and will ultimately inform the final adaptation project to replace the undersized culvert—allowing enough room for natural tidal flow, raise a half-mile stretch of the road bed, and incorporate green infrastructure on the road's side slopes for added protection.

“CZM has been a strong partner and supporter for innovative and transferable coastal resilience projects such as the Argilla Road resiliency project which we are collaborating on with the Town of Ipswich,” adds Tom O’Shea, Trustees Program Director for Coast & Natural Resources.

“We have made significant progress during Phase I and now we’re ready to build upon that success, thanks to their continued support. Our hope is that this project, once complete, can not only protect this vulnerable

community and ecological treasure, but also serve as a model on how to bolster the resilience of other vulnerable coastal roads which provide critical public access to our beaches and coast throughout the state and beyond.”

On September 4, 2019, [The Baker-Polito Administration and CZM announced more than \\$2.4 million](#) in funding to support coastal resilience projects, to help prepare for, and adapt to, the effects of our changing climate, including storm surge, flooding, erosion and sea level rise. In addition to the \$163,732 Argilla Road Adaptation Project grant, The Trustees was also awarded a separate grant for \$82,000 to fund *A Focus on Our Most Vulnerable Places*, a first-of-its-kind coastal communications project to be awarded by CZM to a non-profit. Using its properties as case studies to explore the opportunities and benefits of nature-based resilience interventions for barrier beaches, coastal banks, and publicly accessible shorelines, the communications grant will enable The Trustees to create a whitepaper series and suite of multimedia content to help educate the public on the science behind coastal resilience projects. Once complete, The Trustees hope the findings can serve as a model to help other communities and non-profits proactively confront and share their own coastal challenges and resilience projects.

[Click here](#) to view the original release, and to learn more about Phase I, explore the Storymap: onthecoast.thetrustees.org/argilla-road-project

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More about The Trustees

Founded in the City of Boston by landscape architect and open space visionary Charles Eliot in 1891, The Trustees is the nation’s first and the Massachusetts’ largest preservation and conservation nonprofit with a mission to preserve and share places of natural and historic significance and beauty with everyone, forever. With 117 natural and historic sites located from the Berkshires to the Cape and the Islands, Trustees sites range from barrier beaches and coastal landscapes to working farms, designed landscapes and gardens, historic homesteads, and urban and community parks. Supported by generous members, donors, volunteers and supporters, The Trustees welcomes millions of residents and visitors to its properties each day and offers thousands of engaging experiences and programs designed to inspire a deeper connection to nature and the outdoors, conservation, community, and culture. thetrustees.org/coast