

EASY STREET PARK

Nantucket, MA

Coastal Engineering worked with Nantucket Land Bank and MVVA Architects landscape architects to provide professional engineering, land surveying, and environmental permitting services to redevelop 21 and 27 Easy Street sites into one unified public park consisting of timber decking along the existing harbor bulkheads, brick sidewalks, decomposed granite strolling paths, and planting areas. As a historic reference, a salvaged track is set flush in brick pavement along the approximate route of the former Nantucket Railroad, which used to traverse the site. A stone's throw from the Steamship Authority port in the heart of downtown, Easy Street park was designed with climate change in mind. Features such as an elevated boardwalk, open seating, and mounded garden beds with native vegetation accentuate the Land Bank's mission of creating resilient waterfront public parks. In this location, resilience equates to flood tolerance. To that end, the boardwalk is elevated, leaving space beneath for water retention during large rain events, storm surge, or high tide flooding. The sloped garden beds contain enough soil to keep the plants happy and healthy, but rest on top of a layer of sand. This sand layer drains quickly and will expedite the drainage of residual flood waters. The garden beds are bursting with native and flood-tolerant vegetation, all of which has an increased capacity to withstand coastal weather events. Shrubs such as sweet pepperbush, chokeberry, and beach plum are water and salt tolerant. Lastly, the park includes a mural of historic flood events, symbolic waypoints of record high water levels during major storms. This display is meant to raise awareness about the past, present, and potential future impacts of climate change on Nantucket, as we work towards a more resilient island.

SERVICES

- Existing conditions survey and site plan
- Civil engineering design for the site improvements
- Environmental permitting, bid documents, construction contract administration

