

A NETCO COIR ENVELOPE PROJECT

Erosion Control at Cranston, RI's Stillhouse Cove

Stillhouse Cove, a small, picturesque, waterfront park in the Edgewood neighborhood of Cranston, RI, suffered significant erosion during the Superstorm Sandy. Bordered by a salt marsh, the park is exposed to the east, where storm-generated waves crash against a steep bank. During Sandy, the bank eroded and threatened the loss of the park.

After years of collaboration on restoring the Stillhouse Cove salt marsh, the Edgewood Waterfront Preservation Association (EWPA) and Save The Bay worked together on this innovative erosion control project to address the bank erosion.

NETCO teamed up with Contemporary Landscaping, a local contractor to complete the work. The bank was carved back to create a gentle slope that will dissipate future wave energy and NETCO coir envelopes, were installed to protect the slope from future storms.

An excavator was used to carve a slope out of the bank, and then three coir envelope terraces were installed and were covered with the soil excavated from the bank. Erosion control mats were then installed over the face of the slope to stabilize the cover material until the vegetation could take hold.

Once the bank was regraded, a variety of native grasses were planted to act as a buffer between the park and the salt marsh, and to stabilize the bank. NETCO, along with volunteers from EWPA, students from Johnson & Wales University, and Save The Bay staff and interns, installed 6,500 plants along the cove in just one week.

This shoreline adaptation project was part of Save The Bay's effort to identify opportunities to protect shorelines naturally and create a more resilient coastline. As sea level rises, it will be important to create places where wave energy can be dissipated, and where shorelines can adapt to changing conditions. ([See more photos below.](#))



