

Bay Beach Nourishment Project Pickering Beach

3/11/2026

Agenda

- Project Overview
- Project Timeline
- Public Access Requirements
- Easements
- Next Steps
- Q&A

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Project Overview

- Enhance Delaware Bay shoreline
- Improve public recreational access
- Partnership with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- Maximize funding for one-time sand placement
- Estimated total cost: \$60 million



Project Background

- The Delaware River Dredged Material Utilization (DMU) Study, authorized by Congress in 2020, identified target areas for potential beach nourishment using dredge material from the Delaware River.
- Study analyzed dredging the Brandywine Range of the Delaware River for one-time sand placement along DE Bay beaches.
- Project deliverables propose sand placement at Pickering Beach, Kitts Hummock, Slaughter Beach, and Bowers Beach.
- In March 2026, an authorization agreement was signed between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and DNREC. Currently, the project is at 90% design completion.



Proposed target areas for beach nourishment.
(Bowers Beach exc.)

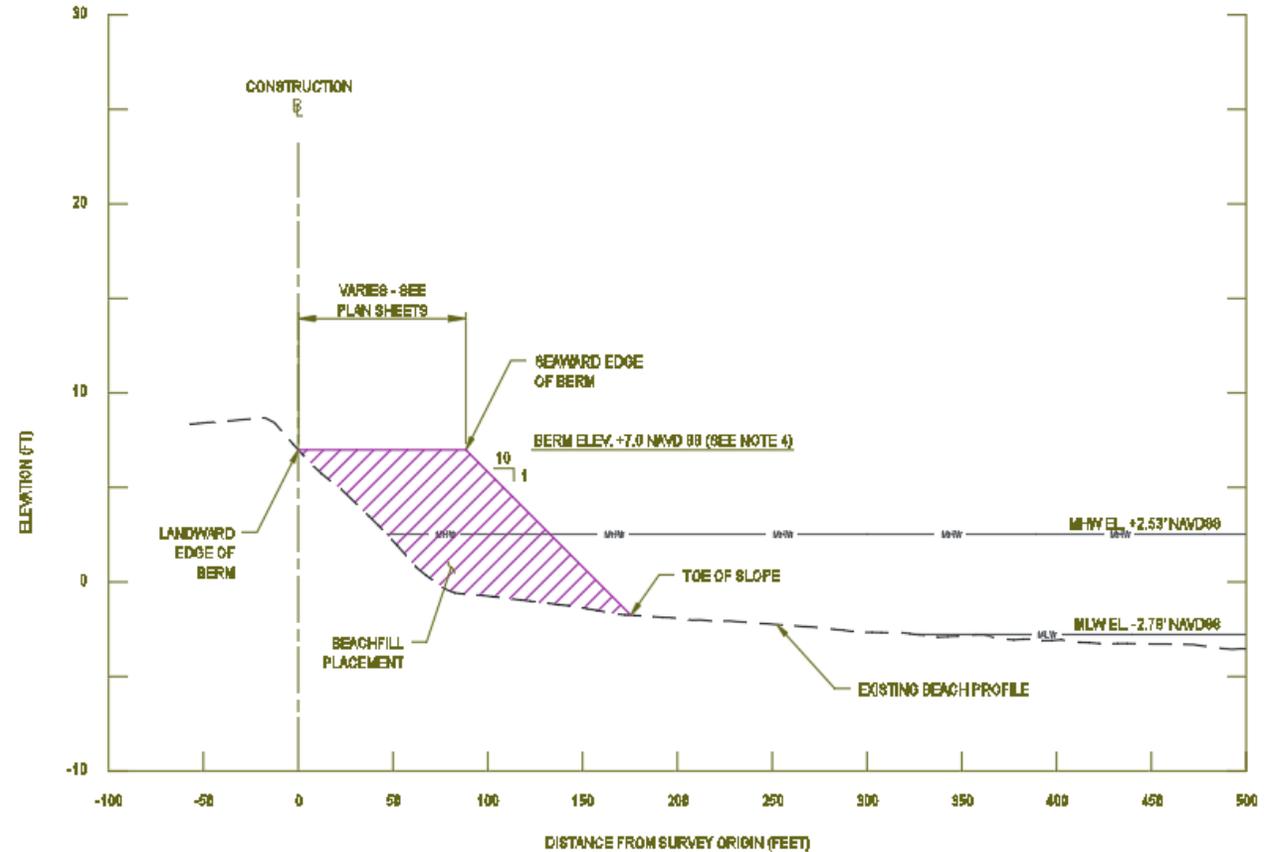
Project Design

- Optimized design calls for a berm-only beachfill
- Berm width of 55 feet and berm elevation of 7.0 feet
- Construction berm to be 100 feet and include 45 feet of advance nourishment.
- The length of the design berm is 2,500 feet, with approximately 500 feet tapers at each end



Project Design

- Typical Cross Section



M13 TYPICAL SECTION - BEACHFILL (PICKERING BEACH)
SCALE IN FEET
STA. 14+84P TO STA. 37+19P
H: 0 50 100
V: 0 5 10

Project Timeline

- March Public Meetings
- March-April Public Access
- Spring – Easements
- Summer – Project Bidding*
- Fall/Winter – Project Implementation*

***Pending Public Access Requirements, Easement Acquisition, and time-of-year restrictions**





Public Access Requirements

Federal Public Access Requirements

Public Law 826, 1956 - fundamental law for federal fund usage for shore protection projects

Engineering Regulation (ER) 1165-2-130 requires that 'reasonable public access be provided in accordance with the recreational use objectives of the particular area.'

- **Access** – Access points should be no more than $\frac{1}{2}$ mile apart, with a $\frac{1}{4}$ beach walkability.
- **Parking** – 'Parking on free or reasonable terms should be available within a reasonable walking distance of the beach.'

DNREC Public Access Requirements

Beginning **July 1, 2026**, communities receiving nourishment and beach maintenance from the state or federal government must have a DNREC approved shoreline public access plan prior to initiation.

Federal nourishment projects currently in planning or design must have an access plan in development to remain eligible for implementation.



[Shoreline Public Access - DNREC](#)



Other DNREC Access Considerations

- **DNREC Beach Maintenance Access**
 - Current – no perpetual access
 - Proposed – 15' perpetual access easement at S. Sandpiper Dr.
 - Purpose:
 - Emergency Access
 - DNREC Public Beach Maintenance (Safety/Access)
 - DNREC Beach Fill Projects (as funding allows)
 - DNREC access to proposed Pickering Beach Groin



Pickering Beach Public Access

- **Existing:**
 - Pickering Beach Road – Beach Crossover
 - 7 Existing parallel parking spaces along Pickering Beach Road
- **Required:**
 - S. Sandpiper Crossover
 - Additional parking near crossovers



Existing Public Access Issues

- Existing signage in public right-of-way
- Blocking public right-of-way for private use



Public Access – DNREC Proposed Parking

- Additional 2 spaces along Pickering Beach Road*
- 8-10 on-street (parallel) spaces along S. Sandpiper Drive*
- Total Parking: - min. 17 public parking spaces

*Pending USACE/DeIDOT review/approval

Rationale:

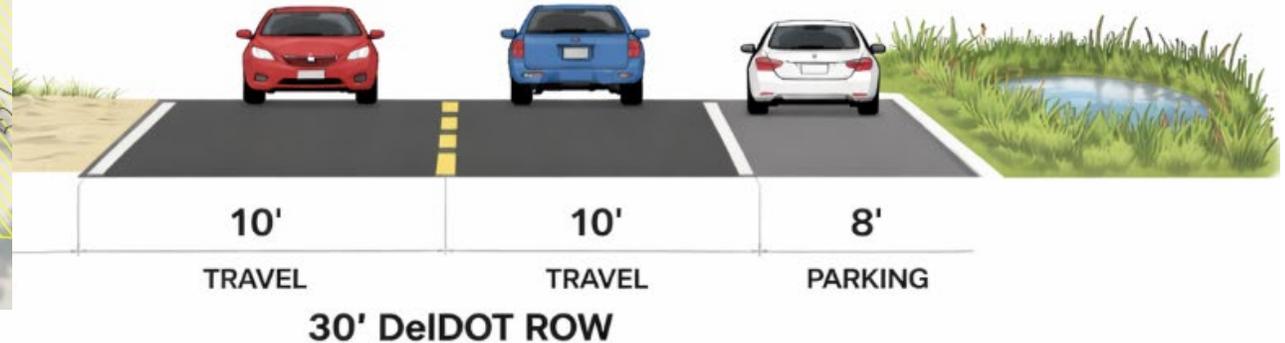
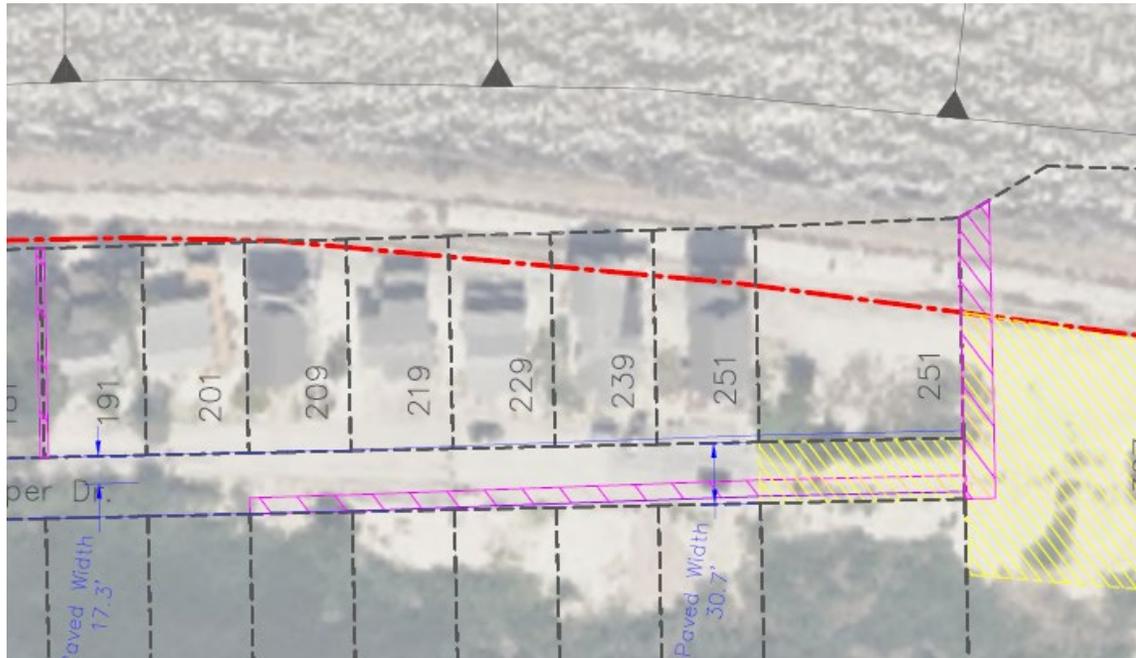
- Utilization of existing right-of-way
- Existing “resident” parking along S. Sandpiper
- Infeasibility to expand road surfaces and parking into wetlands



Pickering Beach Road Parking - expansion



South Sandpiper Drive Parking

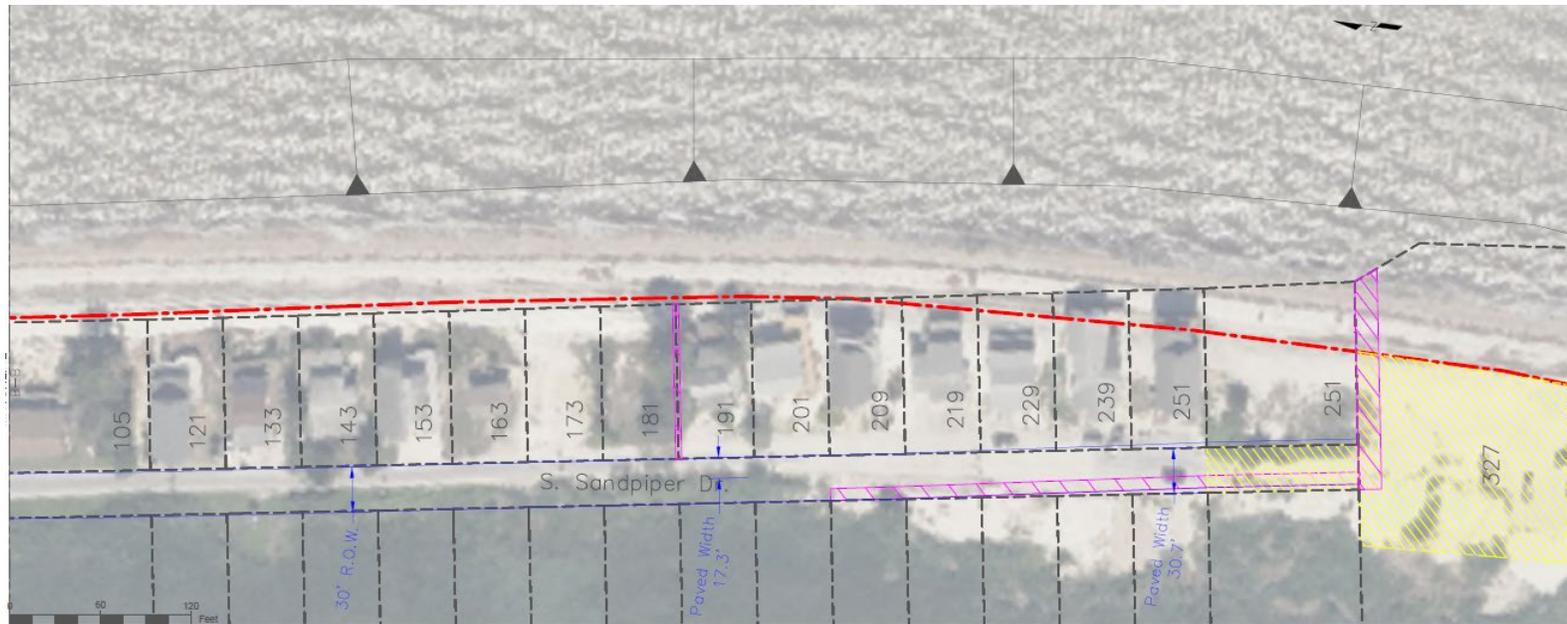


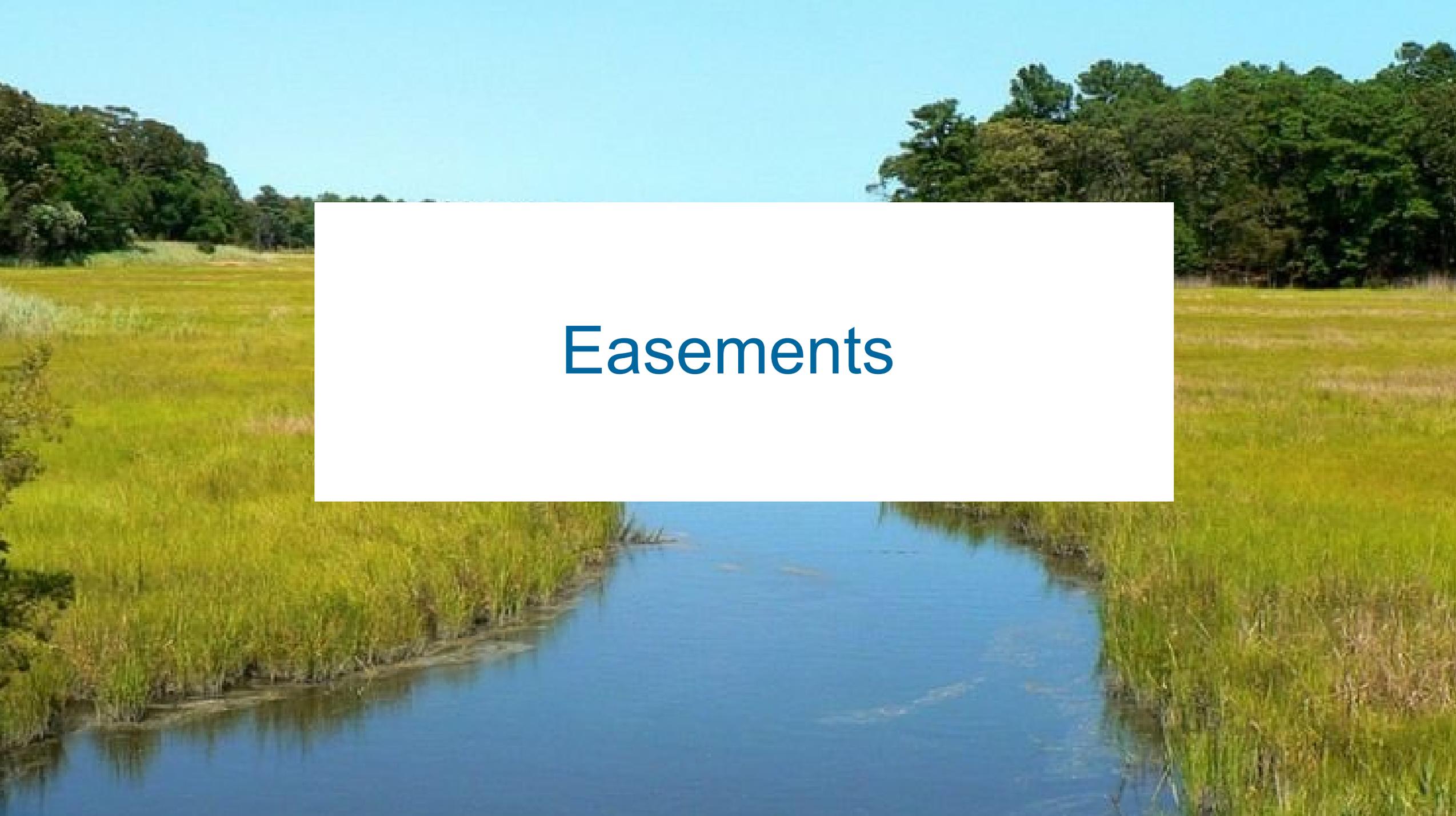
S. Sandpiper – Proposed Cross Section

Public Access – Proposed Crossovers

- Between 181 S. Sandpiper and 191 S. Sandpiper
- 327 S. Sandpiper

*Pending purchase or easement acquisition





Easements

Project Easement Types



Perpetual

A legal right-of-way required by all bay-front parcel owners to allow beach construction, maintenance, and long-term public use on property.



Taper

A legal, perpetual right-of-way allowing the placement and maintenance of sand where the newly constructed beach gradually transitions or 'tapers' into the natural shoreline.



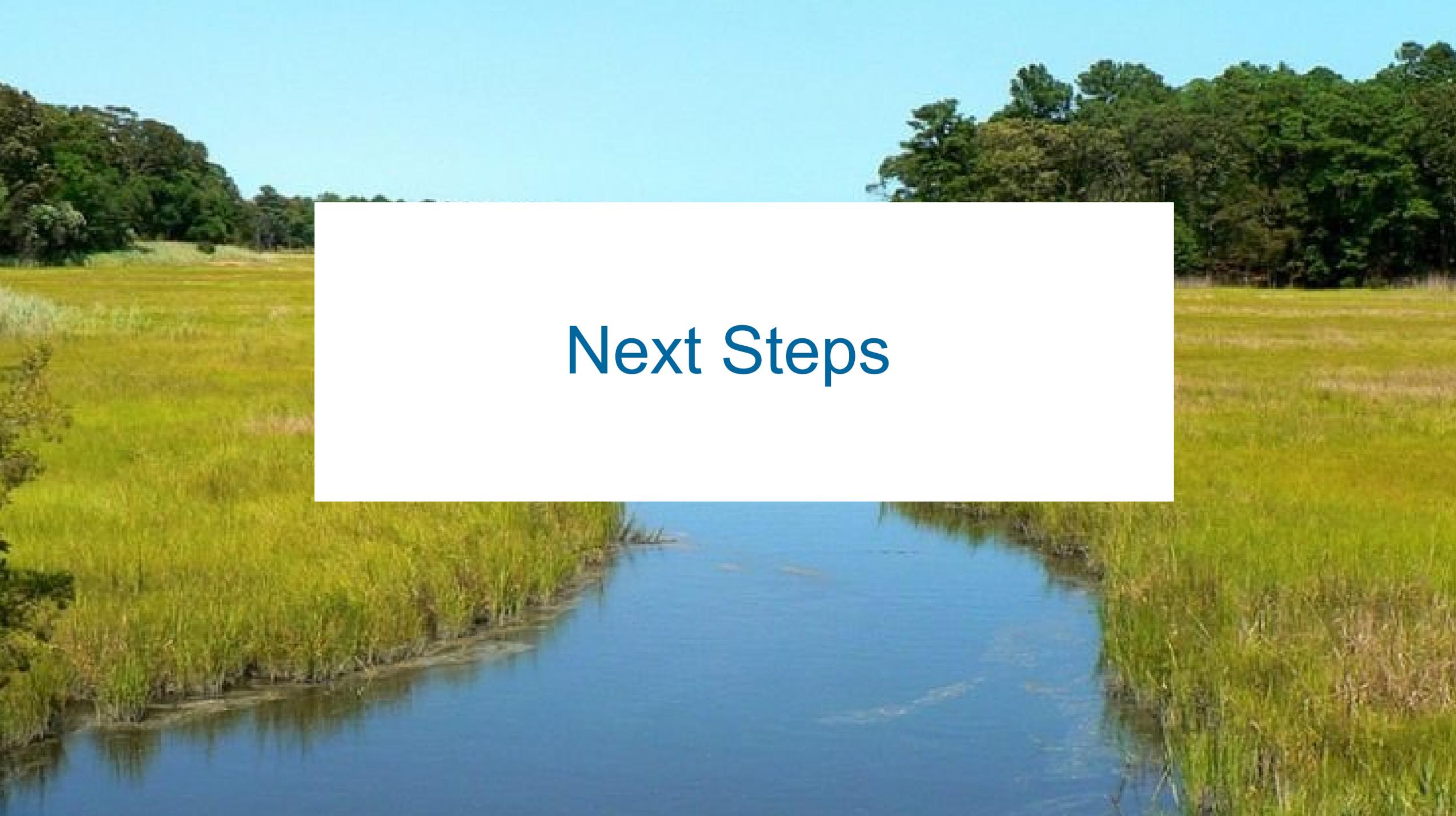
Construction Access

Temporary, legal permission to access private property for material laydown and equipment storage throughout project construction.

Perpetual Easements Process

- **Acquisition Types:**
 - Donation
 - Compensation
- **Steps:**
 1. Title Search
 2. Appraisal
 3. Easement Package provided to the property owner
 4. Property owner signature/notarized, and returned to DNREC
 5. Easement recorded with the County
 6. Executed easement provided to the property owner



A scenic landscape featuring a blue river or stream flowing through a lush green field. The sky is clear and blue, and there are dense green trees in the background. A white rectangular box is overlaid in the center of the image, containing the text "Next Steps" in a blue, sans-serif font.

Next Steps

Next Steps

- **Public Access Plan – April 30th**
 - Required Plan Submission
- **Easements – Spring 2026**

Project Website:

[Delaware Bay Beach Nourishment Project](https://dnrec.delaware.gov/watershed-stewardship/beaches/bay-beach-nourishment/)

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Thank you

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