

Bustins Island Green Infrastructure Project Final Presentation

A Maine Coastal Community Grant September 2019 – December 2021

Presented by:

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November, 2021







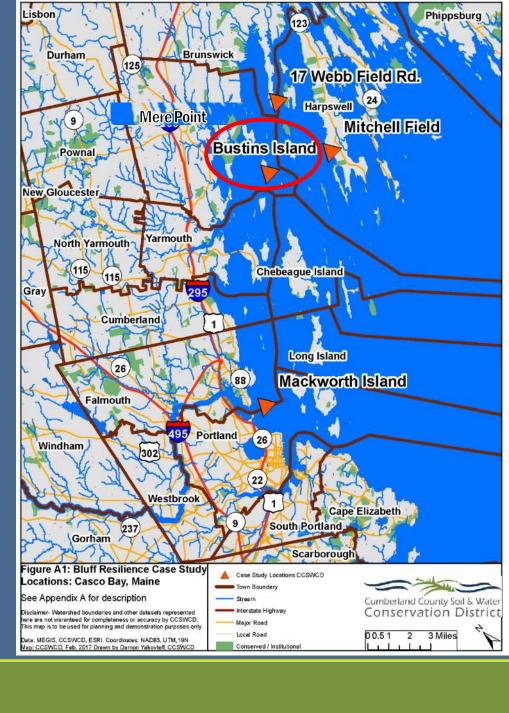


Bustins Island

- Off coast of Freeport
- Unbridged Island, seasonal community
- Efforts to
 assess and
 reduce bluff
 erosion since
 2016









Building on Previous Work

- NOAA-funded project to study bluff erosion in Casco Bay
- On-island efforts to assess & experiment

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Shoreine:	Raior(s)	
Bluff/Tidal Nersk/Mud FleffLov Bank	Date:	
Photo(s):		
Overall Bluff Condition Good Fair Poor		
	BLUFF ASSESSMENT	77
Category / Parameter /	Description of Bluff Condition	Rating

BLUFF ASSESSMENT Category / Parameter / Description of Bluff Condition				
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Conservation	on District	9		



Planting for Slope Stabilization on Maine's Coastal Bluffs

Coastal Bluffs—defined as "a steep shoreline slope formed in sediment (loose material such as clay, sand, and gravel) that has three feet or more of vertical elevation just above the high tide line" (Maine Geological Survey)—make up about 38% of Maine's coastine. Unstable bluffs can erode slowly or suddenly collapse, forming landslides. Some amount of bluff erosion is expected, and is beneficial to replenishment of beaches and other shoreline areas. However, because of significant risks to life and property, landowners and shoreline managers may wish to temper the speed of bluff erosion and reduce the risk of sudden collapse.

The stability of a coastal bluff is influenced by interactions with both the land and sea. This guide includes information for one of the most critical factors affecting bluff erosion rates and overall stability: vegetation. When selecting plant varieties for slope stabilization, there are many factors to be considered, including salt tolerance, soil depth, and water availability. This guide recommends native Maine plants that can be used to stabilize coastal shorelines and that have been determined to be suitable for restoration that uses a living, natural shoreline instead of armoring (such as with rip rap). Plant species are organized by whether they are classified as woody or herbaceous and whether they are recommended for shallow soil (<18") or deep soil (>18").

It should be noted, however, that not all bluff shorelines are suitable for living shorelines. Prior to planting a living shoreline, see the Suitability Table (Table 1), to determine if your site is suitable. If a shoreline is not a suitable option for stabilization, root wads (also known as toe wood), as shown in Figure 1, may be used as an alternative. Root wads can help protect and armor exposed soil, particularly

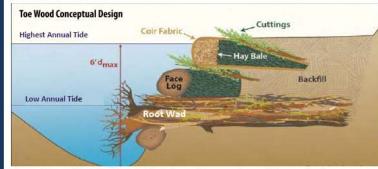


Figure 1. Root wads inserted into unstable banks can help protect bare soil from erosion. In areas not suitable for living shorelines, root wads can be an effective alternative.

Image adapted from: Bayou Preservation Association, http://www.preservingbuffalobayou.org/about-us,

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2019 Coastal Community Grant Project

- Funded by Maine Coastal Program
- Focus on managing upland runoff to reduce erosion rates on coastal bluffs
- Using low-cost, locally available methods suitable for islands
- Decentralized approach, "Low Impact Development" or LID

















Project Area Bustins Island, Freeport



Bluff failure at location of arrow

Image source: CCSWCD



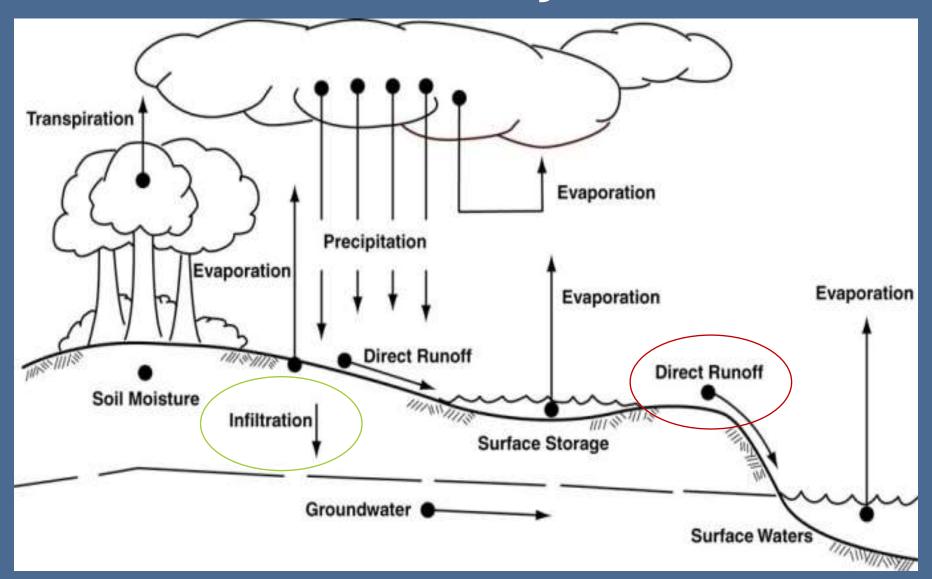




Project Goal:

To slow or capture stormwater runoff that now flows into the island's southeast sub-basin

The water cycle



Project Method: Green Infrastructure

- Work with natural systems and materials to:
 - Recharge the aquifer
 - Protect coastal bluffs
 - Reduce road erosion
 - Restore habitats





Potential for solutions

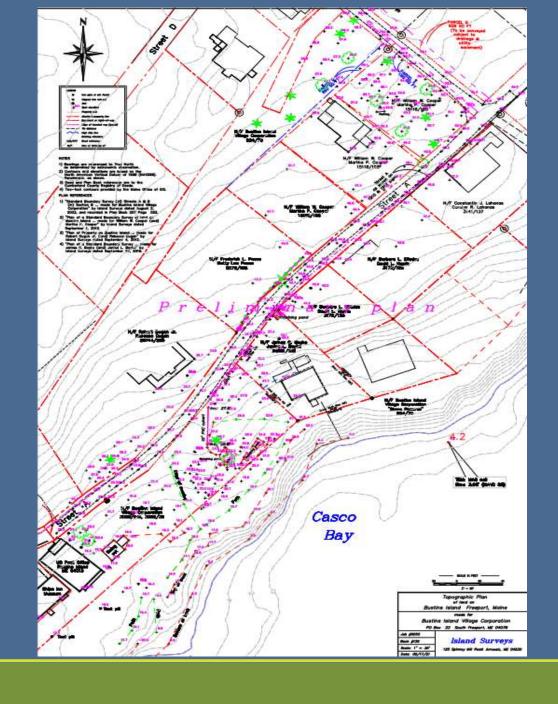
- Upland areas carrying stormwater runoff
- Sloping land to work with
- Natural basins w/good drainage
- Unbuilt areas w/ good drainage



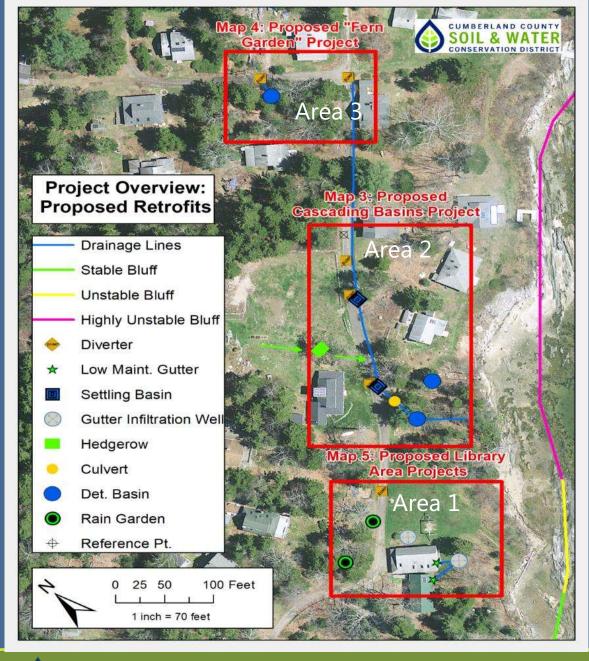


John Woods' Topographical Survey

Contours & elevations at key points of Bustins Island's Southeast corner







Proposed:

3 areas of focus to slow or capture stormwater now flowing into the island's southeast subbasin

Runoff from roads A & B merges at intersection near Rowe's, runs toward and over sloping hill, gaining momentum









Runoff from the hill crosses the road in front of Store Porch, runs down slope past side of library....





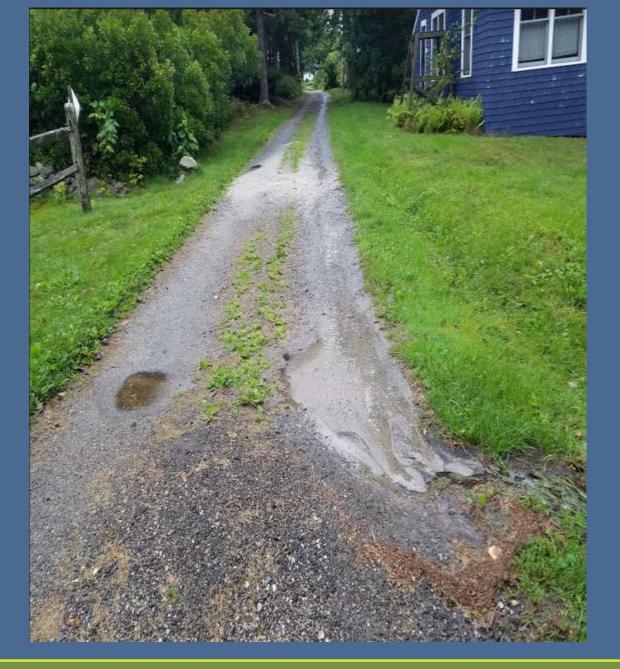
Runoff accumulates at lowest points: under swings, under and in back of buildings







WORK TO DATE: Runoff is diverted by a berm in the road to a roadside basin, overflows into a ditch and culvert into...









WORK TO DATE:

Natural basins capture stormwater runoff before it reaches the playground and unstable bluffs







WORK TO DATE
With the
elimination of
runoff, the
walking path has
been rebuilt



WORK TO DATE

A reinforced outlet now directs runoff to a stable part of the bluff in a major rainstorm



WORK TO DATE:

An earthen diversion berm will force overflow runoff to a secure part of the embankment in a major rainstorm





Conceptual Designs & Pilot Projects

PLEASE NOTE:
CONCEPTS ARE FOR CONSIDERATION ONLY
PENDING LANDOWNER/BIVC PERMISSIONS



Bustin islands: Green Infrastructure

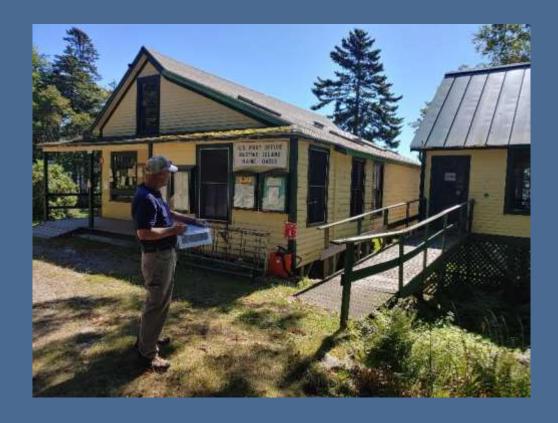
- The Four R's:
 - Recharge the aquifer
 - Reduce road erosion
 - Restore habitats
 - Redirect runoff from coastal bluffs

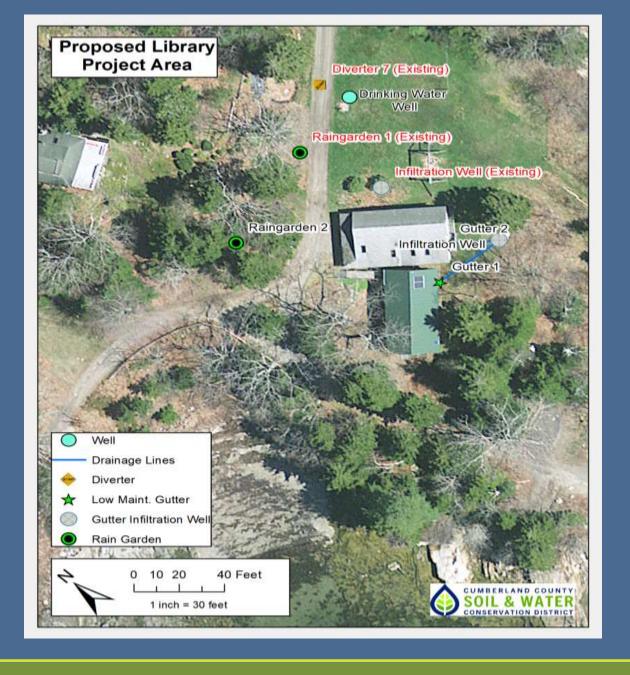






Area 1 Proposed Solution: Reduce runoff from hill across from post office and from building roof

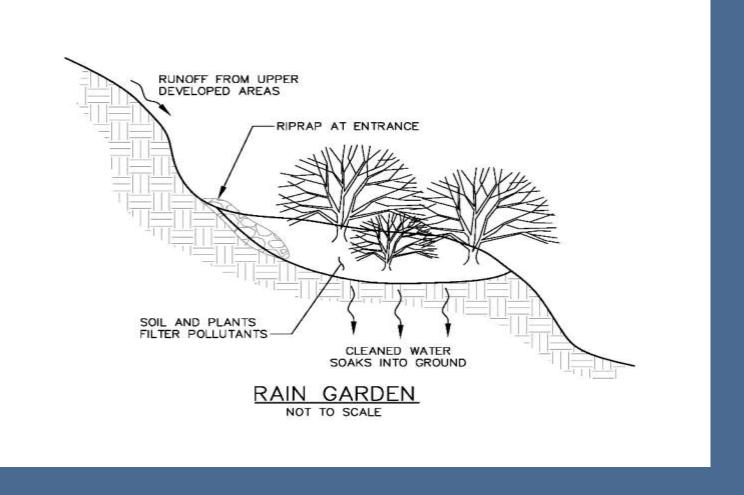




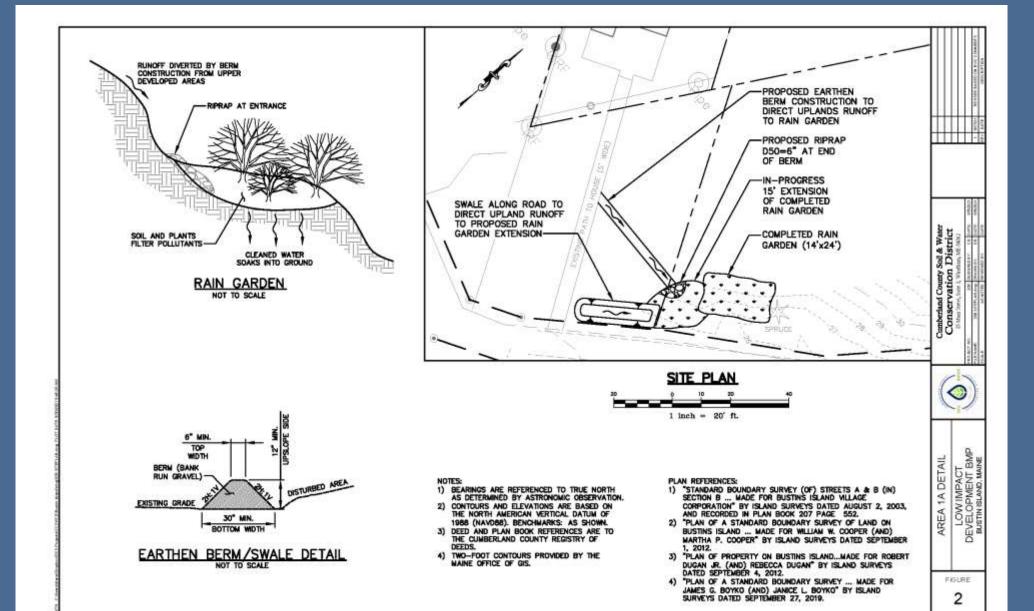


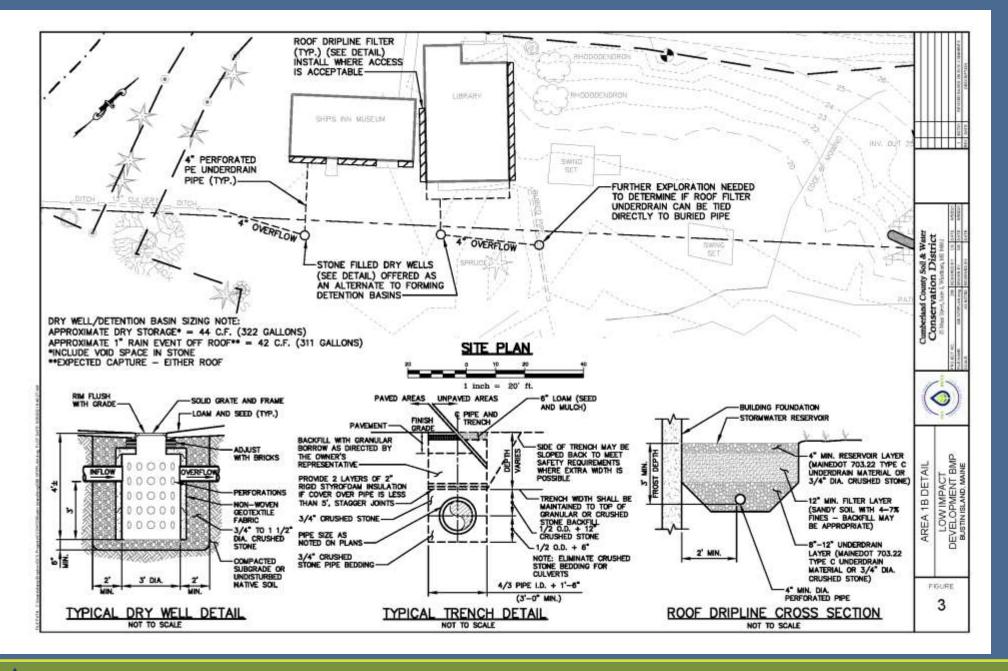
Pilot Project: Capture runoff from hill in rain garden – Plan to add additional gardens











Test Pit Investigation

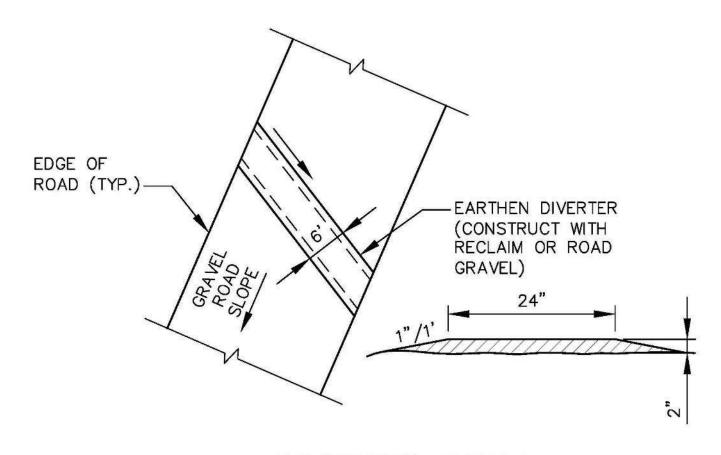




Area 2 Proposed Solution: Divert road runoff into constructed & natural settling basins

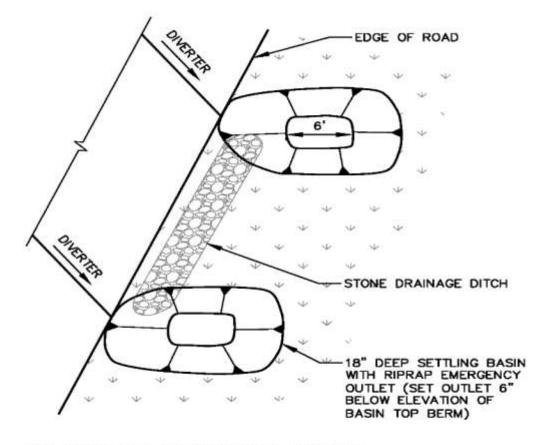






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ROADSIDE SETTLING BASIN

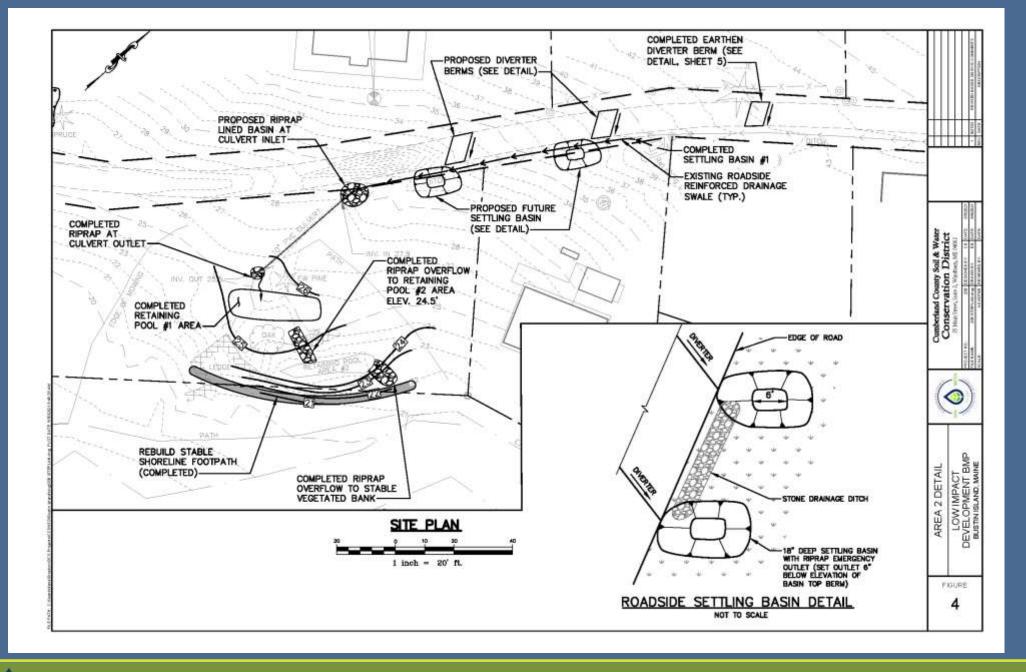
NOT TO SCALE



Pilot Project: Constructed roadside basin at top of road which now flows into ditch







Pilot Project: Natural Settling Basins at System Outlet





Area 3 Proposed Concept: Divert road runoff into constructed settling/infiltration basin "Fern Garden"



