



NEWS FROM

# ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST

Protecting Nature for Our Community

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST CONSTRUCTS ADA TRAIL AT 109 PORTANIMICUT RD**

*Orleans, MA / June 17, 2025* – Orleans, MA – The Orleans Conservation Trust (OCT) is pleased to announce the construction of a new 155-foot ADA-accessible trail at Window on the Bay Conservation Area (109 Portanimicut Road). The trail is officially opened as of June 12<sup>th</sup>, marked by a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by State Representative Hadley Luddy, Orleans town officials, and a cadre of volunteers and supporters.

In addition to the trail, the property now also includes an accessible parking space with a loading zone, and a hard-surfaced picnic pad which accommodates an accessible picnic table. What was formerly an undefined mowed pathway is now a meandering, 4-foot wide, stabilized stone dust path culminating at a bench. Construction began on Tuesday, May 27<sup>th</sup> and wrapped up on Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup>.

The improved infrastructure provides greater access to the property's sitting areas, allowing more members of the Orleans community to enjoy the beautiful views at Window on the Bay.

OCT began planning the project in October of 2024, and visited existing ADA trails at Mass Audubon's Long Pasture Wildlife Sanctuary and Harwich Conservation Trust's Robert F. Smith Cold Brook Preserve. OCT also sought feedback from the local community and local and federal accessibility standards, and obtained necessary permits from the Conservation Commission prior to construction. OCT selected SumCo Eco-Contracting for construction. SumCo has done similar projects locally and has a wide array of ADA trail experience.

OCT Executive Director Stephen O'Grady described the project as "a small step to help more people get to know just how special Orleans is." He added, "OCT is continuing efforts to make our trails and vistas more accessible."

Following the ribbon cutting OCT staff flipped hamburgers and hot dogs, served up to their volunteers as part of the Trust's annual Volunteer Appreciation Cookout on a picture-perfect June evening.

Window on the Bay consists of just two acres, but it has quickly become one of OCT's most beloved properties. OCT completed fundraising and acquisition of the land in 2022 and removed three buildings from the property to rewild the area, enhancing its habitat value and the area's climate resilience.

Learn more about Orleans Conservation Trust here:  
<https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/847083186>.

**Orleans Conservation Trust** is a private 501(c)(3) nonprofit established in 1970. Over its 50-year history, the Trust has preserved 700 acres in Orleans. Among the most active land trusts on Cape Cod, OCT stewards a range of ecosystems, from freshwater ponds and wetlands to saltmarshes, wooded upland, and coastal grasslands, managing its lands to protect and enhance wildlife habitat, restore native ecosystems, and provide public recreation and education through a network of trails and informational signage. OCT also educates residents and visitors about important natural values and environmental issues in Orleans and around Cape Cod via grants to Orleans schools, guided walks, free lectures, its website, newsletter, and other communications.



[Orleans Conservation Trust volunteers, staff, and local officials gather at OCT's "Window on the Bay" Conservation Area for a ribbon cutting ceremony opening the new ADA trail. Photo by Tom Keras]





[State Representative Hadley Luddy and Orleans Conservation Trust's Executive Director Steve O'Grady cut the ribbon, officially opening OCT's new ADA trail. Photo by Abby Hipp]

[All photos cleared for use.]