



SHORE PROTECTION

Considering Shore Protection?

Recent storm damage and high water has many landowners thinking about shore protection. It's important to understand that shore protection is generally a short-term fix. Through storm surges, wave action, ice shoves, and other related shoreline hazards, Lake Huron will continue to impact shore protection and the land behind it. Maitland Conservation urges landowners to take long-term preventative measures such as relocating structures further inland from the erosion hazard if possible.

What is Permitted?

Maitland Conservation does permit shore protection based on certain criteria. The below chart outlines some types of shore protection that may be permitted with a satisfactory application and some works that are not permitted.

| Type of Shore Protection | Application Requirements |
|--|---|
| <p>New retaining walls parallel to the shoreline that are 1 metre (~3 feet) above existing grade</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The repair or re-construction of existing walls parallel to the shoreline up to the same height as the original</p> | <p>Basic Application Requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan Drawing (aerial view) • Profile Drawing (cross section view) • Complete permit application form • Permit fee |
| <p>Walls higher than 1 meter (~3 feet) above existing grade that have an existing primary structure and/or septic system at the toe of the bluff</p> | <p>Basic Application Requirements, plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Satisfactory coastal assessment from a coastal specialist/engineer that states the work will not negatively impact the property and adjacent shoreline areas |
| <p>Walls higher than 1 meter (~3 feet) above existing grade without an existing primary structure and/or septic system at the toe of the bluff</p> | <p>Basic Application Requirements, plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full coastal study from a coastal engineer that states the work will not negatively impact the property and adjacent shoreline areas |
| <p>Walls higher than 1 meter (~3 feet) above existing grade with a coastal assessment or full coastal study that indicate the work will negatively impact the shoreline area and/or neighboring properties</p> | <p>Not permitted</p> |
| <p>The construction, re-construction, or repair of groynes (structures perpendicular to the shore)</p> | <p>Not permitted</p> |

Note:

Any works on the shoreline which involve stabilizing, excavating, or grading the bluff must additionally be reviewed by a geotechnical engineer.

Shore Protection Tips

- Consulting a certified coastal engineer is a great first step when considering shore protection.
- Continuous shore protection along multiple properties is more resilient than individual shore protection works.
- Revetment style walls (that incline at a gentle slope) are generally more resilient than vertical walls, as revetments absorb wave energy. Vertical walls reflect wave energy which cause them to be undermined more readily.

Questions?

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