

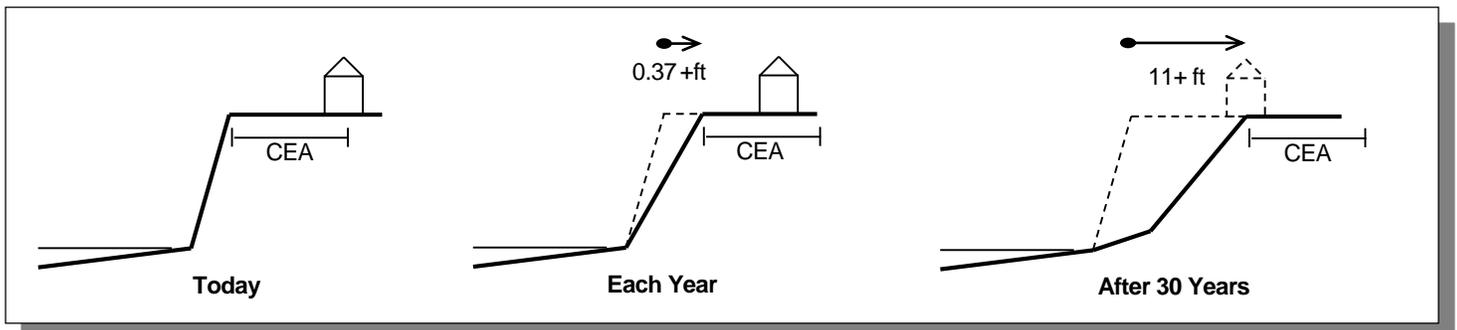
Coastal Erosion Area Permits



Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Office of Coastal Management
Sandusky, Ohio

What is a Coastal Erosion Area?

A Coastal Erosion Area (CEA) is a designated land area along the Lake Erie shore that is anticipated to be lost due to Lake Erie-related erosion if preventative measures are not taken. More specifically, a 2010 designated CEA begins at the top of a bluff, bank or beach ridge, and includes all land predicted to erode within a 30-year period if that distance totals 11 or more feet.



CEAs are not fixed in position. They are a constant distance that is measured from the bluff, bank or beach ridge at its current position. Only approximately one-third of the Ohio shore is designated as a CEA.

How were Coastal Erosion Areas Determined?

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Geological Survey used scientific records and data to analyze recession of the Lake Erie shore and forecast erosion rates. This process is based on administrative rules that were adopted in 1996. Geologists, engineers, local officials and lakeshore property owners assisted with and provided input on development of these rules. The ODNR is mandated to review and, if necessary, update the CEA once every 10 years. The initial CEA Maps were finalized in 1998. In December 2010, updated [CEA maps](#) were finalized.

What is the Objective of having Coastal Erosion Areas?

The objective of the CEA program is to promote wise land use. A Permit must be obtained to construct a new building or septic system or to construct an addition of 500 square feet or larger to an existing building within a CEA. The CEA Permit requires that measures be taken to effectively protect the building or septic system from shore erosion and bluff instability. As a result, the risk of damage to or loss of property, possessions, infrastructure and life due to coastal erosion will be greatly reduced.

What requires a Coastal Erosion Area Permit?

In accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 1506.07, a CEA Permit is required prior to construction of a new building (i.e. residential, commercial, industrial, institutional or agricultural) or septic system within a CEA. An addition of 500 square feet or larger, as measured at ground level, to an existing building also requires a permit. The only exceptions to these requirements are if the property is not immediately adjacent to Lake Erie or if the building is a stand-alone structure not designed for human occupation, such as a garage or shed. ODNR can assist you with determining if your project requires a CEA Permit.

How Do I Obtain a Coastal Erosion Area Permit?

A CEA Permit application is found in the *ODNR Coastal Permits and Lease Booklet*, which may be obtained from the ODNR Office of Coastal Management and online at coastal.ohiodnr.gov/permits. The CEA Permit application must demonstrate that measures to control erosion and bluff instability will be constructed prior to or concurrent with the construction of the building, septic system or addition, and will meet certain criteria. These criteria generally require the erosion control measure to function effectively for an equivalent period of 30 years.

