GREAT LAKES SHORELINES

INFORMATION FOR PERMIT APPLICANTS



With more than 3,000 miles of shoreline in Michigan, the Great Lakes form Michigan's geography and shape our economy, society, and environment. The waves shape our sandy beaches and rocky shorelines. The shallow bays and coastal wetlands provide habitat for wildlife and fish. Sand dunes tower over the shores. The shorelines are a recreational destination for property owners and tourists, and shoreline communities enjoy the economic base provided by their local Great Lake. EGLE protects Great Lakes shorelines through regulatory oversight with programs that range from the permitting of homes and shore protection, to the protection of High Risk Erosion and Critical Dune Areas.

Beach walking is a popular pastime for residents and visitors. Walking is a legal activity along the Great Lakes shoreline regardless of who owns the property, but walkers cannot linger on another person's shoreline property without their permission. Lingering includes sunbathing, camping, building fire pits, and other similar activities. This Fact Sheet answers the following questions:

Is my property in a High Risk Erosion or Critical Dune Area?

What activities require a permit in a High Risk Erosion or Critical Dune Area?

What are the best practices for addressing shoreline erosion?

How do I apply for a permit?



Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy Water Resources Division Michigan.gov/WRD **EGLE – Permitting Information** web site: <u>Michigan.gov/JointPermit</u> High Risk Erosion Area web site: <u>Michigan.gov/Shorelands</u> Critical Dune Areas web site: <u>Michigan.gov/CriticalDunes</u>

EGLE offers information on its High Risk Erosion Is my property in a Area and Critical Dune Area web sites to help identify High Risk Erosion if your property is in a High Risk Erosion Area or Area or a Critical Critical Dune Area: Dune Area? • High Risk Erosion Area maps show the locations of High Risk Erosion Areas along the Great Lakes. The Critical Dune Atlas shows the locations of Critical Dune Areas along the Great Lakes. • **MiWaters** Site Map Explorer can also help – type in the address, under Layers turn on Coastal then: select the High Risk Erosion Zones laver, click nearby to see Projected Recession Distances OR select the Critical Dune Area layer. EGLE offers information on its web sites to help identify What activities require a if a permit is needed including: permit in a High Risk • A list of **<u>common activities</u>** that require a permit for High Erosion Area or a Critical Risk Erosion and Critical Dune Areas, as well as Dune Area? activities not requiring a permit in Critical Dune Areas. If you are unsure whether your project requires a permit, then you may want to request a Pre-Application **Meeting**, which is an official request to meet with DEQ staff to discuss a project and determine if a permit will be necessary. EGLE offers information on our web sites to help What are the best address shoreline erosion using best practices, practices for addressing including: shoreline erosion? • Living on the Coast – Learn about living and working on the attractive edges of the dynamic Great Lakes. Sand Dune Stabilization Best Management Practices – How to live with moving sand. Minor Project categories – Information on regulations for small construction projects along the Great Lakes shorelines. Applicants should use the Joint Permit Application: Permit applications should be submitted through the How do I apply for a MiWaters online permit application system. permit? Information on the application process and how to submit an application is available at Michigan.gov/JointPermit. The permit review process may take up to three or four months for activities on Great Lakes Shorelines.

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