

## Printable Bluff Checklist

1. Is there an existing Engineered Structure (seawall, groin, revetment, etc.) at the site?

No

Yes.

Is functional or easily repaired?

No

Yes. Go to [Currently Defended Structures](#).

2. If soft, what is the composition of your bluff? Fine, mixed or coarse (sand or cobble)?

Fine

Mixed

Coarse

3. Is marsh or a dry beach present (sand above normal high tide) at the toe of your bluff? If yes, how wide?

Marsh

Sand

How wide? \_\_\_\_\_ feet

4. If you have a low bluff, is there evidence that your bluff is regularly overtopped and overwashed by waves, and/or that flooding occurs landward of the bluff?

No

Yes

During normal or spring tides? Storm surges?

No

Yes

5. Is the bluff eroding?

No

Yes.

What is causing the erosion?

Waves

Wind

Storms

Runoff

Groundwater seepage

Ice

Currents

Public Access

Climate Change

What level of protection is needed?

From on-going erosion (caused by normal wave conditions and boat wakes)

From storm-induced erosion (caused by major storm events such as nor'easters and hurricanes)?

What is the rate of erosion?

Highly Erosional (2 feet or more per year)

Moderately Erosional (1-2 feet per year)

Slightly Erosional (less than 1 foot per year)

Stable (no change)

Accretional (growing seaward)

Is the toe of the bluff eroding?

No

Yes

Need more information? See [Shoreline Change](#).

6. Is there infrastructure at risk?

No

Yes

7. Is the upland bank vegetated?

No

Yes

**Has the bluff been planted?**

- No       Yes

**Graded?**

- No       Yes

**8. Is there evidence of rainfall impacts or surface runoff?**

- No       Yes

**9. Is there evidence of groundwater in the slope (seepage, damp surfaces on slope face, etc.)?**

- No       Yes

**10. What is at the toe of your bluff?**

- Beach?  
 Marsh?  
 Ledge?

**Do waves or normal tides reach the base of the bluff?**

No

Yes.

**What is the wave climate?**

During normal conditions? \_\_\_\_\_ feet

Occasionally? \_\_\_\_\_ feet

Frequently? \_\_\_\_\_ feet

During a storm conditions? \_\_\_\_\_ feet

Occasionally? \_\_\_\_\_ feet

Frequently? \_\_\_\_\_ feet

From boat traffic? \_\_\_\_\_ feet

Occasionally? \_\_\_\_\_ feet

Frequently? \_\_\_\_\_ feet

For more information on wave conditions and wakes, see [Wave Climate and Fetch](#).

**11. Is the site affected by tidal, riverine or alongshore currents?**

- No       Yes

**12. What is the shoreline geometry?**

- Pocket  
 Irregular  
 Straight  
 Headland

Unsure? Check out [Shoreline Geomorphology](#).

**13. Does the bluff have**

**Mature upland vegetation?**

- No       Yes

**Fallen or uprooted trees?**

- No       Yes

**Will existing vegetation shade created or restored marsh?**

- No       Yes

**14. What is the intertidal slope/nearshore bathymetry? Is the slope**

- Gradual  
 Moderate  
 Steep

For more information see [Nearshore Bathymetry](#).

**15. What is the tidal range?**

\_\_\_\_\_ feet

Need more information. See [Tidal Range](#).

**16. Is the project site affected by ice?**

- No       Yes

For more information see the section on [Ice](#).

**17. Does the site have submerged aquatic vegetation?**

- No       Yes

**Nearshore oyster beds?**

No             Yes

**18. What is the nearshore region?**

- Fine
- Medium-coarse sediment
- Rocky or cobbles
- Ledge
- Offshore Sand Bars
- Tidal Flats

**19. What is the condition of the adjacent properties? Are they experiencing similar rates of erosion?**

No             Yes

**Do they have existing coastal structures?**

No             Yes

**How will this project affect the adjacent properties?**

---

---

---

**20. Is the project site accessible for construction from land?**

No             Yes

**Water?**

No             Yes

**1. How will the shoreline be used?**

- Walking
- Swimming
- Boating
- Fishing
- Nature watching
- Other

**21. What is the current rate of sea level rise?**

\_\_\_\_\_ feet

**What is the predicted rate of rise?**

\_\_\_\_\_ feet

**What are the potential effects of sea level rise on the project site?**

---

---

---

