

Town of Clinton
Municipal Coastal Plan

Section 1: Introduction

The Connecticut Coastal Management Act (CCMA), which became effective January 1, 1980, is intended to protect the State's coastal resources while providing for continued economic growth. The Act defined coastal resources, established a coastal boundary within which those resources would be regulated, and established goals and policies to guide coastal development. The CCMA is implemented through existing regulatory authorities of State and local government. Local government implementation occurs through coastal site plan review and a municipal coastal program.

Coastal site plan reviews are mandated by the Act. All subdivisions and development proposals brought before the Planning and Zoning Commission and all variance requests brought before the Zoning Board of Appeals must receive a coastal site plan review if the proposed activity is within the coastal boundary. There are limited exemptions from this requirement, which is provided by the CCMA. The coastal site plan review required the applicant to: identify coastal resources on and adjacent to the site; assess the capability of those resources to accommodate the proposed use and the suitability of the project for the site; evaluate the impacts of the project; and describe proposed methods to mitigate any adverse impacts.

The municipal coastal program provides a municipality with an opportunity to develop long-term coastal resource management objectives, and to make municipal zoning and related ordinances consistent with those objectives.

The Town of Clinton elected to update its municipal coastal program, and received a financial assistance grant from the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Long Island Sound Programs. The Clinton Municipal Coastal Program, as presented in this document, describes Clinton's coastal area and resources, the major regulatory authorities affecting development within the coastal area, and coastal issues that were identified during the review of this program. The program also proposed changes to the Town Plan of Conservation and Development and Zoning Regulations, and recommends several non-regulatory actions for coastal resource management.