



US Army Corps
of Engineers ®



Buffalo Harbor, NY

Harbor Features

- Located on Lake Erie in the City of Buffalo, Erie County, New York.
- Authorization: Rivers & Harbor Acts of 1826, 1866, 1874, 1896, 1899, 1900, 1902, 1909, 1910, 1912, 1919, 1927, 1930, 1935, 1945, 1960, 1962, and Water Resources Development Acts of 1986, 1988, and 2007
- Deep draft commercial harbor.
- Project depths are 28 to 30 feet in the south entrance channel, 25 to 26 feet in the north entrance channel, 23 to 27 feet in the Outer Harbor, and 22 to 23 feet in the Buffalo River channel.
- 1.1M tons of material shipped and received in 2021.
- Interconnected with seven commercial ports; receives from seven ports.
- Over 4.5 miles of breakwater structures.
- 5.5 miles of federal channel on the Buffalo River.
- A confined disposal facility (CDF) is located adjacent to the south entrance channel.
- Major stakeholders: Port of Buffalo, U.S. Coast Guard, Gateway Metroport, General Mills, Mobil Oil, Lafarge Cement, Sand Products, Holcim, Standard Elevator, and Whitebox Commodities.

Project Requirements

- The harbor requires dredging of approximately 100,000 cubic yards (CY) every two years to maintain the navigation channel. Dredging was last completed in 2022 which removed approximately 80,000 CY of material. Dredging funded in 2023 is scheduled to be completed in 2024.



- West Breakwater is deteriorated and in need of repair. Engineering and design was initiated in 2023. Subsequent construction funding is needed.
- South Pier is deteriorated and in need of repair. Incremental repairs were completed in 2021 by government floating plant. Engineering and design will be initiated in 2024. Subsequent construction funding will be needed to complete repairs.
- Construction of repairs to storm damaged sections of the North Breakwater were completed on the south end, middle section, south head, and a portion of the north end of the breakwater from 2019 to 2023. Remaining work to the north end is scheduled to be completed in 2024.
- South Breakwater was repaired in 2020-2022. Severe winter storms from November-December 2022 caused additional damages. Engineering and design of additional emergency repairs is ongoing, and construction is planned in 2024.

- The exterior of the Times Beach CDF is degraded. Coordination is ongoing to determine path forward.

Consequences of Not Maintaining the Project

- If the harbor closed to commercial traffic, commodities would require rail or truck transport. This may increase annual emission rates by over 4,471 tons of harmful particulate matter (PM-10) and increase costs by an estimated \$2,304,000 due to increased railroad-related accidents, and an estimated \$1,637,000 due to increased trucking-related accidents.
- Light loading: losses of between 1 and 2 feet of channel depth may result in increased transportation costs of between \$422,000 and \$865,000 annually.

Transportation Importance

- Major receiving and shipping port on the Great Lakes and critical Harbor of Refuge.
- Commodities shipped or received include wheat, sand and gravel, cement and concrete, and salt.
- Waterborne transportation facilitated by the harbor supports \$53.4M in business revenue, 227 direct, indirect, and induced jobs, and \$16.8M in labor income to the transportation sector.

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, 2024, and 2025
Buffalo Harbor, NY - Project Requirements and President’s Budget (\$1,000)**

| Work Package | FY23 Requirement | FY23 Appropriation | FY24 Requirement | FY24 Appropriation | FY25 Requirement | FY25 Appropriation |
|---|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Maintenance Dredging – Primary Work Package | 1,395 | 1,395 | 0 | 0 | 1,395 | 1,395 |
| Critical Maintenance of Coastal Navigation Structures | 1,200 | 1,200 | 0 | 0 | 1,900 | 1,900 |
| Construction, North Breakwater Repair (North End) | 300 | 300 | 422 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Construction, North Breakwater Repair – Phase 2 (North End) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Storm Damage Repair Construction North Breakwater South Head Repair | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Construction, South Breakwater Repair | 2,300 | 2,300†ψ | 2,000 | 2,000†ψ | 0 | 0 |
| Construction West Breakwater Repair | 250 | 0 | 3,250 | 0 | 4,250 | 0 |
| Confined Disposal Facility Five Year External Assessment | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Engineering & Design, Construction Times Beach CDF Repair | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Engineering & Design Buffalo South Pier Repair | 0 | 0 | 300 | 260 | 0 | 0 |
| Harbor Structure Maintenance Plan | 100 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Engineering & Design, Construction CDF #4 Berm Raising to Prevent Washout | 250 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| Work Package | FY23 Requirement | FY23 Appropriation | FY24 Requirement | FY24 Appropriation | FY25 Requirement | FY25 Appropriation |
|---|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Construction Old and Old Extension Breakwater Repairs | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Real Estate Management | 16 | 16 | 16 | 8 | 18 | 9 |
| TOTAL | \$5,811 | \$5,311 | \$5,988 | \$2,268 | \$7,563 | \$3,304 |

†Funded with supplemental funds, Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (DRSAA)
 ψ Reallocation of \$4.3M of DRSAA funds from Buffalo North Breakwater Repair to Buffalo South Breakwater Repair to address winter storm damage and \$700k was returned to LRD.

Congressional Interests

- Representative Timothy Kennedy D-NY-26
- Senator Charles Schumer D-NY
- Senator Kirsten Gillibrand D-NY