



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
- 625k tons of material shipped and received in 2019
- Ranked 38<sup>th</sup> among Great Lakes harbors in 2019
- 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 2020 which removed approximately 193,000 CY of material.



- Repairs to deteriorated sections of the north, south and west breakwaters are needed to ensure the outer harbor and shoreline are adequately protected. Contract repairs to the most critical reaches of the north and south breakwater were initiated in 2019. A severe wind and wave event in October/November 2019 caused significant damage to the north breakwater. A 450' section toward the north end of the structure was breached and the majority of ongoing repairs at the south end were lost. Additional repairs are planned for FY22.
- Repairs to deteriorated sections of the South Pier are needed to ensure Buffalo River channel is adequately protected. The first phase of an incremental repair by the government floating plant is planned for 2021.
- Repairs to the Times Beach CDF and CDF #4 are needed to prevent washout and the potential loss of material.

### **Dredged Material Management Plan**

- The Dredged Material Management Plan (DMMP) is required to develop mutually acceptable long-term capacity solutions. The DMMP will analyze and address open lake placement and other follow-up alternatives.
- Work was initiated in FY18. Beginning in FY21, the team will be using modeling, sampling and other methodologies to complete an analysis of the identified open lake placement site for suitability of placement.

### **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 5,782 tons of harmful particulate matter (PM-10) and increase costs by an estimated \$1,294,000 due to increased railroad-related accidents, and an estimated \$865,000 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 \$451,000 and \$887,000 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 \$51.5M in business revenue, 229 direct, indirect, and induced jobs, and \$16.5M in labor income to the transportation sector.
- Commodities handled by the harbor support \$508.2M in business revenue, 3,012 direct, indirect, and induced jobs, and \$138M in labor income.

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Fiscal Year (FY) 2020, 2021, and 2022  
Buffalo Harbor, NY - Project Requirements and President's Budget (\$1,000)**

<b>Work Package</b>	<b>FY20 Requirement</b>	<b>FY20 Appropriation</b>	<b>FY21 Requirement</b>	<b>FY21 Appropriation</b>	<b>FY22 Requirement</b>	<b>FY22 President's Budget</b>
Maintenance Dredging – Primary Work Package	0	0	0	0	1,395	1,395
Critical Maintenance of Coastal Navigation Structures	0	0	1,200	1,200	1,800	0
Construction, North Breakwater Repair – Phase 2 (North End)	17,000	0	10,900	0	10,900	15,000
Construction North Breakwater Repair – Phase 1 (South End)	7,000	0	13,500	13,500	0	0
Construction, South Breakwater Repair	4,500	0	4,500	0	4,500	4,500
Construction CDF #4 Dike Repair	3,500	3,500	0	0	0	0
Evaluate South and Old Breakwater	100	100	0	0	0	0
Confined Disposal Facility Five Year External Assessment	0	0	0	0	5	5
Sediment Sampling & Analysis & Hydrological Modeling and Environmental Compliance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dredged Material Management Plan	250	250	0	0	0	0
Times Beach CDF Design Deficiency Report	100	100	0	0	0	0
Engineering & Design, Construction Times Beach CDF Repair	0	0	0	0	10,000	0
Harbor Structure Maintenance Plan	0	0	0	0	100	0
Engineering & Design, Construction West Breakwater Repair	0	0	0	0	10,000	0
Engineering & Design, Construction CDF #4 Berm Raising to Prevent Washout	0	0	0	0	20,000	0
Real Estate Management	0	0	8	8	8	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>32,450</b>	<b>3,950</b>	<b>30,108</b>	<b>14,708</b>	<b>58,708</b>	<b>20,908</b>

**Congressional Interests**

- Representative Brian Higgins D-NY-26
- Senator Charles Schumer D-NY
- Senator Kirsten Gillibrand D-NY