



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, 1907, 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
- 791k tons of material shipped and received in 2019
- Ranked 33rd among Great Lakes harbors in 2018
- 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 2018 which removed 125,000 CY of material. The dredged material was beneficially used for ecosystem restoration at nearby Unity Island. Additional maintenance dredging will commence in 2020.



- Repairs to deteriorated sections of the north and south breakwaters and south pier 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 was 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 needed to restore the north breakwater and complete repairs to the south breakwater.
- Repairs to deteriorated sections of the CDF #4 perimeter dike are required to ensure the CDF continues to operate as intended. Incremental repairs were completed by the government floating plant in 2015 and by contract in 2019. Repairs to the final unrepaired reach are planned for 2020.

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. In FY20, the Project Delivery Team will further analyze the identified open lake placement locations.

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 5,903 tons of harmful particulate matter (PM-10) and increase costs by an estimated \$1,100,000 due to increased railroad-related accidents, and an estimated \$1,779,000 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 \$636,000 and \$1,538,000 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 \$34.6M in business revenue, 150 direct, indirect, and induced jobs, and \$10.1M in labor income to the transportation sector.
- Commodities handled by the harbor support \$549.8M in business revenue, 3,223 direct, indirect, and induced jobs, and \$150.5M in labor income.

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Fiscal Year (FY) 2019, 2020, and 2021
Buffalo Harbor, NY - Project Requirements and President's Budget (\$1,000)**

Work Package	FY19 Requirement	FY19 Appropriation	FY20 Requirement	FY20 Appropriation	FY21 Requirement	FY21 Appropriation
Maintenance Dredging – Primary Work Package	1,350	1,350	0	0	0	0
Critical Maintenance of Coastal Navigation Structures	1,061	1,061	0	0	0	0
Construction, North Breakwater Repair – Phase 2 (North End)	6,100	6,100	17,000	0	10,900	0
Construction North Breakwater Repair – Phase 1 (South End)	0	0	7,000	0	13,500	13,500
Construction, South Breakwater Repair	3,500	3,500	4,500	0	4,500	0
Construction CDF #4 Dike Repair	1,500	1,500	3,500	3,500	0	0
Evaluate South Pier Repair	75	0	0	0	0	0
Evaluate South and Old Breakwater	0	0	100	100	0	0
Confined Disposal Facility Five Year External Assessment	5	5	0	0	0	0
Sediment Sampling & Analysis & Hydrological Modeling and Environmental Compliance	1,694	1,694	0	0	0	0
Dredged Material Management Plan	300	300	250	250	0	0
Times Beach CDF Design Deficiency Report	0	0	100	100	0	0
Real Estate Management	0	0	0	0	8	8
Structure Repair CDF #4	0	0	0	0	1,200	1,200
TOTAL	15,585	15,510	32,450	3,950	30,108	14,708

Congressional Interests

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