



## Burns Small Boat Harbor, IN

### Harbor Features

- Located on Lake Michigan near the city of Portage, Lake County, Indiana
- Authorization: Section 107 of the Rivers & Harbors Act of 1960
- Shallow draft recreational harbor with 5,200 feet of federal channel.
- Authorized project depths are 11 feet in the approach channel, 10 feet in the inner harbor, and 6 feet in the river channel.
- 1,688 linear feet of rubble mound pier and breakwater structures
- Dredged sediment has been placed in adjacent near-shore areas west of the harbor.
- Major stakeholders: marinas and other recreational boating businesses

### Project Requirements

- Maintenance dredging is required infrequently but is currently needed. The sediment backlog within the federal channel limits is approximately 20K cubic yards.
- Loss of available depth within the center half-width of the channel ranges from 2 to 4 ft of shoaling above authorized depth west of the east beach inside the breakwaters, and for about 70% of the channel length. The western third of the harbor is shoaled more than 4 ft throughout.
- Sediment sampling, analysis, and characterization in support of future maintenance were completed in FY22.
- The harbor was last maintained in Oct 2013 with Hurricane Sandy supplemental funding. Approx. 24K cubic yards of clean sand was removed and placed offshore adjacent to Ogden Dunes.



- Erosion control along the slopes adjacent to Burns Ditch would reduce the shoal accumulation within the harbor channel. The available depth within the navigation channel that extends south of the harbor is slightly reduced by shoals resulting from slope erosion from the adjacent bluffs. Current shoaling at the edge of the channel will present a hazard to some recreational users.
- The north and west breakwaters remain in satisfactory condition. The shoreline adjacent to the structure has experienced substantial erosion due to high lake levels, separating the previously embedded southern portion of the structure from the shoreline.

### Consequences of Not Maintaining the Project

- The harbor provides berthing and launching for hundreds of recreational boats. A public and several private marinas are located immediately upstream of the federal project.

### Transportation Importance

- Serves as a harbor of refuge for recreational vessels. The commercial harbors in the immediate area, such as Burns, Gary, and Indiana Harbors, do not have any facilities to accommodate recreational boats.

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, 2024, and 2025  
Burns Small Boat Harbor, IN – Project Requirements and President’s Budget (\$1,000)**

<b>Work Package</b>	<b>FY23 Requirement</b>	<b>FY23 Appropriation</b>	<b>FY24 Requirement</b>	<b>FY24 Appropriation</b>	<b>FY25 Requirement</b>	<b>FY25 President’s Budget</b>
Maintenance Dredging Approach Channel – Primary Work Package	914	914	965	973	0	0
Real Estate Management	8	8	8	0	9	9
Critical Breakwater Safety Maintenance	0	0	25	25	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>922</b>	<b>922</b>	<b>998</b>	<b>998</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>

**Congressional Interests**

- Representative Frank Mrvan D-IN-1
- Senator Todd Young R-IN
- Senator Mike Braun R-IN