



US Army Corps
of Engineers ®



Burns Waterway 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.
- Project depths are 11 feet in the approach channel, 10 feet in the inner harbor, and 6 feet in the river channel.
- Combined length of 1,688 linear feet of rubble mound breakwater structures
- 5,200 feet of federal channel in the harbor and channel leading to the public marina. The channel also serves numerous private marinas upstream of the public marina.
- Major stakeholders: U.S. Coast Guard

Project Requirements

- Structural repairs to the north breakwater were completed in FY10 using USACE government plant. Both the north and west breakwaters remain in satisfactory condition. However, the shoreline adjacent to the structure has experienced substantial erosion due to high lake levels, essentially separating the previously embedded southern portion of the structure from the shoreline.
- Hydraulic dredging was last completed in October 2013 as part of Hurricane Sandy supplemental funding. Approximately 24,000 cubic yards of clean sand was removed and placed offshore adjacent to the community of Ogden Dunes.
- The dredging backlog within the minimum function channel limits is approximately 30,000 cubic yards. The material would likely be placed offshore. The National Park Service has opposed accepting dredged material from the harbor onto its beach.
- Maintenance dredging is currently not required.



- Erosion control along the slopes adjacent to Burns Ditch is critically needed to help reduce the rate of shoal accumulation within the channel.

Consequences of Not Maintaining the Project

- The available depth within the navigation channel south of the harbor is slightly reduced by shoals resulting from slope erosion from the adjacent bluffs. Current light shoaling at the extreme edge of the channel could adversely affect some recreational users.

Transportation Importance

- The harbor provides berthing and launching for hundreds of recreational boats. Several marinas are located upstream of the federal project. In addition, the harbor and channel provide safe refuge for recreational boats on southern Lake Michigan traveling between Michigan City and Chicago's Calumet Harbor during periods of adverse weather. The commercial harbors in the immediate area, such as Burns Harbor, Gary Harbor, and Indiana Harbor do not have any facilities for the protection of recreational boats during intense periods of rapidly developing summer/fall thunderstorms.

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

Work Package	FY19 Requirement	FY19 Appropriation	FY20 Requirement	FY20 Appropriation	FY21 Requirement	FY21 Appropriation
Real Estate Management	0	0	0	0	8	0
Maintenance Dredging Approach Channel – Primary Work Package	558	0	572	0	664	0
TOTAL	558	0	572	0	672	0

Congressional Interests

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