



US Army Corps
of Engineers ®



Michigan City Harbor, IN

Harbor Features

- Located on Lake Michigan in Michigan City, LaPorte County, Indiana
- Authorization: Rivers & Harbors Acts of 1836, 1870, 1899, 1905, 1927 & 1935
- Section 107 of the Rivers & Harbors Act of 1960. Section 123 of the Rivers & Harbors Act of 1970, Water Resources Development Acts 1986 and 1996
- Deep-draft commercial harbor that primarily serves recreation users
- The federal navigation channel within the harbor and Trail Creek is 2 miles long
- The authorized project depths are 15 feet in the harbor entrance, 12 feet in the outer harbor, 10 feet in turning basin No. 1, 10 feet in Trail Creek from turning basin No. 1 to turning basin No. 2, and 6 feet in Trail Creek from turning basin No. 2 to E. Street
- 2,304 linear feet of timber crib breakwaters, a west pier 835 feet long, and an east pier 2,276 feet long
- Major stakeholders: U.S. Coast Guard, recreational marinas

Project Requirements

- Sediment removal within the outer harbor and entrance channel is typically needed on a 2- to 3-year cycle. This material is clean sand and is suitable for in-water/near-shore placement.
- The current sediment backlog is 195K cubic yards.
- Loss of available depth within the center half-width of the channel ranges from 2 ft at the harbor between the boat basin and the Franklin St. Bridge and exceeds 4 ft throughout Trail Creek.



- The last channel maintenance was completed in December 2021. 70K cubic yards of sediment was removed from the outer harbor and entrance channel and placed on the beach west of the harbor.
- Trail Creek sediment is of poor quality, hindering efforts to maintain the channel. Maintenance will be deferred until a suitable disposal site is identified.
- Trail Creek was last dredged in 2002; dredged sediment was placed in a landfill that was closing.
- Repairs to the east pier and Phase 1 of the outer breakwater were completed in 2020. Phase 2 of the outer breakwater repairs were completed in 2022.
- BIL funds will be employed in FY24 to complete repairs to the concrete and sheet pile at the lakeward end of the east pier.

Consequences of Not Maintaining the Project

- The USCG Michigan City station performs a search and rescue mission for southern Lake Michigan.
- The port is critical to the economic vitality of Michigan City. Due to recreational boating, the harbor generates minimally 118 jobs, \$3.2M in labor income and \$5.3M in value added to the local economy.

Transportation Importance

- The USCG maintains law enforcement and search & rescue vessels within the port and requires a minimal channel depth to conduct its missions.
- The harbor is the safe refuge on southern Lake Michigan for recreational boats. It includes transient berths, gasoline, diesel fuel, water, electricity, sewage pump-out, and launching for mariners.

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

Work Package	FY23 Requirement	FY23 Appropriation*	FY24 Requirement	FY24 Appropriation	FY25 Requirement	FY25 President’s Budget
Real Estate Management	10	10	11	11	11	11
Maintenance Dredging Approach and Entrance Channel – Primary Work Package	1,016	1,016*	1,120	1,120	0	0
Structural Repairs – Outer Breakwater Repairs (Contract)	0	0	0	0	0	0
East Pier Repair	0	0	0	0	0	0
Critical Breakwater Safety Maintenance	0	0	25	25	0	0
Repair to NE End of Detached Breakwater	0	0	5,000	2,500	0	0
Sediment Sampling and Analysis	0	0	0	0	200	0
TOTAL	1,026	1,026	6,156	3,656	211	11

**Funded with supplemental funds, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)*

Congressional Interests

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