



## FACT SHEET

### Presque Isle Shoreline Erosion Control Project, Erie, PA

Authorized by the 1986 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)  
Construction General (CG)

#### Location

- Presque Isle Peninsula is located on the southern shore of Lake Erie in the City of Erie, Pennsylvania. The Peninsula is a natural breakwater that forms and protects Erie Harbor, PA, and is home to Presque Isle State Park

#### Project Description

- The project at Presque Isle Peninsula was initiated with construction of 55 offshore rubblemound breakwaters along the western shore and placement of approximately 560,000 tons of sand fill. Each year approximately 55,000 tons of additional sand is needed to offset impacts of annual erosion. Annual nourishment requirements have been reduced to 25% of what was required before the breakwaters were constructed. The project is cost-shared 50-50 with a non-Federal sponsor

#### Importance

- To control erosion of the Peninsula, and to induce the continued growth of Gull Point, critical to the maintenance of habitat for an endangered species

#### Consequence

- When the need for annual sand nourishment is not met, erosion of the shoreline occurs. Continued erosion will lead to breaching of the Peninsula, damage to endangered species habitat and damage to park infrastructure. Recent erosion along the north face of the Peninsula has washed away a significant portion a Park parking lot (at Beach #10), as well as complete loss of approx 1/3 mile of the Gull Point hiking trail. This necessitated the construction of a new access trail of approx 1/2 mile to provide public and emergency access. This loss also represents significant environmental degradation of shoreline habitats for migratory shorebirds

Project Phase	Est. Fed. Cost of Phase	Federal Funding through FY12	FY13 Requirement	FY13 Budget	FY14 Requirement	FY14 Budget
Design & Implementation	\$56M <sup>1</sup>	\$12.110M	\$1.5M	\$1.5M	\$1.5M	\$0

(1) Total project cost is estimated to be \$112 million over 50 years, with the Federal costs anticipated to be \$56 million (50%) and the non-Federal share of \$56 million (50%).

### **Current Status**

- Project was funded for annual re-nourishment in FY12. Recent funding provided in FY11 and FY12 has met annual needs, though continued sand nourishment is required to restore sand-starved shore areas at the Gull Point end of the Peninsula. Without funding in FY13, the Peninsula will continue to degrade with increased impacts to the shoreline, park, and wildlife
- A Designated Critical Habitat Area (DCHA) has been identified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in an attempt to re-establish nesting for migratory Piping Plover birds. This critical habitat for the Piping Plover has incurred damage, as have other areas that are home to many native animal and transient avian species. Sand placement in this DCHA has seasonal

time restrictions to accommodate nesting patterns, which requires placement of sand prior to April 1<sup>st</sup> annually

### **Project Sponsor/Customer**

- PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR)

### **Congressional Interests**

- Representative Mike Kelly R-PA-03
- Senator Robert Casey D-PA
- Senator Pat Toomey R-PA

### **Issues**

- Continued funding is critical to ensure sufficient levels of sand nourishment continue annually without impacting local endangered species



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