



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, 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
- 964k tons of material shipped and received in 2020
- Ranked 32nd among Great Lakes harbors in 2020
- 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 2022 which removed approximately 80,000 CY of material. Additional dredging is planned for 2023.



- Contract repairs to the most critical reaches of the north breakwater were initiated in 2019. A severe wind and wave event in October/November 2019 caused significant damage to the ongoing repair and breached 450 foot section toward the north end of the structure. Phase 1 repairs were initiated in 2021 and will be completed in 2022. Phase 2 repairs to the remaining damaged reaches will be completed in 2023.
- Contract repairs to the most critical reaches of the south breakwater were completed in 2020. Additional repairs were completed in 2022. More work is needed to address recently observed new damage.
- Incremental repairs for the Confined Disposal Facility exterior, west breakwater and south pier were last completed in 2021 by the government floating plant. Additional repairs are planned for 2023.
- The exterior of the Times Beach CDF is degraded. Evaluation of the facility and coordination with the local sponsor is ongoing to determine the path forward.

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 5,782 tons of harmful particulate matter (PM-10) and increase costs by an estimated \$1,294,000 due to increased railroad-related accidents, and an estimated \$865,000 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 \$422,000 and \$865,000 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 \$51.5M in business revenue, 229 direct, indirect, and induced jobs, and \$16.5M in labor income to the transportation sector.
- Commodities handled by the harbor support \$508.2M in business revenue, 3,012 direct, indirect, and induced jobs, and \$138M in labor income.

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, 2023, and 2024
Buffalo Harbor, NY - Project Requirements and President's Budget (\$1,000)**

Work Package	FY22 Requirement	FY22 Appropriation	FY23 Requirement	FY23 Appropriation	FY24 Requirement	FY24 President's Budget
Maintenance Dredging – Primary Work Package	1,395	1,395	1,395	1,395	0	0
Critical Maintenance of Coastal Navigation Structures	700	0	1,200	1,200	0	0
Construction, North Breakwater Repair – Phase 2 (North End)	11,000	11,000	0	0	0	0
Construction, North Breakwater Repair – Phase 2 (North End)	10,900	10,900†	0	0	0	0
Storm Damage Repair Construction North Breakwater South Head Repair	7,000	7,000	0	0	0	0
Construction, South Breakwater Repair	5,000	5,000	0	0	5,000	0
Confined Disposal Facility Five Year External Assessment	5	5	0	0	0	0
Engineering & Design, Construction Times Beach CDF Repair	10,000	10,000*	0	0	0	0
Harbor Structure Maintenance Plan	100	0	100	100	0	0
Engineering & Design, Construction CDF #4 Berm Raising to Prevent Washout	20,000	0	0	0	0	0
Real Estate Management	8	8	16	16	16	8
TOTAL	76,108	45,308	2,961	2,711	5,016	8

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

†Funded with supplemental funds, Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (DRSAA)

Congressional Interests

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