



Buffalo Harbor, NY

Harbor Features

- Located on Lake Erie in the City of Buffalo, Erie County, New York
- Authorization: River & Harbor Acts of 1826, 1866, 1874, 1896, 1899, 1900, 1902, 1907, 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 in the south entrance channel, 25 to 26 in the north entrance channel, 23 to 27 feet in the Outer Harbor, and 22 to 23 feet in the Buffalo River channel
- 677k tons of material shipped and received in 2017
- Ranked 38th among Great Lakes harbors in 2017
- 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 include the 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 140,000 cubic yards (CY) every two years to maintain the navigation channel. Dredging was last completed in 2018 which removed 125,000 CY of material. The dredged material was beneficially used for ecosystem restoration at nearby Unity Island. Additional maintenance dredging will commence in 2020.



- Great Lakes Legacy Act environmental dredging of approximately 462,000 cubic yards outside the federal channel was completed in December 2014. The goal of the project was for dredged material from the Buffalo River to be suitable for open lake placement, resulting in reduced O&M costs and significant environmental benefits.
- A Dredged Material Management Plan was started in October 2018.
- Repairs to deteriorated sections of the north and south breakwaters and south pier are needed to ensure the outer harbor and shoreline are adequately protected. Contract repairs to the most critical reaches of the north and south breakwater are planned for 2019. Additional work is needed in 2020.
- Repairs to deteriorated sections of the CDF #4 perimeter dike are required to ensure the CDF continues to operate as intended. Incremental repairs were completed by the government floating plant in 2015 and by contract in 2016. The next phase of repairs is planned for 2019 and will target the most critical unrepaired reaches. Additional repairs are needed in 2020.

Consequences of Not Maintaining the Project

- Reduction of bulk commodities that pass through the harbor and generate \$904M annually in business revenue. Reduction in support to 5,490 direct, indirect, and induced jobs that produce over \$269M per year in personal income in the transportation and commodity related industries.
- If the harbor closed to commercial traffic, commodities would require rail or truck transport. This would increase annual emission rates by over 5,961 tons of harmful particulate matter (PM-10) and increase costs by \$1,126,000 due to increased railroad-related accidents, and \$1,874,000 due to increased trucking-related accidents.
- Light loading: losses of between 1 and 2 feet of channel depth would result in increased transportation costs of between \$569,000 and \$1,288,000 annually.

Transportation Importance

- Major receiving and shipping port on the Great Lakes and critical harbor of refuge.
- Commodities shipped or received include aggregates, limestone, sand, salt, grain, and cement.

Dredged Material Management Plan

- The Dredged Material Management Plan (DMMP) includes the development of mutually acceptable long-term capacity solutions and a plan. The DMMP will analyze and address open lake placement and other follow-up alternatives.
- Going into FY20, the Project Delivery Team will further analyze the identified open lake placement locations.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Fiscal Year (FY) 2018, 2019, and 2020 Buffalo Harbor, NY - Project Requirements and President's Budget (\$1,000)

Work Package	FY18 Requirement	FY18 Appropriation	FY19 Requirement	FY19 Appropriation	FY20 Requirement	FY20 President's Budget
Maintenance Dredging	0	0	1,350	1,350	0	0
Critical Maintenance of Coastal Navigation Structures	0	0	1,061	1,061	0	0
Construction, North Breakwater Repair	0	0	6,100	6,100	8,000	0
Construction, South Breakwater Repair	2,500	2,500	3,500	3,500	4,500	0
Construction CDF #4 Dike Repair	2,500	2,500	1,500	1,500	3,500	0
Evaluate South Pier Repair	75	0	75	0	0	0
Evaluate South and Old Breakwater	0	0	0	0	100	0
Confined Disposal Facility Five Year External Assessment	0	0	5	5	0	0
Sediment Sampling & Analysis & Hydrological Modeling and Environmental Compliance	0	0	1,694	1,694	0	0
Dredged Material Management Plan	0	0	300	300	250	250
TOTAL	5,075	5,000	15,585	15,510	16,350	250

Congressional Interests

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