



## FACT SHEET

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

Authorized by Section 501(a) the 1986 Water Resources Development Act  
Construction General

#### Location

- Presque Isle Peninsula is located on the southern shore of Lake Erie in the City of Erie, PA. 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 initiated construction of 55 offshore rubblemound breakwaters along the western shore and placement of approximately 560,000 tons of sand fill. Each year the peninsula needs approximately 55,000 tons of additional sand to offset impacts of annual erosion. Since the construction of the breakwaters, the annual nourishment requirement decreased by 75 percent. The project is cost-shared 50-50 with a nonfederal 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

- Without annual sand nourishment the shoreline erodes. Continued erosion will lead to breaching of the peninsula, damage to endangered species' habitats, and damage to park infrastructure. Recent erosion along the north face of the peninsula washed away a significant portion of a park parking lot (at Beach #10), as well as the complete loss of approximately 1/3 mile of the Gull Point hiking trail. This necessitated the construction of a new access trail of approximately 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 FY19	FY20 Requirement	FY20 Appropriation	FY21 Requirement	FY21 Budget
Design & Implementation	\$60.5M <sup>1</sup>	\$19.607M	\$1.25M	\$1.25M	\$1.25M	\$0M

(1) Total project cost is estimated to be \$121M over 50 years, with the federal costs anticipated to be \$60.5M (50 percent) and the nonfederal share of \$60.5M (50 percent).

### **Current Status**

- High lake levels are contributing to extensive erosion along the peninsula. Extensive sand placement in FY19 was required to meet minimum objectives in maintaining the shoreline. Continued placement in FY20 is required to prevent a significant degradation of the shoreline conditions and potential impacts on the Park features and infrastructure. There was \$1.5M received in the FY18 and FY19 work plan. Without continuous funding, the peninsula will continue to degrade with increased impacts to the shoreline, park, and wildlife, and there is significant risk of a breach through Gull Point.
- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has identified a Designated Critical Habitat Area in an attempt to reestablish 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 Designated Critical Habitat Area has seasonal time restrictions to accommodate nesting patterns, which require placement of sand before April 2 or after July 1 annually.

### **Project Sponsor/Customer**

- PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR)

### **Congressional Interests**

- Representative Mike Kelly R PA-16
- Senator Robert Casey D PA
- Senator Pat Toomey R PA

### **Issues**

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



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