



## 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 (WRDA) of 1986, 1988 and 2007
- Deep draft commercial harbor
- Authorized depths are 23-30 feet in the outer harbor and 22 feet in the river
- 127<sup>th</sup> leading U.S. port with 1,298,279 tons of material shipped or received in 2010
- Buffalo Harbor is ranked 29<sup>th</sup> among the Great Lakes 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, General Mills, Exxon-Mobil, Lafarge Cement and Founders Supplies, Incorporated

### Project Requirements

- Approximately 140,000 cubic yards of material must be dredged every 2 years. The harbor was last dredged in 2011-2012 when approximately 556,000 CY of material was removed. This project included the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) funded removal of 452,000 CY of backlog dredged material from the Federal channel



- Under the Great Lakes Legacy Act (GLLA) USEPA plans to do environmental dredging of approximately 500,000 cubic yards outside the Federal Channel. The GLLA project will follow the GLRI-funded project. A goal of the project is for future year Buffalo River dredging to be suitable for placement in the open lake, resulting in reduced O&M costs for the Buffalo Harbor in addition to significant environmental benefits
- Deteriorated sections of the South Breakwater and CDF #4 require repairs to restore proper function of the structures
- Critical requirements include maintenance dredging, CDF #4 repairs and repairs to the North and South Breakwaters

**Consequences of Not Maintaining the Project**

- Failure to dredge will result in continued shoaling and reduced channel dimensions; resulting in light loading, increased transportation costs and unsafe navigation conditions
- Light loading; losses of between 1 and 2 feet of channel depth would result in increased transportation costs of between \$127,000 and \$418,000 annually
- Reduction of bulk commodities that pass through the harbor and generate \$44M annually in direct revenue while supporting over 301 jobs and generating over \$16M per year in personal income
- If the harbor was closed to commercial traffic, commodities would have to be transported by rail and truck. This would increase annual emission rates by over 23,812 tons of harmful particulate matter (PM-10) and

- increase costs by \$189,000 due to increased railroad related accidents, and \$2,222,000 due to increased trucking related accidents
- Failure to repair the deteriorated structures will result in the continued degradation, increased future maintenance costs and unsafe navigation conditions within the harbor leading to vessel delays and potential damage to shoreline structures
  - Potential functional loss of Critical Harbor of Refuge

**Transportation Importance**

- Major receiving and shipping port on the Great Lakes
- Critical Harbor of Refuge
- Commodities shipped or received include aggregates, limestone, salt, grain, cement, and ores and minerals

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Fiscal Year (FY) 2011, 2012 and 2013  
Buffalo Harbor, New York - Project Requirements and President's Budget (\$1,000)**

<b>Work Package</b>	<b>GLRI Funds</b>	<b>FY11 Requirement</b>	<b>FY11 Work Plan</b>	<b>FY12 Requirement</b>	<b>FY12 Appropriation</b>	<b>FY13 Requirement</b>	<b>FY13 President's Budget</b>
Project Conditions Survey		90	115	115		115	
Maintenance Dredging	5,270	1,075	942			1,425	
Interim Repair CDF #4	3,435		30			178	
Dredging in Support of GLLA							
DMMP		250		200			
E&D South Breakwater Repair (1,800 LF)		250		300			
E&D North Breakwater Repair (1,000 LF)		200					
Structure Repair – South Breakwater (Floating Plant)				900	874		
Sediment Sampling and Analysis				150			
Snagging and Clearing			64	50	48		
CDF ERGO Compliance (O&M Manual)		65					
Environmental Compliance (CDF Monitoring, Field)		15		70			
Water Control Data Collection				48			
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>8,705</b>	<b>1,945</b>	<b>1,151</b>	<b>1,833</b>	<b>922</b>	<b>1,718</b>	<b>0</b>

**Congressional Interests**

- Representative Brian Higgins D-NY-27
- Senator Charles Schumer D-NY
- Senator Kirsten Gillibrand D-NY