



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**®
Detroit District

HARBOR INFRASTRUCTURE INVENTORIES

Burns Small Boat Harbor, Indiana



Harbor Location: Burns Small Boat Harbor is located on the southwest shore of Lake Michigan in Portage, Lake County, Indiana; approximately eleven miles southeast of Chicago Harbor in Chicago, Illinois.

Authority: Section 107 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1960

Project Description: Burns Small Boat Harbor is a shallow draft, recreational harbor with 5,200 feet of federal channel leading to a public marina. Three private marinas are located upstream of the federal project. In addition, the harbor and channel provide safe refuge for recreational boats on southern Lake Michigan traveling between Michigan City and Chicago's Calumet Harbor during periods of adverse weather. The commercial harbors in the immediate area, such as Burns Harbor, Gary Harbor and Indiana Harbor do not have any facilities for the protection of recreational boats during intense periods of rapidly developing summer/fall thunderstorms. The harbor is protected by two separate breakwaters with a combined length of 1,688 linear feet of rubblemound breakwater structures. Longest fetch & direction: 320 miles, northerly. Maximum Recorded water height: 19.0' (1965), Typical Storm Wave (2-yr offshore wave): 14'.

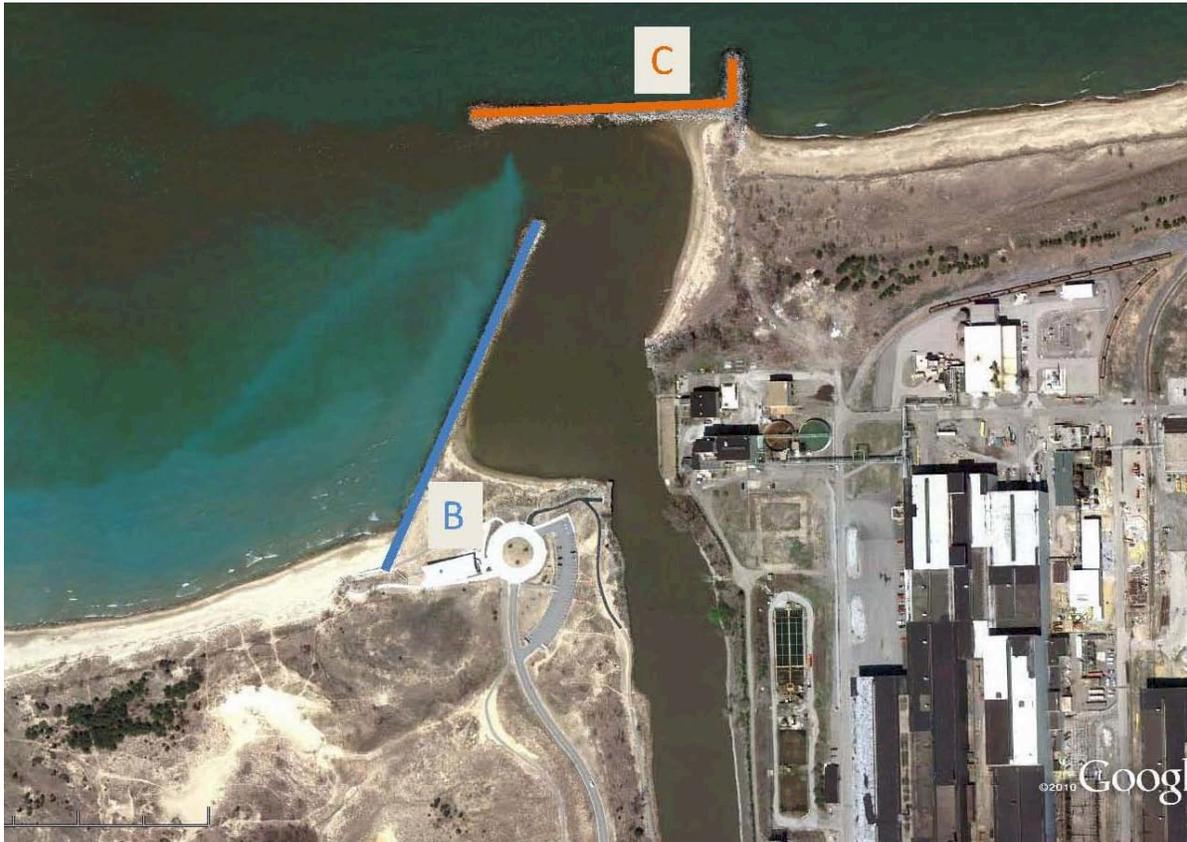
Traffic: No commerce reported.

Transportation Importance: The harbor provides berthing and launching for hundreds of recreational boats. Numerous marinas are located upstream of the federal project. In addition, the harbor and channel provide safe refuge for recreational boats on southern Lake Michigan traveling between Michigan City and Chicago's Calumet Harbor during periods of adverse weather.

Congressional Interest:

- Representative Peter J. Visclosky, D-IN-1
- Senator Richard Lugar, R-IN
- Senator Dan Coates, R-IN

Current Condition Assessment: West Breakwater: **B**; North Breakwater: **C**



Date of Site Visit: 23 August 2010

Summary of Impact: The immediate impact of a break or overtopping of the breakwaters would be upon recreational boat traffic. Significant wave activity within the harbor could possibly damage vessels docked at the Portage Public Marina or Marina Shores at Dune Harbor Marina. Additionally, any breach in the breakwater could potentially increase the rate of shoaling within the federal and private channels, resulting in limited navigability for recreational boaters. The shore structure with the greatest exposure is Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk (Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore). Other shore structures subject to inundation are the Portage Public Marina or Marina Shores at Dune Harbor Marina.

Examples of Protected Infrastructure:



1. Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk (Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore): The Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk is the newest facility at the national lakeshore. The area offers a fishing pier, a Riverwalk and a hike and bike trail through the restored dunescape. There is beach access and a 3,500 square foot pavilion.



Potential Impact Area: The following graphic displays property parcels that could be impacted within various zones defined by different setbacks from the shoreline behind existing Federal coastal structures. Values are based on real property tax assessments from these parcels, and don't reflect any detailed coastal zone damage assessments. Figures simply reflect property values at various setbacks.

