



## Duluth community gets safe harbor project green light

After nearly 20 years of planning, a small boat harbor project in Duluth, Minn. is on its way to a reality.

On Oct. 29, local, state and federal leaders, including the Detroit District Corps of Engineers, broke ground for the \$4 million McQuade Road Small Boat Harbor project.

The project is being performed under the Corps' Continuing Authorities Program Section 107 authority. Under this, the Corps may construct river and harbor improvement projects not specifically authorized by Congress that result in substantial benefits to recreation and commercial navigation.

Since McQuade road is a recreational harbor, the cost share is 50-50 with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources acting as the non-federal sponsor. The federal government may only provide a maximum of \$4 for each project.

This project is also part of the Minnesota DNR's Safe Harbor Program to provide 10 safe harbors for small craft along the entire North Shore, starting at McQuade Road and extending up to Grand Portage, Minn.

"This harbor is bound to be a jewel in this area, helping the local economy, while providing safe refuge from the sudden and sometimes unpredictable fury of Lake Superior storms, winds and waves," said Bill Rito, project manager with the Detroit District. "This McQuade Road public access is critical to boater safety along the North Shore of Minnesota."



U.S. Army Photo

**Lead by U.S. Congressman James L. Oberstar (D-Minn.) (front gray jacket) and Lt. Col. Donald Lauzon (center with black beret), Detroit District Engineer, along with other Corps and local community leaders break ground.**

Two other small boat harbors have been built so far under the partnership between the Corps and the MNDNR – one at Taconite and another at Silver Bay.

The construction contract for the McQuade Road project was awarded to Northland Constructors, out of Duluth, for \$4.9 million.

"One advantage of awarding to a local firm is the double shot in the arm it will give the local economy," Rito said. "Not only will the area's future economy benefit from the completed harbor, but the construction money will stay here, employing local people."

The next step in the project process is to begin on-site construction, hold pre-construction and partnering conferences. Construction is planned to begin in Spring 2005 and be completed in 2006.

During the groundbreaking ceremony, which approximately 60 people attended, many were recognized for their "long and diligent efforts" and thanked for their vision.

"Some people may have thought at times that we would never get to this point, but through their unending efforts, they have helped bring us here," Rito said.

### Show off your baby!

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