



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®

## HARBOR INFRASTRUCTURE INVENTORIES Buffalo Harbor, New York



**Harbor Location:** Buffalo Harbor is located on the Eastern shore of Lake Erie in the City of Buffalo, NY.

**Authority:** 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

**Project Description:** Originally authorized by the 1826 River and Harbors Act, Buffalo Harbor is a deep draft commercial harbor. Protective structures consist of south, old, west, south entrance arm and stony point laid up stone breakwaters and a north wood crib base with concrete cap breakwater totaling over 4.6 miles in length..

**Traffic:** 1,370,855 tons (5-Year average, 2006-2010)

**Transportation Importance:** Major regional receiving port on the Great Lakes for commodities including aggregates, limestone, salt, grain, cement, and ores and minerals.

### Congressional Interest:

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

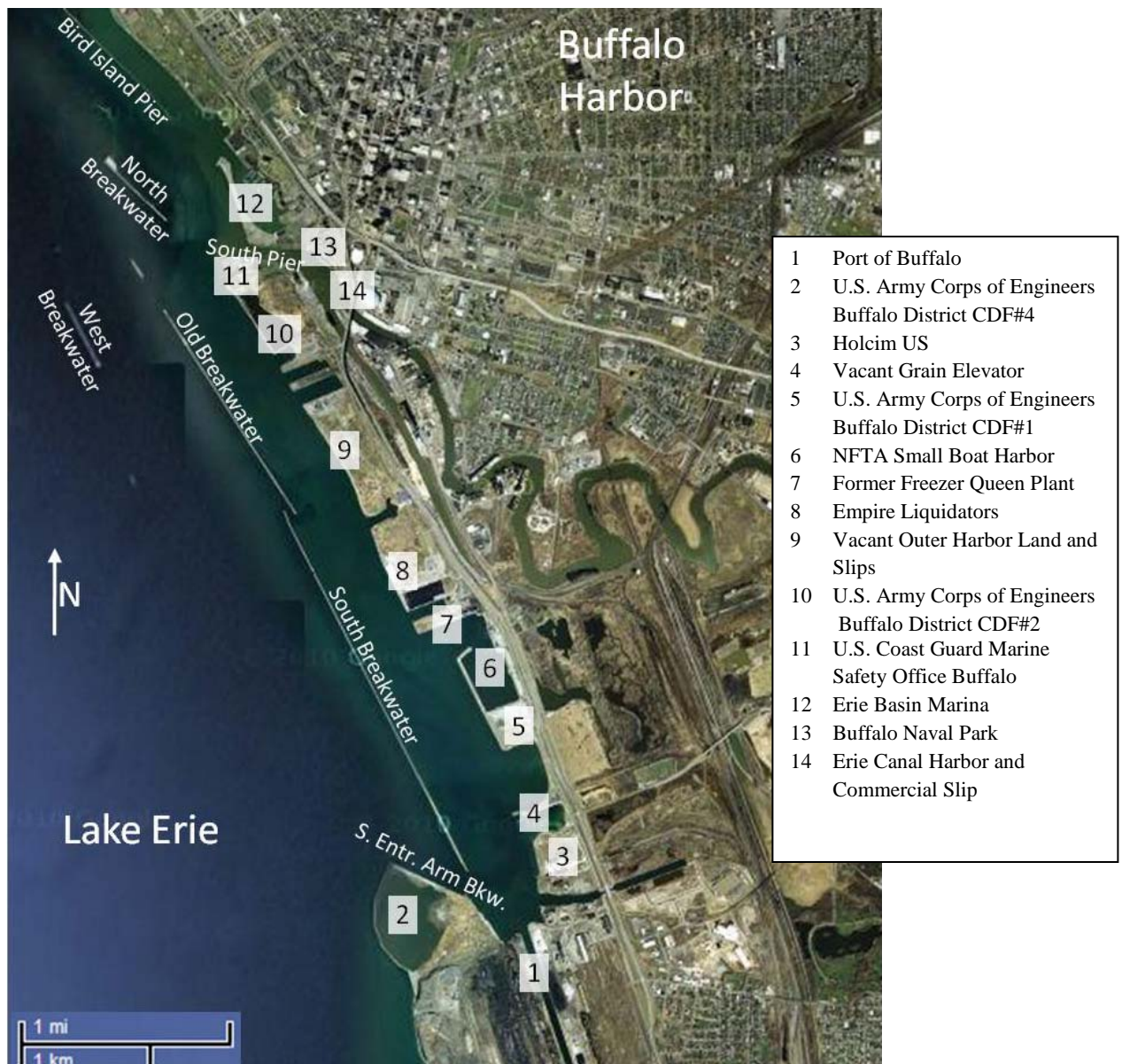
**Current Condition Assessment: D**



**Date of Site Visit:** 29 June 2010

**Summary of Impact:** Prevailing waves come from a southwest to northwest direction. Breakwater failure would result in loss of the outer harbor as well as damage to the facilities located along the shoreline. The outer harbor also serves as a harbor of refuge, and loss of this would be hazardous to the boating community. The Port of Buffalo, located at the south end of the harbor would suffer limits to shipping and damage to structures and equipment. The south breakwater directly protects the Holcim US cement facility, the NFTA Small Boat Harbor, the USACE CDF #1, the former Freezer Queen plant, Empire Liquidators as well as a large tract of vacant outer harbor land and slips. Increased wave action would result in damage to these facilities. Failure of the old, north and west breakwaters would result in increased sedimentation at the mouth of the Buffalo River and entrance to the Black Rock Channel, increasing maintenance requirements and limiting vessel draft for facilities located along the river and Buffalo Ship Canal. Additionally, wave action would be severe in the harbor around the U.S. Coast Guard Station, Erie Basin Marina, the Buffalo Naval Park and the newly constructed Erie Canal Harbor and Commercial Slip development.

**Examples of Protected Infrastructure:**



**1. Port of Buffalo:** Privately run port owned and operated by Gateway Metroport. Hundreds of thousands of square feet of warehouse storage available for sublease. 400,000 square foot terminal at the dock area. 200 acres of bulk storage. Rail and highway connections. 200 ton crawler crane, 55 ton mobile gantry. The port presently has no problems with depth or wave action, however lake surges are present. Breakwater failure would result in sedimentation of approach channel and increased wave action in harbor.



**2. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Buffalo District CDF #4**

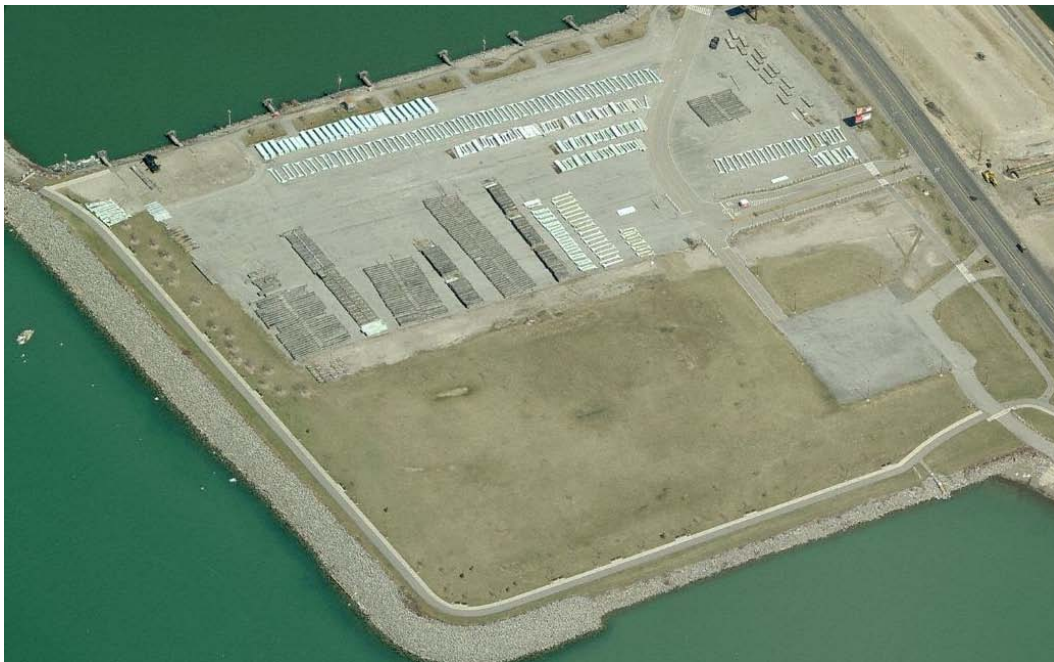
**3. Holcim US:** Privately owned industry involved with cement shipping, employing 2. All cement is shipped to and from facility via truck. Facility has capacity to ship via lake vessel at a 250' dock. 64,000 ton onsite storage capacity in silos, facility handles around 34,000 tons annually. Structures include silos, a main office building and a garage. Breakwater failure would be detrimental to operations as wave action would increase, making flooding more likely.



**4. Vacant Grain Elevator:** Presently vacant grain elevator. Breakwater failure would result in increased risk of flooding and damage.



**5. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Buffalo District CDF #1:** Former CDF that has been filled to capacity and is presently used as parking lot for the NFTA Small Boat Harbor and as a public greenspace.



**6. NFTA Small Boat Harbor:** Marina with 1005 floating slips able to accommodate boats up to 50'. Electric and water available at all slips. Additional amenities include a fish cleaning station, restaurant, boat launch, public park and ships store. Breakwater failure would result in increased wave action in harbor and damage to vessels and facilities.



**7. Former Freezer Queen Plant:** Former manufacturing plant for Freezer Queen. Presently vacant. Breakwater failure would increase risk of flooding and damage.



**8. Empire Liquidators:** Consumer goods liquidation company located on land along the outer harbor. Breakwater failure would increase risk of flooding and damage to facilities.



**9. Vacant Outer Harbor Land and Slips:** Vacant land targeted for redevelopment and public use. Breakwater failure would cause flooding and would be detrimental to future redevelopment.

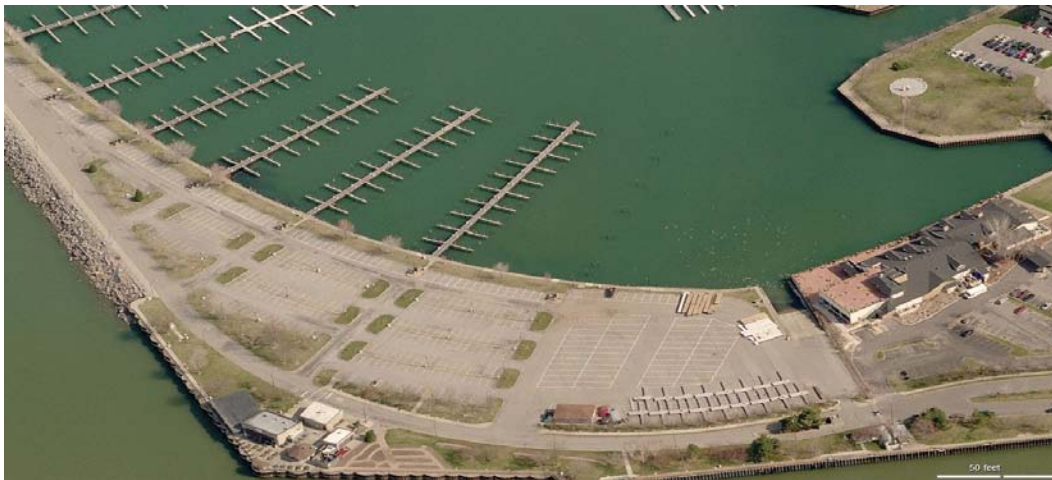


**10. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Buffalo District CDF #2**

**11. U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Office Buffalo:** Coast Guard Station with area of responsibility extending from Niagara Falls to Dunkirk, NY. 2 search and rescue/law enforcement vessels (47' and 33' in length). Single story station, auxiliary building, marine safety building, lighthouse and a boat house. Facility is dependent on breakwaters to maintain a calm harbor. Breakwater failure would cause damage to craft and facilities as well as increase risk for rescue missions.



**12. Erie Basin Marina:** Municipally owned public marina with a restaurant, snack shacks, observation tower, public walking path, and tour boats. Facilities are protected from wave action and flooding by the breakwaters. Breakwater failure would cause increased wave action in harbor and would result in damage to vessels and facilities.



**13. Buffalo Naval Park:** Public park with three former navy vessels now used as a museum. On shore exhibits and museum. Ships and exhibits are protected by the breakwaters. Breakwater failure would result in damage to vessels and exhibit.



**14. Erie Canal Harbor and Commercial Slip:** Public park on lakeshore. Working to redevelop Erie Canal terminus. Plans in place for a multiuse development including public space, shopping and living spaces. Transient dockage available with power and water. Breakwater failure would cause damage to dockage and flooding of park and facilities under high wind conditions.





**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.

