



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®



## Burns Waterway Small Boat Harbor, IN

### Project Features

- Located on Lake Michigan near the city of Portage, Lake County, Indiana.
- Authorization: Section 107 of the River & Harbor Act of 1960
- Project depths are 11 feet in the approach channel, 10 feet in the inner harbor, and 6 feet in the river channel
- Combined length of 1,688 linear feet of rubblemound breakwater structures
- 5,200 feet of federal channel in the harbor and channel leading to the public marina. The channel also serves numerous private marinas upstream of the public marina.

### Project Requirements

- Structural repairs to the north breakwater were completed in FY10 using USACE hired labor forces. Both the north and west breakwaters remain in satisfactory condition.
- Due to the severe Hurricane Sandy storm on southern Lake Michigan on October 31, 2012, the outer harbor entrance received approximately 20,000 cubic yards of new sediment.
- Hydraulic dredging was completed in October 2013. Approximately 24,000 cubic yards of clean sand were removed, and placed offshore adjacent to the community of Ogden Dunes.
- Erosion control along the slopes adjacent to Burns Ditch is critically needed to help reduce the rate of shoal accumulation within the channel.



### Consequences of Not Maintaining the Project

- The available depth within the navigation channel south of the harbor is slightly reduced by shoals resulting from slope erosion from the adjacent bluffs. Current light shoaling at the extreme edge of channel could adversely affect some recreational users. Funding of channel maintenance in all recreational harbors is lower priority than commercial harbors. The cost to remove the current small amount of shoaling is not economically justified, and therefore, not recommended.

### Transportation Importance

- The harbor provides berthing and launching for hundreds of recreational boats. Several 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.

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Fiscal Year (FY) 2015, 2016 and 2017  
Burns Waterway Small Boat Harbor, IN - Project Requirements and President's Budget (\$1,000)**

<b>Work Package</b>	<b>FY15 Requirement</b>	<b>FY15 Appropriation</b>	<b>FY16 Requirement</b>	<b>FY16 Appropriation</b>	<b>FY17 Requirement</b>	<b>FY17 President's Budget</b>
Project Condition Surveys / Caretaker Funds						
Sampling/Testing of Harbor Channel for Maintenance Dredging						
Maintenance Dredging of Harbor and Channel						
Structural Repair – North and West Breakwaters						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Congressional Interests**

- Representative Peter J. Visclosky D-IN-1
- Senator Dan Coats R-IN
- Senator Joe Donnelly D-IN