



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®



## Michigan City Harbor, IN

### Project Features

- The harbor is located in Michigan City, Indiana in LaPorte County, Indiana.
- Authorization: River & Harbor Acts of 1836, 1870, 1899, 1905, 1927 & 1935. Section 107 of the River & Harbor Act of 1960. Section 123 of the River & Harbor Act of 1970, Water Resources Development Acts 1986 and 1996.
- Authorized navigation channel depths are 15 feet in the harbor entrance, 12 feet in the outer harbor, 10 feet in turning basin No. 1, 10 feet in Trail Creek from turning basin No. 1 to turning basin No. 2 and 6 feet in Trail Creek from turning basin No. 2 to E. Street.
- Harbor structures consist of 2,304 linear feet of timber crib breakwaters, a west pier 835 feet long and an east pier 2,276 feet long.
- The federal navigation channel within the harbor and Trail Creek is 2 miles long.

### Project Requirements

- Trail Creek dredging is needed on a 6 to 8 year cycle. Approx. 55,000 cubic yards is currently needed to restore the authorized depth in the channel. Both Trail Creek sediment and the entrained water are of poor quality, which has hindered efforts to dredge the channel and increased the cost substantially. Not all of the material is suitable for beneficial reuse. Trail Creek was last dredged in July 2002, with disposal into a landfill that was closing.
- A Confined Disposal Facility (CDF) is needed for future disposal of the sediment in Trail Creek. The previous harbor CDF was capped after it reached capacity in 1979.
- The detached breakwater is the primary shield for safe vessel passage into and out of the harbor. Its condition is poor, and the concrete cap is progressively collapsing due to the timber crib deterioration beneath. Segments of the concrete cap are dislodged periodically.



- The outer harbor and entrance were last dredged of clean sand to 14 feet in September 2013, removing approximately 45,000 cubic yards of sand deposited by the Hurricane Sandy storm.
- Reconstruction of the east pier was completed in 2015 utilizing Public Law 113-2 Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013.

### Consequences of Not Maintaining the Project

- The USCG marine safety mission serves all vessels in southern Lake Michigan.
- The port is critical to the economic vitality of Michigan City. Due to recreational boating, the harbor generates minimally 118 jobs, \$3.2 million in labor income and \$5.3 million in value added to the local economy.

### Transportation Importance

- The U.S. Coast Guard maintains law enforcement and search & rescue vessels within the port. The Coast Guard needs access to and from the port to conduct its Homeland Security missions on Lake Michigan.
- The harbor is the safe refuge on southern Lake Michigan for recreational boats because its detached breakwater provides protection for vessels entering the harbor. There are transient berths, gasoline, diesel fuel, water, electricity, sewage pump-out and launching.

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Fiscal Year (FY) 2015, 2016 and 2017  
Michigan City Harbor, IN - Project Requirements and President's Budget**

<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 Survey / Caretaker Funding	25		25			
Maintenance Dredging of Outer Harbor and Entrance			830		830	
Maintenance Dredging of Trail Creek (Turning Basin No. 2 to E Street)	5,290		5,270		5,270	
Structural Repairs – Detached Breakwater (by Gov't. Floating Plant)	1,174		2,530		2,530	
Structural Repairs – East Pier Reconstruction (by Contract)						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,489</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8,655</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8,630</b>	<b>0</b>

**Congressional Interests**

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