



U.S. ARMY

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS OHIO DREDGING NEWSLETTER



US Army Corps of Engineers
Buffalo District

Updated July 2025

Overview

The Buffalo District received more than \$40.6 million in fiscal year 2025 federal funding to dredge seven Ohio harbors, an increase from last year's \$25.5 million. Dredging began in early May and will continue through the end of the year.

While this funding is a positive step, the program faces new challenges next year. The options to manage dredged material consistent with State law and other requirements are limited, and most viable alternatives are expensive and require non-Federal partnership. Preventing the open

lake placement of dredged material and requiring upland placement and beneficial use of dredged material has reduced the number of available placement sites and has significantly increased the cost of dredging per cubic yard. Higher costs have led to a significant reduction in the amount of material that can be dredged at some harbors.

To maintain a sustainable dredging program across Ohio's harbors, Dredged Material Management Plans (DMMP) and Section 217 Agreements will be essential to avoid reduced dredging quantities and deferred dredging.

Toledo Harbor

Schedule: AUG - NOV 2025

Details: Dredging 600,000 CY with placement into the Toledo Lucas County Port Authority confined disposal facility

Requirement: 760,000 CY

Capacity: 3,250,000 CY (additional capacity TBD)

Placement Area Lead: Toledo Lucas County Port Authority

Harbor Business Revenue Supported: \$592.3M

Sandusky Harbor

Schedule: OCT 2025

Details: Dredging 10,000 CY with open lake placement

Requirement: 130,000 CY

Capacity: 10,000 CY (open lake)

Placement Area Lead: USACE

Harbor Business Revenue Supported: \$80.1M

No placement location

Lorain Harbor

Schedule: AUG - SEP 2025

Details: Dredging 40,000 CY with placement in the federal CDF, as upland facility not available in 2025, but will be in 2026

Requirement: 110,000 CY

Capacity: TBD (CDF)

Placement Area Lead: USACE

Harbor Business Revenue Supported: \$49.8M

Ashtabula Harbor

Schedule: AUG 2025

Details: Dredging 70,000 CY with sediment placed into the Section 204 wetland project located in the outer harbor

Requirement: 110,000 CY every 2 years

Capacity: 200,000 CY (Wetland Project)

Placement Area Lead: USACE

Harbor Business Revenue Supported: \$60.7M

Conneaut Harbor

Schedule: AUG - SEP 2025

Details: Dredging 70,000 CY with placement in upland facility

Requirement: 80,000 CY

Capacity: 90,000 (upland)

Placement Area Lead: City of Conneaut

Harbor Business Revenue Supported: \$132M

Fairport Harbor

Schedule: JUN - AUG 2025

Details: Dredging 150,000 CY with placement in upland facility

Requirement: 180,000 CY every 2 years

Capacity: 250,000 CY (upland)

Placement Area Lead: City of Fairport

Harbor Business Revenue Supported: \$45.2M

Cleveland Harbor

Schedule: MAY - JUN 2025 (spring)
NOV - DEC 2025 (fall)

Details: Spring dredging was completed JUN (200,000 CY); Fall dredging in NOV (50,000 CY)

Requirement: 300,000 CY

Capacity: 225,000 (CDF/upland)

Placement Area Lead: City of Cleveland

Harbor Business Revenue Supported: \$421.1M



The Need for Predictability in an Unpredictable Future

Upland placement and some beneficial use of dredged material often costs more and requires more space than traditional placement methods. These added costs can exceed what the federal government is legally allowed to pay, resulting in reduced or deferred dredging at some harbors.

The Corps of Engineers recognizes these space and funding challenges. To address them, we are working with the State of Ohio and local partners to build predictability and consistency into the dredging program.

The federal path forward includes completing a Dredged Material Management Plan (DMMP) for each harbor. These plans identify all feasible and environmentally acceptable placement options. Each option is then compared to the Federal Standard - the maximum cost the Corps can pay for

dredging. If a more expensive option is chosen, a cost-share partner must cover the difference through a Section 217 agreement.

This approach ensures long-term planning, cost transparency, and reliable dredging schedules. We are already pursuing this model in Cleveland, where we're supporting the port authority's goal to reuse and resell dredged material.

A Section 217 agreement, signed with the sediment recycling facility, will lead to consistency and predictability of dredging.

2026 MAINTENANCE DREDGING OHIO FEDERAL NAVIGATION CHANNELS



**Immediate
Challenges**



**Capacity Challenges
2-5 Years**



Funding Challenges

Fairport Harbor

Schedule: JUN - AUG 2026

Details: Harbor partially funded

Requirement: 180,000 CY every 2 years

Capability (based on FY26 Funding): 84,000 CY

Capacity: TBD

Placement Area Lead: City/County

Harbor Business Revenue Supported: \$45.2M

DMMP Status: Summer 2027

Ashtabula Harbor

Schedule: Not Scheduled

Details: Harbor is on a two-year cycle, not scheduled for 2026

Requirement: 110,000 CY every 2 years

Capability (based on FY26 Funding): 0 CY

Capacity: TBD (upland)

Placement Area Lead: Ashtabula City Port Authority

Harbor Business Revenue Supported: \$60.7M

DMMP Status: Summer 2028

Conneaut Harbor

Schedule: AUG - SEP 2026

Details: Harbor partially funded

Requirement: 80,000 CY

Capability (based on FY26 Funding): 17,500 CY

Capacity: 90,000 (upland)

Placement Area Lead: City/State

Harbor Business Revenue Supported: \$132M

DMMP Status: Fall 2027

Toledo Harbor

Schedule: SEP - NOV 2026

Details: Harbor funded

Requirement: 760,000 CY

Capability (based on FY26 Funding): 800,000 CY

Capacity: 15 - 17yrs

Placement Area Lead: Toledo Lucas County
Port Authority

Harbor Business Revenue Supported: \$592.3M

DMMP Status: Summer 2027

Sandusky Harbor

Schedule: OCT 2026

Details: Harbor funded

Requirement: 130,000 CY

Capability (based on FY26 Funding): 10,000 CY,
based on lack of placement site

Capacity: 0 CY

Placement Area Lead: City/State/EPA (GLRI)

Harbor Business Revenue Supported: \$80.1M

DMMP Status: Summer 2027

No placement location

Lorain Harbor

Schedule: AUG - SEP 2026

Details: Harbor not funded

Requirement: 110,000 CY

Capability (based on FY26 Funding): 0 CY

Capacity: 80,000 (upland)

Placement Area Lead: City of Lorain

Harbor Business Revenue Supported: \$49.8M

DMMP Status: Fall 2027

Cleveland Harbor

Schedule: MAY - JUN 2026 (spring)
NOV - DEC 2026 (fall)

Details: Harbor funded

Requirement: 300,000 CY

Capability (based on FY26 Funding): 225,000 CY

Capacity: 225,000 (CDF/upland)

Placement Area Lead: City of Cleveland

Harbor Business Revenue Supported: \$421.1M

DMMP Status: Fall 2029

Did you know?

Our survey team keeps up-to-date depth charts after federal navigation channels are dredged.

Send us an email and get surveys sent to you:

LRB.Ehydro.Harbor.Update@usace.army.mil

Or 24/7 online:

<https://www.lrd.usace.army.mil/glms/>

More information:

<https://www.lrd.usace.army.mil/glms/>

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