Dredging Lake Erie’s ports, harbors and waterways ensures cargo movement and safe boat travel.

Shipping to Ohio’s Lake Erie Ports moves an average of 40 million tons of cargo annually.

1.5 million cubic yards per year—an abundant resource ready for use.

Types of Material:
- rock
- gravel & sand
- consolidated clay
- silt/soft clay
- mixture

New Industry in Ohio: repurpose lake sediment

Uses:
- Agricultural Uses
- Construction & Engineering Uses
- Product Uses
- Environmental Enhancement

Make it Your Business

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Make it Your Business
Dredged Material: Make it Your Business

Each year, harbors on Ohio’s north shore must be dredged to keep the shipping channels open so commodities/vessels can move in and out of the ports. Much of the dredged material is currently dumped in the open waters of Lake Erie. However, with the 2015 passage of Ohio Senate Bill 1, that will no longer be an option after July 1, 2020.

With proper characterization and handling, uncontaminated dredged material can be repurposed to improve the environment and the economy. Those uses include beach/nearshore nourishment, habitat creation or restoration, landscaping, road construction, land reclamation, landfill cover and in the manufacture of marketable products such as concrete, bricks, blocks, aggregate and topsoil.

Public, private and nonprofit stakeholders in and around the harbor areas are in an ideal position to help identify and benefit from developing viable dredged material uses. The first step is recognizing that the material is a valuable resource with real economic value.

To assist these efforts, the State will identify potential end uses of the dredged materials based on geotechnical and chemical characteristics. With the State’s help, the public and private sector in the region will then be able to capitalize on the environmental and economic opportunities created by this resource.

Here are a few ways dredged material can be used:

- Use dredged material to restore your soil.
- Use and promote using dredged material for beach/nearshore nourishment, habitat creation or restoration, landscaping, road construction, landfill cover, and brownfield and other land reclamation.
- Help identify and promote other potential uses of dredged material in your community.
- Assist in creating viable business opportunities around the beneficial use of dredged material.
- Use and promote using products such as topsoil, concrete and concrete-based goods, brick, block and other construction materials made using dredged material.
- Create new businesses around the beneficial use of dredged material.