



**TOLEDO-LUCAS COUNTY
PORT AUTHORITY**

NEWS RELEASE

IMMEDIATE

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**ARMY CORP OF ENGINEERS TO STUDY POINT PLACE HARBORLANDS
INITIATIVE FOR HABITAT RESTORATION UNITS**

PUBLIC FORUM ON SEPT. 18

TOLEDO, Ohio, September 9, 2008 - The Point Place Business Association Harborlands Initiative to create land for eco-tourism from clean silt from the Maumee River will undergo a feasibility study by the Army Corp of Engineers. If the initiative passes, new islands for wildlife habitat could be created as early as 2012.

The Harborlands Initiative, a joint venture between the Point Place Business Association and the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, will create a string of habitat restoration unit islets along Toledo Harbor's shipping channel. Similar habitat restoration units have been successfully created along coastlines and rivers throughout the United States and Canada. The initiative will be considered in the Army Corps of Engineer's Study for the future use of dredged materials in western Lake Erie Maumee Bay. The Army Corps has declared that the study will be fully federally funded and it will include a number of concepts for habitat restoration.

"The Harborlands Initiative of the Point Place Business Association will create very significant bird, fish and other wildlife habitats while creating significant eco-tourism destinations. This is an exciting prospect for regional economic development and for the future of our great port," says Warren McCrimmon, Seaport Director, Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority.

Rarely does an Army Corps of Engineer's study receive 100% federal funding and this indicates a significant federal commitment to establishing habitat restoration units in the western Lake Erie basin. The study is expected to be completed by 2010 and, if found feasible, actual construction could commence by 2012. It is anticipated that traditional open lake dumping of dredgings in Lake Erie could fully cease by about 2013 if habitat restoration units are being constructed.

"Our Harborlands Initiative will greatly enhance our community's natural environment resources benefiting future generations and will establish a wonderful eco-tourism attraction that could garner world wide attention," says Clement Cybulski, Point Place Business Association President. More details at www.pointplace.net. Please use the password ppba to launch the PowerPoint slide show.

Harborlands committee chairman Bob Kneisley stated that major benefits include:

- Creating outstanding fish and bird habitats that will become tourist attractions and destinations for recreational boaters
- Providing the much needed capacity for the storage of Maumee River dredged materials
- Eliminating the hazard to navigation north of Toledo's main shipping channel
- Supporting the replenishment of Great Lakes fish stocks

The Association expects to conduct a public forum reviewing its proposal on September 18, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at the Point Place library located at 2727 117th Street, Toledo, Ohio.

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