



The Maryland Port Administration PRESS RELEASE



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PORT ADMINISTRATION WINS AWARD FOR SCHOOLYARD GREENING PROJECT

Project Includes Replacing Pavement and Blacktop with Green Space

(BALTIMORE, MD) --- The Maryland Port Administration (MPA) received a 2009 Mayor's Business Recognition Award from the Greater Baltimore Committee today for a schoolyard greening program funded by the MPA. As part of the program, the MPA works with Baltimore City schools and local service organizations to replace pavement or blacktop at a previously identified school with grass, trees, and gardens designed to the specifications of the school. The Mayor's Business Recognition Award is given annually to those companies or organizations that have demonstrated outstanding community service and, through their contributions, have significantly improved Baltimore City.

"Through a partnership with Baltimore City, we are able to identify schools that are good candidates to have their campuses environmentally enhanced through this program," said MPA Executive Director James J. White. "Adding greenery helps to beautify these schools for the enjoyment of its students and local communities."

The MPA is required by the Maryland Department of the Environment and Critical Area Commission for the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays to provide environmental mitigation whenever any construction work is completed on its marine terminals. Construction work falling within these parameters can include building a physical structure or demolishing a structure. Instead of mitigating on port facilities, the MPA is able to complete the necessary mitigation at offsite locations and therefore works to provide these enhancements to local schools.

To date, eight Baltimore City schools since 2006 have been greened through this program. They are: Franklin Square Elementary, Ben Franklin Middle, Curtis Bay Elementary, Barclay Elementary, Windsor Hills Elementary, Hamilton Elementary/Middle, Matthew Henson Elementary, and Baltimore Montessori. In total, eight acres of school pavement have been removed. Removing pavement has reduced storm water flow from schoolyards, including measureable reductions in the amount of phosphorus running offsite. In 2010, ACE Academy and Cherry Hill Elementary schools are planned for greening under this program.

"The Barclay School and our community will be forever indebted to the Maryland Port Administration for transforming our school grounds from an asphalt parking lot into a beautiful green space for all to enjoy," said Barclay School Principal Jenny L. Heinbaugh. "Our school and neighborhood is now able to enjoy over an acre of beautiful grass, flowers, and trees. Our students now read in our gardens, grow vegetables to prepare nutritional foods, and are able to enjoy birds and butterflies for the first time.

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Port's Schoolyard Greening Projects Wins Award

Thanks to the MPA, our school was named a Maryland Governor's Green School last spring and our students now have the gift of not only using our school grounds for recreational enjoyment, but for learning about nature and nutrition, as well. Furthermore, our community has really rallied around our new grounds to help plant, water, weed, and maintain our beautiful, new 'Barclay Park!'"

The MPA's schoolyard greening program is consistent with Governor Martin O'Malley's Smart, Green and Growing initiative. Introduced by Governor O'Malley in October 2008, Maryland's *Smart, Green & Growing* initiative was created to strengthen the state's leadership role in fostering smarter, more sustainable growth and inspire action among all Marylanders to achieve a more sustainable future. The Initiative brings together state agencies, local governments, businesses and citizens to create more livable communities, improve transportation options, reduce the state's carbon footprint, support resource based industry, invest in green technologies, preserve valuable resource lands and restore the health of the Chesapeake Bay.

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