

## **Event Highlights Baltimore Harbor Restoration**

October 24, 2012 11:35 AM

BALTIMORE (AP) — Some Baltimore school children are joining federal and state officials in celebrating the transformation of a polluted South Baltimore waterfront into an environmental preserve.

Lt. Gov. Anthony G. Brown and U.S. Rep. John Sarbanes are leading the event Wednesday at Masonville Cove.

The 11-acre nature area is part of a \$22 million project to restore one of Baltimore harbor's most polluted areas.

More than 60,000 tons of trash and debris dating back more than a century have been removed, along with invasive plants and sickly trees.

The area is being replanted with native trees, shrubs and wetland plants.

The nature area offers walking trails, fishing and bird-watching. A pier on the nearby Patapsco River provides access for kayaks and canoes.

## **Masonville Cove nature area opened in Baltimore**

Posted: 11:49 AM

Last Updated: 1 hour and 34 minutes ago

BALTIMORE - Wednesday morning Lt. Governor Anthony Brown joined local and federal officials, community leaders and school children to celebrate the opening of a new nature area.

The Masonville Cove opened as part of project to rebuild one of Baltimore Harbor's most contaminated areas.

More than 60,000 tons of debris and trash that had been collected for more than one century were removed for the 11-acre project.

The area is free and open to the public and included walking trails, fishing and bird-watching, and has kayak and canoe access to the Patapsco River.

The area is located at 1000 Frankfur Avenue, Baltimore.

## **Masonville Cove goes back to nature**

\$153 million makeover for former harbor dumping ground

Tim Wheeler

10:25 AM EDT, October 25, 2012

Proving once again that it's always better to be late than not at all, the state has finally completed a new "nature area" at Masonville Cove, the second act in a \$153 million restoration of a longtime dumping ground on the southern side of Baltimore's harbor.

Lt. Gov. Anthony Brown and assorted dignitaries turned out Wednesday to mark the official opening of the 11-acre waterfront park, which features walking trails and a pier for fishing or launching canoes and kayaks. Brown joined students from the Friendship Academy in planting wetland grasses along a shoreline once strewn with rubble but now covered with a layer of clean white sand.

Officials with the Maryland Port Administration had said the area would be ready for public use by the end of last year. But the opening was delayed because more cleanup was needed of contaminated sediment on the shallow cove's bottom than had been expected, according to port spokesman Richard Scher. It wasn't immediately known if the extra cleanup added to the \$22 million cost of this phase of the restoration.

It's been about 70 years since the public's had access to the cove along the Middle Branch of the Patapsco River. It was taken over by the railroad in the 1950s, and eventually a scrapyard. The port took it over in 2000, and over the next several years hauled away 61,000 tons of debris, including rusted remains of derelict vessels, and cleaned up hundreds of thousands of gallons of water tainted with oil.

The state agency has converted a portion of the shoreline into an impoundment for muck dredged out of the harbor to maintain shipping channels. But to win the support of neighboring residents, the port pledged to restore 52 acres bordering the cove, requiring removal of tons of soil riddled with toxic chemicals.

The park complements a "near-zero net-energy" environmental education center built there three years ago, run by the Living Classrooms Foundation, the National Aquarium and the Brooklyn-Curtis Bay Coalition, known as BayBrook. Eventually, another 41 acres of land are to be restored, much of it for wildlife habitat.

Meanwhile, people are welcome to stroll the paths, fish, paddle, and enjoy the views of waterfowl sheltering in the cove, with downtown Baltimore's skyline as a backdrop.

#### **WBFF TV FOX 45**

#### **Masonville Cove Restored, Open to Public**

October 24, 2012

[http://www.foxbaltimore.com/newsroom/top\\_stories/videos/wbff\\_masonville-cove-restored-open-public-16054.shtml](http://www.foxbaltimore.com/newsroom/top_stories/videos/wbff_masonville-cove-restored-open-public-16054.shtml)

Some Baltimore school children are joining federal and state officials in celebrating the transformation of a polluted South Baltimore waterfront into an environmental preserve.

Lt. Gov. Anthony Brown and U.S. Rep. John Sarbanes led the event Wednesday at Masonville Cove.

"The Patapsco River was my playground every summer when I was a kid," Laura Bankey of the National Aquarium said.

The 11-acre nature area is part of a \$22 million project to restore one of Baltimore harbor's most polluted areas.

"Ordinarily, you can't trust government," Richard Anderson of the Brooklyn-Curtis Bay Foundation said, laughing. "They have taken an eyesore, and they've made it a treasure and it will remain a treasure...for a long time to come."

More than 60,000 tons of trash and debris dating back more than a century has been removed, along with invasive plants and sickly trees.

The area is being replanted with native trees, shrubs and wetland plants.

"To take a decrepit dumpsite that used to pollute the Chesapeake Bay, and turn it into a site that is a beauty," James Piper Bond of the Living Classrooms Foundation said. "This is big. This is important. This is a major asset now to Baltimore City and the state of Maryland."

The nature area offers walking trails, fishing and bird-watching. A pier on the nearby Patapsco River provides access for kayaks and canoes.

Lt. Gov. Brown said the project is part of a \$153 million environmental restoration project which includes land for dredge materials nearby.

"Simply put, this area was a dumping ground," Lt. Gov. Brown said. "It was not a place anybody wanted to visit and it could have easily stayed that way."