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## ENVIRONMENT

### Port Employees Volunteer Their Time at Arbor Day Event

On a Saturday morning in April, Port employees rolled up their sleeves and helped plant 150 new trees at the [Cherry Hill Homes](#) community. Their volunteerism supported the partnership between the [Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Port Administration \(MDOT MPA\)](#) and the nonprofit organization [Blue Water Baltimore \(BWB\)](#). Eventually, this partnership will bring a total of 1,000 new trees to the [City of Baltimore](#).

“Increasing Baltimore’s tree canopy helps offset sources of carbon dioxide, reduces stormwater runoff, creates wildlife habitat, saves energy, improves property values, and deepens the connection to nature for city residents,” MDOT MPA Deputy Executive Director Dave Thomas said. “This is a meaningful partnership, and an investment in our community, of which we are quite proud.”



*Port employees and their families pitch in to plant 150 new trees at Cherry Hill Homes.  
Photo: MDOT MPA*

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## **New Trash Interceptor Improving Water Quality**

Thanks to a new trash interceptor system at the Dundalk Marine Terminal, cleaner stormwater will be entering the Patapsco River and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay. Funded by the [MDOT MPA](#), the interceptor was added to twin storm drain pipes in an area where trash and sediment-laden stormwater often flows. A specially designed screen keeps stormwater moving, while trapping trash and sediment. A vacuum truck removes the debris at regular maintenance intervals.

“As part of our commitment to reducing impacts to water quality, we’re focused on new innovative ways to prevent trash and sediment from entering our waterways,” MDOT MPA Transportation Engineer Sergio Adantor said.



The \$1.8 million project took one year to complete and is part of the mitigation requirements for construction of the [Masonville Dredged Material Containment Facility](#).

*The MDOT MPA trash interceptor at work at Dundalk Marine Terminal.*

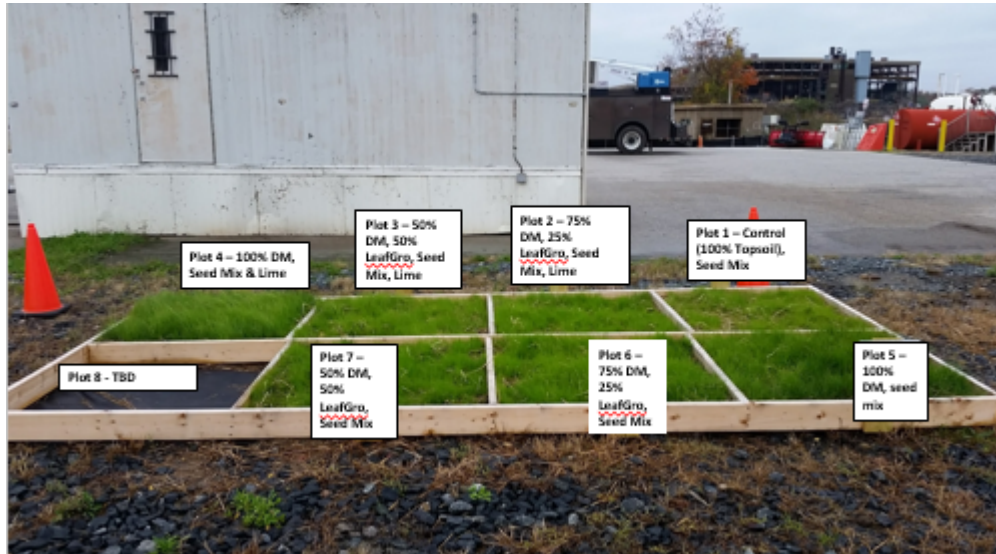
*Photo: Maryland Environmental Service (MES)*

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## **Native Grass Planted in Dredged Material Thrives at Test Nursery**

In October 2017, a test nursery was established at the [Cox Creek Dredged Material Containment Facility](#) to determine how dredged material could support the growth of native grass seed. The nursery was divided into eight separate plots and planted with seed, each with a unique blend of dried dredged material, lime, and LeafGro,<sup>®</sup> with one control plot of store brand topsoil. Visual observations are recorded weekly and will continue until October 2018 to encompass a full growing season.

“Currently, the plot containing 100% dredged material and lime has the highest percent coverage of all the plots, and the 100% dredged material plot without lime having the second highest percent coverage,” [MDOT MPA Office of Harbor Development](#) Environmental Analyst, Kristen Keene said. “We’re really excited about these results and what they may mean for innovative reuse in our area.”



*Test nursery plots show early signs of dredged material successfully supporting native grass seed.*

*Photo: MDOT MPA*

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## Captain Trash Wheel Unveiled to the Students Who Named It

The [Lakeland Elementary Middle School](#) seventh-graders who submitted the winning name for the MDOT MPA’s latest addition to the harbor’s fleet of trash wheels took a short 3-mile field trip to [Masonville Cove Environmental Education Center](#) to see Captain Trash Wheel in action.

Student Allissa Cribb was the student who came up with the name. Creativity can come from just about anywhere, and Baltimore may have to thank the man who lives in a pineapple under the sea.

“I was watching ‘Spongebob,’” Cribb said. In one episode of “Spongebob Squarepants,” Cribb watched how Spongebob and friends played on a pirate ship with The Flying Dutchman. “He was a pirate and he had a ship, and I was like, ‘Oh! I’m going to name it Captain Trash Wheel!’” Cribb said.

Captain Trash Wheel was officially revealed to the public on June 5th.





*Watch this brief video highlighting the students' visit to Masonville Cove Environmental Education Center*



*Captain Trash Wheel at the public unveiling on June 5, 2018.  
Photo: MDOT MPA*

## **MDOT's 4th Annual Environmental Excellence Awards**

Recent [MDOT MPA](#) environmental achievements received honors at MDOT's 4th Annual Environmental Excellence Awards in May.

The Sustainability Award was presented to the MDOT MPA team working on innovative reuse of dredged sediment from Baltimore Harbor channels. The long-term goal is to recycle

500,000 cubic yards per year.

"I truly believe that this team of trail blazers has demonstrated incredible leadership in developing new approaches to age-old challenges," MDOT MPA Office of Harbor Development Chief of Outreach, Policy & Permits, Kristen Fidler, said.



*MDOT MPA's innovative reuse of dredged sediment in numerous projects earned the agency a Sustainability Award at MDOT's 4th Annual Environmental Excellence Awards. MDOT Deputy Secretary R. Earl Lewis, Jr., presented the award.*

*Photo: MDOT MPA*



Additionally, MDOT MPA General Manager, Safety, Environment & Risk Management, Barbara McMahon, accepted the Environmental Hero Award from MDOT Deputy Secretary R. Earl Lewis, Jr., for her numerous accomplishments during her career to make the Port of Baltimore and its community a greener place.

*MDOT MPA's Barbara McMahon accepted the Environmental Hero Award from MDOT Deputy Secretary R. Earl Lewis, Jr.*

*Photo: MDOT MPA*

## **MAEOE Youth Summit**

Nearly 3,000 students, teachers, administrators, and environmental educators gathered at Sandy Point State Park in Annapolis to celebrate [Maryland Green Schools](#) at the 2018 [Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education \(MAEOE\)](#) Youth Summit in May.



Employees from [MDOT MPA](#) and [MES](#) were on hand to introduce the attendees to diamondback terrapins born on Poplar Island. The team also demonstrated how a smartphone can be turned into a microscope to explore the environment.

“This is one of my favorite events of the year,” MDOT MPA’s Outreach Coordinator for Harbor Development Katrina Jones said. “Not only does it provide a moment to celebrate the achievements of Maryland’s Green Schools over the course of the year, it is also a great opportunity to showcase the Port’s environmental activities and inspire the future stewards of our environment.”



*Students participating at the Maryland Green Schools Youth Summit visit the MDOT MPA station where MES outreach staff introduce them to the Poplar Island terrapins.*

*Photo: MDOT MPA*

## PORT

### **GreenPort Congress Conference Draws International Visitors to Baltimore**

From 14 countries and six continents, came nearly 200 attendees to Baltimore for the first [GreenPort Congress](#) conference to be held in North America.

Guests took informative tours of the Port of Baltimore landside and waterside, Poplar Island, and the trash wheels. Topics included advancements in dredging technology, measuring air emissions in the maritime and shipping industries, and improving relationships with stakeholders.

Attendees concurred that ports and the maritime industries are serious about sustainability, are being innovative in their approaches to environmental problems, and are doing so in a way that maintains operational efficiencies and business success.

“The conference was very well organized and topics were real and inspiring. It was

refreshing to see how the port community is engaged in environmental issues,” said a conference attendee.



## Port of Baltimore Growing Sustainably

This [booklet](#) highlighting the Port of Baltimore's environmental achievements was given to all attendees.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Pearce Creek Implementation Committee Meeting - June 15th at 10:00AM**

Cecilton Community Center at Parklands  
90 B North Center Street, Cecilton, MD 21919

**For questions or to confirm attendance please contact [Greenport](#).**

### **Masonville Cove Bioblitz and Open House - June 16th from 10:00AM - 2:00PM**

1000 Frankfurst Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21226.

**Pre-register at [aqua.org/conservation-events](http://aqua.org/conservation-events)**

### **Hart-Miller Island 5 Miler run at Hart-Miller Island - June 16th at 7:30AM for boat ride, race at 9:00AM**

2200 Rocky Point Road  
Essex, MD US 21221

**Accessible by private boat. [Registration required.](#)**

### **Hart-Miller Island Citizens Oversight Committee site visit - June 19th - 5:00 PM departure from landbase**

2024 A Riverview Road, Baltimore, MD 21221,

**Limited Capacity, RSVP required at [Greenport](#).**

### **DMMP Management Committee meeting - June 27th at 10:00AM**

World Trade Center

401 East Pratt Street, Baltimore, MD 21202.

**For questions or to confirm attendance please contact [Greenport](#).**

**Cox Creek Citizens Oversight Committee meeting - July 11th at 5:30PM**

Orchard Beach Improvement Association Community Hall

1000 Hilltop Avenue, Orchard Beach, MD 21226

**For questions or to confirm attendance please contact [Greenport](#).**

**Hart Miller Citizens Oversight Committee Meeting - July 17th at 6:30PM**

Pt. Breeze Maritime Center I

2200 Broening Highway, Baltimore, MD 21224

**For questions or to confirm attendance please contact [Greenport](#).**

**Harbor Team Meeting - July 26th at 6:00PM**

1000 Frankfurst Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21226.

**For questions or to confirm attendance please contact [Greenport](#).**



MPA Website



GreenPort Website



Port of Baltimore Magazine



GreenPort Newsletter is the Maryland Department of Transportation's Maryland Port Administration's bi-monthly update of projects and programs that help the agency contribute to a thriving economy, environmental stewardship, and community partnerships. As always, we thank the many private sector businesses, government leaders, communities, and individual citizens who have helped make these achievements a reality.

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