



GreenPort of Baltimore

January/February

2016

Green Business Is Good Business



Welcome to the GreenPort Newsletter

Welcome to GreenPort, a bi-monthly newsletter from the Maryland Port Administration about its projects, programs, and events that help protect natural resources in the Chesapeake Bay region. The Port Administration believes that stewardship and sustainability of the environment and protection of human health are essential elements of its mission.

Please spread the word! Anyone interested in a new subscription to the GreenPort newsletter

please click [HERE](#), or visit the [GreenPort](#) web site.

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GreenPort Web Site

A new version of the [GreenPort](#) is now on-line
— and you are just a click away from exploring it!

GreenPort is a section of the MPA web site that provides information about the agency's efforts to reduce water pollution, conserve energy, and clean the air.

You'll find information about the dredged material management program, including its success in restoring eroding Bay islands and creating valuable habitat for birds and terrapin. Learn about tours and educational opportunities for students and community groups, and discover the story behind specific sites like Masonville Cove and the Inner Harbor Water Wheel. You can also read the annual GreenPort review and browse a collection of fact sheets that provide clear overviews of important topics. Take a moment to visit [GreenPort](#) today.

Environment

Read the 2015 GreenPort Annual Review

The GreenPort Annual Review is a yearly round-up of the MPA's work to maintain a thriving port while protecting clean air and water for both people and wildlife. It's just four pages, but packed with information. Click [here](#) to read the annual review online or download a copy for printing.



MPA Enters 'Clean and Green Ports' Agreement

The MPA recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Maryland Department of the Environment and Department of Transportation that will advance cooperative efforts to protect air [quality](#).

The agreement, signed on December 11, 2015, at the Dundalk Marine Terminal, will create opportunities to secure funding from the non-profit sector or federal government for programs that reduce air emissions.

Shawn Garvin, administrator for Region 3 of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, announced a grant of \$870,000 to support one such program: [replacing older dray trucks](#) that serve the port with new trucks that have lower emissions. Examples of other possible programs for reducing emissions include a locomotive idling reduction program, the increased use of solar panels, or the electrification of cargo-handling activities.

"Environmental stewardship with ships, trucks, trains, and machines here at home opens the door to a healthier bay and community and becomes a shining example for other ports around the world," said Secretary of the Environment Ben Grumbles.

Rare Bird Sightings at Masonville Cove

Masonville Cove has recently been a birding hot spot. In mid-December, a female painted bunting was spotted foraging in a shrubby area by members of the Baltimore Bird Club at a "Breakfast with the Birds" event.

This migratory species is rare for Maryland, typically breeding in the southern United States and spend winters in the Caribbean, Mexico, and Central America. After the initial sighting, this relative of the cardinal was seen three days in a row in a restricted area near the education building (check out the records at Cornell University's eBird site for MC records: [http:// ebird.org/ebird/hotspot/L242207](http://ebird.org/ebird/hotspot/L242207)).



A female bunting is a rare sight in Maryland but was spotted at Masonville Cove.

Photo Credit: Tim Carney

Tim Carney of the Maryland Environmental Service conducts birding observations at the [Masonville dredged material placement site](#) and cove conservation area twice each month, producing regular records of birds using the terrestrial and aquatic habitats. Follow this [link](#) for a full list of the 217 species that have been observed at Masonville to date.

Dredging

Senate Committee Tours MPA Dredging Projects

Maryland state senators from the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee enjoyed a firsthand look at environmental aspects of the MPA's [dredging program](#) during an October tour.

"All state legislators have a strong interest in the port because of the way it drives Maryland's economy," said MPA legislative liaison Alexandra Shull. "However, this committee is unique

because they have just as much of an interest in the environmental side of our work.”

The senators were impressed with their tour of the dredged material placement sites, especially with the use of dredged material to restore [Poplar Island](#). Senator Joan Carter Conway stated in a thank-you letter that the MPA’s use of innovative solutions “is surely a model for the nation to emulate.”

2016 Dredging Projects Scheduled

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, and its contractors are scheduled to begin dredging roughly 2.6 million cubic yards of material from the Baltimore harbor and its approach channels in late February.

The work is part of an [annual dredging program](#) that ensures safe navigation in and out of the Port of Baltimore and is expected to conclude in the spring.

“Maintaining the shipping lanes in Baltimore Harbor and its bay channels is of critical importance to both the regional and national economy,” said Baltimore District Commander Col. Ed Chamberlayne.

The dredged material primarily consists of mud, silt, sand, and shell.

In coordination with the MPA, the roughly 2.1 million cubic yards of material dredged from channels south of the Key Bridge will be used at the Paul S. Sarbanes Ecosystem Restoration Project at [Poplar Island](#) in the Chesapeake Bay. Approximately 550,000 cubic yards of material dredged from channels above the Key Bridge will be relocated to the [Cox Creek dredged material placement site](#).

Expansion Begins at the Cox Creek Placement Site

Work began in December to expand the [Cox Creek dredged material placement site](#) in Anne Arundel County.

The facility, which began operating in 2005, receives material dredged from the Baltimore

Harbor. The expansion entails demolishing old industrial buildings on the upland area. The process is expected to continue for about a year.

The expanded capacity will be an important addition to the placement options for approximately 1.5 million cubic yards of sediment that must be dredged from the harbor and its approach channels every year. Currently, Cox Creek has a placement capacity of approximately 10 million cubic yards, half of which has been filled already. The [Masonville placement site](#) is the only other location that accepts material dredged from the harbor, and new placement sites are difficult to find.



The MPA is demolishing old industrial buildings at the Cox Creek dredged material placement site in order to create more space for sediment dredged from the Baltimore Harbor.

Photo Credit: Bowen & Kron

Upcoming Events

CAC Meeting - February 10th at 6:00 PM

1st floor conference room:

2200 Broening Highway, Baltimore, MD 21224

DMMP Management Committee Meeting - February 17th at 10:00 AM

World Trade Center - Stanton Room:

401 East Pratt Street, Baltimore, MD 21202

RSVP required for security: greenport@marylandports.com

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GreenPort Newsletter is the 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.

www.marylandports.com

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