MARYLAND
Smart, Green & Growing

GreenPort of Baltimore 2013

Economy

Environment

Community

Welcome to GreenPort

Navigating the Common Good

The Port of Baltimore is a thriving commercial center that links imports and exports with communities across the nation and across the world. Success is partly due to its location on one of the nation's greatest natural treasures, the Chesapeake Bay, and within the Baltimore metropolitan area. We at the Maryland Port Administration (MPA) believe that our economic pursuits should always be combined with active participation in securing clean air and water for our closest neighbors and the Chesapeake region as a whole.

Economic, environmental, and community partnerships thrived in 2013. The Maryland congressional delegation helped secure a $10 million federal grant to increase cargo-handling and rail capacity at the Fairfield Marine Terminal. At the Dundalk Marine Terminal, a new section of rail track began offering the heavy-lifting capacity to move cargo directly between vessels and railcars.

The MPA continued to lower its energy consumption, clean the air, and reduce polluted stormwater runoff. We nurtured wildlife habitat at shoreline locations near dredged material placement sites, and offered tours, education programs, and hiking trails for students and the general public. The MPA received a great honor when the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service named Masonville Cove its first Urban Wildlife Refuge Partner.

The MPA also said goodbye to Frank Hamons, who retired as director of Harbor Development, and welcomed his successor, Dave Blazer. Hamons, who led the innovative and award-winning projects at Hart-Miller Island, Masonville, and Poplar Island, was respected for his ability to reconcile harbor and navigation needs with environmental and community interests.

In 2013, the U.S. EPA asked the MPA to participate in a national conversation about ports and the environment. It was a natural fit. "Environmental performance is vital in attracting and retaining world-class customers," said MPA deputy executive director Kathleen Broadwater. "And good environmental performance is important to citizens and communities too."

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GreenPort 2013 is the Maryland Port Administration's latest annual 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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Economy

Imports, Exports, & Jobs

The Port of Baltimore continues to rank first among the nation's ports for shipments of automobiles and roll on/roll off heavy equipment. The amount of container cargo in 2013 exceeded the volume from 2012, and Baltimore maintains its ranking among the nation's top ports for sugar, gypsum, aluminum, and forest products. Service at the Port of Baltimore is supported by the Quality Cargo Handling Action Team, which drives continual, proactive improvements in cargo handling.

The movement of cargo generates over 40,000 direct and indirect jobs. It produces approximately $3 billion in annual wages and salaries, and approximately $304 million in state and local tax revenues.

The Port of Baltimore is safe as well as productive. In 2013, the U.S. Coast Guard rated port security "excellent" for the sixth year in a row.

New ship-to-rail heavy-lifting capacity at the Dundalk Marine Terminal.

U.S. Vice President Joe Biden announces the TIGER grant for the Port of Baltimore.

Improving Infrastructure

The U.S. Department of Transportation awarded the MPA a $10 million TIGER grant to fill a basin at the Fairfield Marine Terminal and create 7.6 acres of cargo storage. The fill will come from the Seagirt terminal's approach channel, which will be dredged to improve access for large cargo ships. The project also includes increased rail capacity for the Fairfield terminal. The Maryland Department of Transportation is contributing $19 million toward the work.

The MPA is also constructing a new vessel berth at Masonville to supplement Fairfield Pier 4. At the Dundalk Marine Terminal, a new rail spur is now providing the ability to lift heavy cargo directly to or from cargo ships. This matches the tonnage capacity of the Class 1 railroads that currently serve the port.

Cruising from Baltimore

Cruising from the Port of Baltimore continues at approximately 100 cruises per year. In 2013, ships with American, Royal Caribbean, and Carnival cruise lines carried more than 200,000 passengers.

Safe Passage

Annual dredging is critical for providing safe passage to ships. In 2013, the Cox Creek and Masonville placement sites received approximately 94 thousand cubic yards of dredged material, and Poplar Island received more than 2.8 million cubic yards.

Members of the Dredged Material Management Program continued to consider future placement options. This includes the possible re-opening of the Pearce Creek placement site to serve the C&D Canal and the placement demand that would be created if shipping channels were widened to their authorized width of 800 feet.

Based on several studies, the MPA concluded that dredged material can potentially be used to create lightweight aggregate. The agency is exploring the ways in which such reuse of dredged material could support its long-range plan.

Environment

Masonville Cove became the nation's first Urban Wildlife Refuge Partner.

Water Quality

The MPA continues to work with state and local partners on federally mandated goals for water quality in the Chesapeake Bay. For the port, this means reducing nutrients and sediment found both stormwater runoff and water decanted from dredged material placement sites. In 2013, the MPA worked on its master plan for stormwater management by identifying cost-efficient options for its terminals. A large stormwater filtration device was installed at a First Street inlet.

During the summer, an experimental algal scrubber began operating at the Dundalk terminal. The scrubber helps remove nutrients from the water by encouraging algae to grow on special screens and absorb nutrients from the water as it grows. The algae is then removed from the screens before clean water is returned to the river.

Also, a decade-long project to remove all underground storage tanks (USTs) was complete in July. This reduces the risk of leaks that could impact nearby soil and groundwater.

Wetlands and Habitat

For several years, the MPA has been working with community partners to restore the shoreline area of Masonville Cove, adjacent to the Masonville dredged material placement site and the Masonville Cove Environmental Education Center. The cove includes trails, fishing spots, and birding opportunities on acres of permanently preserved land. This year, students with the Living Classrooms Foundation installed a new cluster of floating wetlands, a raft-like collection of wetland plants that draw a variety of fish and beneficial microscopic creatures to their root mass.

In the fall, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service launched a new nationwide program by announcing Masonville Cove as its first Urban Wildlife Refuge Partner.

Energy Performance

A geothermal heating and cooling system is being installed at the World Trade Center in Baltimore, drawing on steady underground temperatures to reduce energy consumption in the building. The system is part of the MPA's comprehensive initiative — including solar panels and lighting upgrades — to secure a 15 percent reduction in energy consumption by 2015. In 2013, solar panels on two MPA buildings produced 883,207 kilowatt hours of energy and saved approximately $85,200.

Air Quality

The popular dray truck replacement program, launched in 2012, provides dray truck owners with $20,000 to help replace their trucks with cleaner models that reduce air pollution. In 2013, the total number of replacements reached 80, topping the original 50-truck goal. To date, this program has delivered annual reductions of 1.6 tons of hydrocarbons, 10.9 tons of carbon dioxide, 50.2 tons of nitrogen dioxide, and 2.1 tons of particulate matter.

Removal of the last underground tank.

Floating wetlands at Masonville Cove.

Community

Community Voices

Seven committees support the Dredged Material Management Program, consisting mainly of volunteers from local communities, environmental groups, businesses, scientific organizations, local governments, and recreational interests. These committees meet on a regular basis to provide advice and guidance to the MPA as it develops strategies and seeks citizen support. In 2013, nearly 100 people attended the Dredged Material Management Program's annual meeting, where they celebrated the successes of 2013 and looked ahead to the challenges of 2014.

Outreach events reached more than 4,000 people during 2013.

Tours, Events, & Outreach

The MPA reached more than 4,000 people in 2013 through outreach events such as site tours, community fairs, public meetings, and school programs. Adults and youth visited dredged material placement sites and natural areas at Hart-Miller Island, Poplar Island, and Masonville. Open houses at Masonville and the Cox Creek placement site were well attended, providing many people with their first direct look at dredging operations and related environmental improvements.

The MPA continued to work with partners who are linking teachers and students to port activities. In 2013, teachers and interns from five schools participated in the "Fishing in Schools" program, using Masonville as an outdoor classroom. Students raised and released 235 terrapin on Poplar Island, and the MPA led a Schoolyard Greening project that involved students at the Baltimore Polytechnic Institute.

Pearce Creek

During 2013, the MPA worked with communities surrounding the Pearce Creek dredged material placement site in Cecil County. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers would like to re-open this site to support dredging of the C&D Canal. Some residents are concerned that past use of the site is having continued impacts on well water. The MPA is working with residents on a solution for their water problems while also building support for the potential re-opening of the placement site. Several public meetings, an on-site open house, and meetings with community leaders took place in 2013.

Linking teachers with port activities.

Learning about stormwater management.

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