



Hart-Miller Island

DREDGED MATERIAL PLACEMENT SITE

Quick Facts

- Located in the upper Chesapeake Bay, near the mouth of Back River in Baltimore County, Md.
- Working area of 1,140 acres
- Operated from 1984 to 2009
- Received dredged material from the Baltimore Harbor
- Provided capacity for 100 million cubic yards of dredged material
- Provides important bird habitat and restored wetlands
- No negative effects on water quality

Hart-Miller Island, located in the upper Chesapeake Bay, received material dredged from Baltimore Harbor shipping channels between 1984 and 2009. Originally, Hart-Miller Island was a chain of three islands that suffered from severe erosion. In 1970, port partners suggested using dredged material to restore the remnants to create more than 1,140 acres of new land and replicate the original footprint of the two larger islands.

The project was the first of its kind in Maryland. It was especially challenging because the dredged material came from often contaminated sites in the Baltimore Harbor. Citizens, conservationists, and scientists sought assurance that the dike would not leak to harm fish, wildlife, or water quality. They also feared future commercial use of the island and shared concerns about noise, odor, and aesthetics.

To address these concerns, the Maryland Port Administration formed the Hart-Miller Island Citizens Oversight Committee in 1983. The committee has provided open dialogue with the communities surrounding the site and now oversees the conversion of the site to wildlife habitat and future public use. Officials continue to monitor conditions on and around the island to protect fish, wildlife, and water quality. To date, no ill effects have been seen. This indicates that the facility has safely sequestered pollutants attached to harbor sediment and has contributed to the gradual cleaning of the harbor.

Hart-Miller Island is one of the first examples of the beneficial use of dredged material in the Chesapeake region. The project has restored and connected two islands to their combined original size, allowing for several acres to be designated as Hart-Miller Island State Park. A wide range of wildlife visits the island, such as songbirds, owls, heron, deer, foxes, and muskrat. The Maryland Ornithological Society has observed 285 species of birds there, including a large number of waterfowl and migratory birds — at times creating the largest single concentration of waterfowl in the mid-Atlantic region.

The cost to place material at Hart-Miller averaged \$3 per cubic yard. Compared to current placement options, this project was a cost-effective solution for dredged material, with added benefits for the public and bay wildlife.

For more information, including public tours, visit www.marylandports.com/greenport or email OutreachTours@menv.com.

Published by the Maryland Port Administration

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