



# The Maryland Port Administration PRESS RELEASE

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## **CAPTAIN TRASH WHEEL OFFICIALLY REPORTS FOR DUTY AT MASONVILLE COVE**

### **MDOT MPA and Partners Committed to Cleaning Maryland's Waterways Through Friendly Neighborhood Trash Wheel**

BALTIMORE, MD – Captain Trash Wheel is officially reporting for duty. Baltimore's newest trash wheel became active yesterday at Masonville Cove following a countdown led by fourth- and fifth-grade students from Federal Hill Preparatory School. Two green tarps were removed to unveil the Captain's brown googly eyes, waking up the trash wheel for the first official day on the job.

Complete with the signature eyes and a water wheel designed like a ship's wheel, Captain Trash Wheel is on the lookout to prevent debris and litter entering the Middle Branch of the Patapsco River by being anchored at a stream at the Masonville Cove Environmental Education Center in Baltimore.

"We are thrilled to have Captain Trash Wheel officially report for duty today at Masonville Cove," said Chris Correale, director of harbor development at Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Port Administration (MDOT MPA). Captain Trash Wheel will not only help keep the waters surrounding the Port of Baltimore clean, but also be a captain that will engage students' continued enthusiasm to learn more about environmental stewardship, the Port of Baltimore and Masonville Cove's educational opportunities."

The reveal occurred during the annual Masonville Cove Environmental Festival where elementary school students had a chance to engage in environmental activities. Other speakers during the event included MDOT State Highway Administrator Greg Slater, who spoke on that agency's anti-littering initiative.

As the students discovered, the Masonville Cove Environmental Education Center offers a breadth of resources and learning opportunities thanks to education partners Living Classrooms Foundation and the National Aquarium. The center, which opened in 2009, today hosts about 2,000 students a year in environmental education programs. In 2013, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service designated Masonville Cove as the nation's first Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership.

Captain Trash Wheel is preceded by two other trash wheels in Baltimore's Inner Harbor, Mr. Trash Wheel and Professor Trash Wheel. The MDOT MPA assisted in funding both Mr. Trash Wheel and Professor Trash Wheel, which are owned by the Waterfront Partnership of Baltimore. The trash wheel is part of mitigation requirements for the neighboring Masonville Dredged Material Containment Facility (Masonville DMCF) that receives dredged sediment from Baltimore's shipping channels to clear the way for maritime travel.

**-MORE-**

Governor Larry Hogan MDOT Secretary Pete K. Rahn MPA Executive Director James J. White

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Each trash wheel has a few basic components: an affixed dumpster on a barge, a white cover with solar panels attached for power, booms flanked on the port and starboard sides to trap trash in order for the water current to bring debris to a conveyor belt that directs trash into the dumpster. At 38 feet long, 20 feet wide and a conveyor belt moving at 16 feet per minute, Captain Trash Wheel will be able to divert trash destined for the Patapsco River into its 12-yard dumpster. During testing through the end of May, the Captain removed two-and-a-half dumpsters of trash, totaling 3.7 tons.

Masonville Cove is the site of one of Maryland's largest environmental restoration projects. The MDOT MPA removed more than 61,000 tons of trash and debris, some of it dating to the Great Baltimore Fire of 1904. In addition to the education center and wildlife refuge, the site today also includes bird-watching trails and a non-motorized pier for kayaks, canoes, and fishing.

Field trips are available to Masonville Cove for students to explore 54 acres of urban wilderness, experiment in laboratories and learn about Captain Trash Wheel. For more information, visit [www.masonvillecove.org](http://www.masonvillecove.org).

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