



Cox Creek

DREDGED MATERIAL PLACEMENT SITE

Quick Facts

- Located on the south side of the Patapsco River in Anne Arundel County, Md.
- Includes over 100 acres of Swan Creek wetlands in a conservation easement
- Began receiving dredged material from the Baltimore Harbor in 2006
- Has total capacity for 6.4 million cubic yards of dredged material, of which 3.3 mcy has been filled
- No negative effects on water quality
- Expansion to create additional capacity is underway

The Cox Creek facility, located on the south side of the Patapsco River downstream of the Francis Scott Key Bridge, is a placement site for sediment that has been cleared from shipping channels in the Baltimore Harbor.

Cox Creek was constructed by the US Army Corps of Engineers in the 1960s and used as a dredged material placement site by private industry until 1984. The Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Port Administration (MPA) purchased the site, which included industrial acreage as well as the placement site, in the 1990s. The MPA then strengthened the dike and raised its elevation to 36 feet, which matches the surrounding land area.

Cox Creek began receiving material dredged from the Baltimore Harbor in 2006. After Hart-Miller Island stopped receiving inflow of dredged material in 2009, the capacity available at Cox Creek became critical for harbor dredging operations serving the Port of Baltimore. Cox Creek is now one of just two sites that is available to contain dredged material from the harbor; the other is Masonville in Baltimore City.

Cox Creek has a total placement capacity of 6.4 million cubic yards, of which approximately half has already been filled. The MPA is in the process of expanding Cox Creek by vertically raising the dikes and building onto the MPA-owned upland property. The expansion also involved demolishing old industrial buildings. Some acreage will be used to facilitate the beneficial use and innovative reuse of dredged material. The expansion will provide an additional 11.3 million cubic yards of capacity. Construction for the expansion began in September 2018.

The development and operation of the Cox Creek facility included environmental improvements to the neighboring Swan Creek wetlands and beach area. The tidal connection to the wetland was restored and reef balls were installed offshore to improve aquatic habitat and prevent beach erosion. School groups use Swan Creek for ecological studies and field trips. The wetland has become a major bird habitat with over 216 species identified and draws birding enthusiasts from the greater Baltimore area and beyond.

For more information, including public tours and access to the Swan Creek wetlands, visit www.marylandports.com/greenport or email OutreachTours@menv.com.

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