



Cox Creek

DREDGED MATERIAL PLACEMENT SITE

Quick Facts

- Located on the south side of the Patapsco River in Anne Arundel County, Md.
- Includes 11 acres of Swan Creek wetlands in a conservation easement
- Began receiving dredged material from the Baltimore Harbor in 2006
- Has total capacity for 6 million cubic yards of dredged material, half of which has been filled
- No negative effects on water quality
- Expansion plans are 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 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 the placement site at Hart-Miller Island closed in 2009, the capacity available at Cox Creek became critical for dredging operations in the harbor. Cox Creek is now one of just two sites that is available to contain dredged material from the harbor; the other is at Masonville.

Cox Creek has a total placement capacity of 6 million cubic yards, half of which has already been filled. The MPA is therefore in the process of expanding Cox Creek by using some of the upland acreage. The expansion involves demolishing old industrial buildings and extending the dikes onto the upland area. Some acreage will be used to facilitate the beneficial use (such as habitat creation) and innovative reuse (such as industrial products) of dredged material. The expansion is expected to be available to meet additional placement needs in late 2018.

The development and operation of the Cox Creek facility includes environmental improvements to the neighboring Swan Creek wetlands and beach area. Both are protected by conservation easements held by the North County Land Trust. The tidal connection to the wetland has been restored and reef balls have been installed offshore to improve aquatic habitat and prevent beach erosion. School groups use Swan Creek for ecological studies. The wetland has become a major bird habitat and draws birding enthusiasts from the greater Baltimore area.

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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