



Annual Review 2023

BUILDING A THRIVING FUTURE: Sustaining Our Local Economy, Safeguarding Our Environment

In 2023, the Port of Baltimore welcomed the new Governor of Maryland, Wes Moore, the new Secretary of Transportation Secretary, Paul J. Wiedefeld, and the largest ship to ever call on the Port, the Ever Max. The Port broke cargo records while being a strong steward of the environment and the largest creator of wetlands in Maryland. Upon taking office, Maryland Governor Wes Moore quickly understood the Port's power as an economic generator for our state, calling the Port "one of the most vibrant ports on the planet." His ensuing budget included \$165 million for the Howard Street Tunnel Project to allow for double-stack rail, significantly improving rail access from Baltimore to the Midwest, and \$126 million to keep the Port's channels dredged to allow larger ships to call Port terminals.



Largest ship on record at the Port of Baltimore, Evergreen's Ever Max

U.S. President Biden spoke of the Port's environmental achievements during a visit to Baltimore. "The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers spends millions each year dredging to keep shipping channels clear at the Port of Baltimore and to help bring larger ships with more cargo in and out of Maryland. Now, we're investing another \$84 million from the Infrastructure Law to take the dredged material and restore the Mid-Bay Islands on the Chesapeake, a critical habitat for fish and shellfish and birds, and these islands are central to the fishing and tourist industry. There's a lot we're going to get done. And one of the things about the Infrastructure Law I'm most excited about is we're doing all this with workers, with products made in America with union labor."

Maryland's Port of Baltimore generates about 15,300 direct jobs, with nearly 140,000 jobs linked to port activities. It ranks first among the nation's ports for volume of autos and light trucks, roll on/roll off heavy farm and construction machinery, imported sugar, and imported gypsum; ninth among major U.S. ports for foreign cargo handled; and ninth for total foreign cargo value. New Port of Baltimore records set in 2023 include:

- 52.3 million tons of foreign cargo (previous record was 44.2 million tons in 2019)
- \$80.8 billion in foreign cargo value (previous record was \$74.3 billion in 2022)
- 1.3 million tons of roll on/roll off farm and construction machinery (previous record was 1.0 million tons in 2012)
- 1.1 million Twenty-foot Equivalent Unit containers (previous record was 1.0 million in 2019)
- 11.7 million tons of general cargo tons (previous record was 11.3 million tons in 2022)

In addition to the records, the Port of Baltimore handled 847,158 cars and light trucks in 2023, the 13th consecutive year it has led all other U.S. ports in that commodity.



ECO Port 2023, published by the Maryland Port Administration (MPA), describes the projects and programs that took place in 2023 to support a thriving economy, environmental stewardship, and community partnerships. We thank the many private sector businesses, government leaders, communities and individual citizens who have helped make these achievements a reality. www.marylandports.com/ecoport

Improving Efficiency & Reducing Environmental Impact

Throughout 2023, Ports America Chesapeake (PAC) continued work to both densify and electrify the container yard at Seagirt Marine Terminal. The project increased the capacity of the container yard by adding an additional row and increasing the height of container stacks throughout the terminal. Additionally, as part of PAC's Climate Change Strategic Plan, a full fleet of hybrid electric rubber-tired gantry cranes (RTGs) are currently in operation. Once construction of the electric power distribution has been completed, the RTGs will run on fully electric power.

Since 2008, the Maryland Port Administration (MPA) has received more than \$20.5 million from state and federal grants to incentivize the replacement of older diesel-powered



Photo by RHB Trucking

equipment used at the Port with more energy-efficient models, preventing more than 5,628 tons of emissions from being released. Under the Port of Baltimore's Diesel Equipment Upgrade Program, over 400 units of offroad diesel-powered equipment, have been replaced, repowered or retrofitted with cleaner engines. This includes drayage trucks, cargo handling equipment, locomotives, and harbor craft.

The Port's Dray Truck Replacement Program, marketed as "Dollars for Drays," passed the 300-truck milestone in 2023, with 304 dray trucks replaced to date.

Dredged Material Management

An average of more than 4.7 million cubic yards of sediment –an amount that would fill the Raven's Stadium at least twice -- is dredged annually from the shipping channels leading to the Port of Baltimore. The challenge then becomes what to do with the dredged material.

Solutions include innovative reuse, which repurposes the dredged material for items such as bricks and berms, and beneficial use, which uses the dredged material to help restore Chesapeake Bay islands such as the Mid-Chesapeake Bay Ecosystem Restoration Project (Mid-Bay), which is rebuilding James and Barren Island and will begin receiving dredged material in about 2032.

Innovative Reuse

MPA is working with various companies and manufacturers to develop successful, innovative reuse methods. Examples include berms using geotubes filled with dredged sediment and using dredged material to produce paving bricks,

lightweight concrete structures, mushroom compost for growing sod, and 3D-printed structures for marine placement and shoreline stabilization purposes. At a joint meeting of the Innovative Reuse Committee (IRC) and the Citizens Advisory Committee

(CAC), MPA provided updates on two of MPA's seven innovative reuse studies.



Geotube
Photo by BGE

Property Acquired

In 2023, MPA began developing a master site development plan for a property acquired for the purpose of conducting large-scale innovative reuse projects. Due to residual environmental contamination from previous industrial activity, MPA, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), and the previous owner, Tronox, signed an Administrative Consent Order to ensure the site is cleaned up and fully remediated to meet current environmental standards.

Beneficial Reuse

Mid-Bay Island and Poplar Island are examples of long-eroded islands in our beautiful Chesapeake Bay that are being restored with sediment from our shipping channels. This provides shoreline protection for area residents, preserves and grows wetlands and upland habitats, and fosters the presence of local wildlife and waterfowl.

Wildlife

What do the saltmarsh sparrow, spoonbill, bald eagle, and coyote have in common? They are among the exciting wildlife spotted at MPA-owned sites in 2023.



Saltmarsh sparrow
Photo by Gary Leavens

The saltmarsh sparrow, an endangered species, has been losing its natural habitat due to sea-level rise. According to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), more than four out of every five saltmarsh sparrows have disappeared since 1998. Despite these challenges, they have been spotted at three Dredged Material Management

Program (DMMP) sites: Cox Creek, Masonville Cove and Hart-Miller Island.

An eaglet was spotted in a bald eagle nest at Hawkins Point, making it the third confirmed eagle nest within Baltimore City, with two at MPA sites — Masonville Cove and Hawkins Point. •

Over the summer, the roseate spoonbill was spotted on Poplar Island, Masonville Cove and Hart-Miller Island. This common wetland bird is normally found in Florida and Texas but is rare in Maryland.



Roseate spoonbill

Photo by Matthew Paulsen

A pair of coyotes has called Masonville Cove home for at least several years. In 2023, coyote sightings, even during the daytime, have increased due to the pair successfully raising young.

Four DMMP sites were trending as eBird hotspots and ranked in Maryland's top ten for 2023. Out of 2,455 sites, Hart-Miller Island held the rank of #1 with 220 species, Masonville Cove was #3 with 214 species, Cox Creek/ Swan Creek Wetlands was #7 with 201 species, and Poplar Island was #9 with 199 species.

Bird Banding



Photo by MES

Masonville Cove provided the perfect spot for migration bird banding conducted by the Birds of Urban Baltimore (BURB), a local nonprofit organization dedicated to engaging the community in bird science and conservation. BURB, with the help of staff from the Maryland Environmental Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and local volunteers, captured

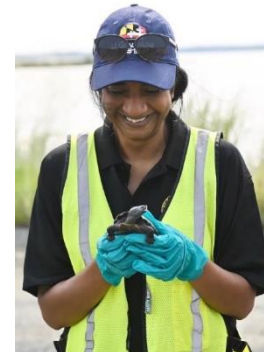
birds and attached small, uniquely numbered metal bands to their legs. This process allows scientists to study both individual birds and populations of birds over time.

According to the initial study results, during the fall banding season, the partners banded 551 individuals of 56 species. The top five species captured in the fall were: common yellowthroat with 119 individuals, song sparrow with 105, swamp sparrow with 45, and gray catbird and yellow-rumped 'myrtle' warbler each with 34. Among the most exciting observations were three Connecticut warblers and a single mourning warbler captured within a week in early September.

Head Start for Maryland Terrapins

Through the Port of Baltimore's Terrapin Education Research Partnership (TERP), Maryland students engage in giving baby terrapins from Poplar Island a "head start" by nurturing them through the first vulnerable months in their classrooms. The baby terrapins are later released back on Poplar Island when they have matured and grown strong.

During a tour of Poplar Island, Maryland Lieutenant Governor Aruna Miller released some of the 2023 TERP baby turtles. A total of 175 juvenile turtles hatched at Poplar Island were distributed to schools around the state. TERP partners include MPA, Maryland Environmental Service (MES), Ohio University, Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center, National Aquarium, Calvert County Public Schools, and the Schmidt Outdoor Education Center.



Maryland Lt. Governor Aruna Miller

Photo by MES

Trash Wheel Family Goes Global

The Trash Wheel family was accepted into the International Trash Trap Network (ITTN), led by the Ocean Conservancy and the University of Toronto.



The ITTN increases global cleanup efforts and quantifies the collective impact of marine debris interception. The Waterfront Partnership of Baltimore will share collection totals from the Trash Wheel family with the ITTN, including the debris trapped by Captain Trash Wheel at Masonville Cove.

Photo by MES

10th Anniversary of the Nation's First Urban Wildlife Refuge

In December, partners celebrated the 10th anniversary of Masonville Cove's designation as the nation's first USFWS Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership. USFWS Director Martha Williams joined the celebration of one of Maryland's greatest environmental restoration stories. MPA led a massive cleanup effort in 2007 that included the removal of 61,000 tons of trash and debris dating back to the Great Baltimore Fire of 1904.

COMMUNITY

Connecting Communities

Masonville Cove offers outdoor green space and many amenities for neighboring communities, such as birdwatching trails, a fishing pier, a boat dock, and an education center, but it can be hard to get to without a car. Partners, including MPA, the Federal Highway Administration, the National Park Service, and USFWS, are working to create safe and equitable access to Masonville Cove. Currently in development, the Masonville Cove Connector will provide access to the waterfront for neighboring communities and link with the existing Gwynns Falls Trail and the proposed Baybrook Connector to form over 20 miles of trails.

Earth Month Volunteers

The Baltimore Port Alliance (BPA) partnered with the St. Helena Community Association for a community-wide Earth Day cleanup powered by more than 60 volunteers from several BPA member companies, including MPA, PAC, C. Steinweg, Vane Brothers, Belts Logistics, Terminal Corporation, MES, and Moran Towing. Their efforts filled two 30-yard dumpsters with refuse weighing 6.5 tons.

In April, over 800 pounds of trash were collected at Masonville Cove, showcasing the community's commitment to maintaining a clean and sustainable environment. Masonville Cove staff also collaborated with Liberty's Promise, a nonprofit that supports young immigrants in need, on a community clean-up event at Benjamin Franklin High School that attracted 29 volunteers, including 27 youth.



*Participants of the community clean up event at Benjamin Franklin High School
Photo by MES*

Lending a Hand



Photo by Dan Spack/EcoLogix

In 2010, an overgrown and trash-filled one-acre plot was transformed into a cherished community garden through the City of Baltimore's Adopt-a-Lot Program. Today, it is Filbert Street Community Garden, managed by a non-profit organization that welcomed the help of twelve volunteers from BPA member companies.

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In October, representatives of MPA, MES, Vane Brothers, B&D Environmental, Whiteford Law, and the Baltimore Development Corporation helped spread mulch, paint a sign, and prepare the garden for winter and future spring plantings.

Upcycling & Uplifting

Once destined for the landfill, or sold for scrap, the BPA Environmental Committee and its member companies were able to upcycle materials such as containers, wooden beams, metal frames, and wharf logs for community use by the New Broadway East Community Association (NBECA). NBECA works to engage community members and foster housing, education, empowerment, and economic dignity in Baltimore's Broadway East community.



*Harold Madison (left), representing NBECA, and Jamie Meyers (right) with M&W Towing, stand by the container provided by Ports America Chesapeake.
Photo by Dan Spack/EcoLogix*

Bienvenido a la Isla Hart-Miller

Visitors from the Audubon Mid-Atlantic's Baltimore Program (formerly Patterson Park Audubon) and Bird Ambassadors/Embajadores de Aves participated in the first official Spanish bilingual tour at Hart-Miller Island. Participants explored the site and its history, learned about erosion and dredging in the Chesapeake Bay, and saw rare birds, including trumpeter swans, a wild turkey, American avocets, and long-billed dowitchers.



Photo by Audubon Mid Atlantic's Baltimore Program and the Bird Ambassadors/Embajadores de Aves

Latino Conservation Day

In July, Masonville Cove hosted Latino Conservation Day, a celebration of the Hispanic Access Foundation's nationally recognized Latino Conservation Week. According to Swathi Ayyagari from the National Aquarium, the event was designed to encourage everyone, especially the Latino community, to enjoy and explore public lands and to inspire the next generation of environmental stewards. Participants, including 118 Latino visitors, enjoyed boat rides, archery, fishing, birding, arts and crafts, nature journaling, a terrapin exhibit and outreach tables.



Photo by National Aquarium

Cox Creek Open House

In October, the Port of Baltimore's Cox Creek Open House welcomed 150 visitors for special once-a-year free access to the unique dredged material containment facility (DMCF). Activities included riding tours to see the DMCF expansion, the Swan Creek Nature Trail, a self-guided birding tour in the wetlands, 11 educational and other exhibits, educational games, arts and crafts, fishing opportunities, and Touch-a-Truck.



Photo by MES

Participants in the bird census recorded four new species for the site in 2023: ruddy turnstone, American wigeon, house sparrow, and most

notably, an eared grebe, which has not been recorded at Swan Creek Wetlands and the Cox Creek DMCF since 2015. Following the open house, MES Senior Environmental Specialist Tim Carney observed two additional species.

4th Annual Hart-Miller Island Run

In October, MPA, Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), MES, Friends of Hart-Miller Island, and Charm City Run hosted the 4th Annual Hart-Miller Island Run. Participants were provided with boat transportation and the unique opportunity to experience the natural beauty of Hart-Miller Island through a 5.3-mile footrace around the site.

Calling All Birders

Since the global pandemic, more people have discovered a love of the great outdoors and hobbies such as birding. MPA sites offer wonderful places for avian enthusiasts to explore.

Black Birders Week

In May, MPA and BURB partnered to celebrate Black Birders Week at Masonville Cove with an opportunity for the public to observe the bird banding process. The birds are caught in nets, and data, like age and weight, is collected. An engraved aluminum band is placed on one of the bird's legs, helping researchers identify and track individual birds. After the process is complete, the birds are released.

Baltimore Birding Weekend

MPA proudly hosted three spectacular birding tours for the Patterson Park Audubon Center's award-winning Baltimore Birding Weekend in May. Guests were delighted at the sights and sounds on Hart-Miller Island, Masonville Cove, and Cox Creek. Among the sightings at the three sites were 229 species, including tundra swan, trumpeter swan, king rail, black-bellied plover, bay-breasted warbler, common tern, bald eagle, little blue heron, marsh wren, and over a hundred bobolinks gracefully flying overhead.

Youth Birding Week

Masonville Cove welcomed its second cohort of curious young birders for July's Youth Birding Week. Five days of fun festivities included hawk watches, owl prowls, and birding walks. The children spotted the trumpeter swan family at Hart-Miller Island, banded osprey chicks, and saw the rare (in Maryland) roseate spoonbill at Poplar Island.



Photo by MES

OUTREACH

Maryland Port Administration 2023

Opportunities Abound

From internships to career summits, MPA partnered with other organizations to open doors for the next generation of Port and conservation leaders, a critical component of the DMMP's commitment to environmental justice.

MPA, Harbor City Links, and Lillie May Carroll Jackson Charter School hosted the Masonville Cove WildSTEM summer internship program. Students of Historically Black Colleges and Universities explored the diverse field of environmental conservation careers and networked with high-level staff at Brown Advisory and Maryland Environmental Service.

The Harbor City Links also presented careers in WildStem, sustainability and maritime industries to students from Coppin State University and Morgan State University. The event was hosted at Brown Advisory and organized by Harbor City Links and Masonville Cove Partnerships in collaboration with the National Wildlife Federation.

Additionally, BPA hosted its largest hiring expo to date when 250 job seekers attended the Spring 2023 Hiring & Career Expo at the Community College of Baltimore County Dundalk Campus. Attendees had the opportunity to learn and connect with employers from the maritime, transportation and logistics industries.



Photo by Masonville Cove WildSTEM Internship

Katrina Jones: WTTC Person of the Year



MPA's Katrina Jones (left) with WTTC President Karen Bush-Brown, who nominated her for the Person of the Year award. Photo by WTTC

MPA congratulates Program Manager for Education and Engagement Katrina Jones, who received the prestigious "Person of the Year" award from the Women's Traffic & Transportation Club of Baltimore. Jones has been with the Port for more than 30 years and has done great work in surrounding communities. In 2022, she also received the Maryland Department of Transportation's Environmental Hero Award.

For more information, visit the MPA website at mpa.maryland.gov, where you can sign up for free subscriptions to the ECO Port Newsletter and the Port of Baltimore Magazine. Follow the Port on social media.



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Maryland Port Administration

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