



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.
- From its inception, local communities have been involved in the island development through the Hart-Miller Island Citizens Oversight Committee.
- Received Baltimore Harbor dredged material from 1984 to 2009
- Provided capacity for 100 million cubic yards of dredged material
- 1,140 acres of habitat created including important bird habitat and restored wetlands
- Part of the Maryland State Park system, receiving thousands of visitors each year

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 of Hart Island and Miller Island to create more than 1,140 acres of habitat.

The project was the first of its kind in Maryland. It was especially challenging because the dredged material often came from contaminated sites in the Baltimore Harbor. Citizens, conservationists, and scientists feared that the dredged material placed at Hart-Miller Island would harm fish, wildlife and water quality. They also feared future commercial use of the island and shared concerns about noise, odor, and aesthetics.

To address these concerns, the Hart-Miller Island Citizens Oversight Committee was formed in 1981. The committee has provided open dialogue with the communities surrounding the site and now oversees the conversion of the site to wildlife habitat and recreational use. Conditions on and around the island continue to be monitored to protect fish, wildlife, and water quality. No negative effects from Hart-Miller Island have been observed. The 300-acre South Cell was restored in 2006, and the habitat design for the 800-acre North Cell is underway.

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 eroding islands. In 2016, the Hart-Miller Island South Cell opened to the public as a State Park. Open seasonally and accessible only by private boat, the park includes a large pond and 5.3 miles of trails with breathtaking views of the Chesapeake Bay. Bikes, paddleboards and kayaks can be rented on site.

A wide range of wildlife visits the island, including songbirds, owls, herons, deer, foxes, and muskrats. The Maryland Ornithological Society has observed 287 species of birds at Hart-Miller Island, including a large number of waterfowl and migratory birds — at times creating the largest single concentration of waterfowl in the mid-Atlantic region.

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

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