

GreenPort Newsletter of Baltimore

January/February 2019



A Snowy Owl on Poplar Island. Photo by Tim Carney



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ENVIRONMENT

Holiday Trees: The Gifts That Keep on Giving

[Poplar Island's](#) wetland and upland habitat is still under construction, the 370 acres of

completed wetland habitat is thriving with wildlife. However, the island, which is being restored using dredged material, has limited protected upland areas suitable for nesting.



Recycled holiday trees are filling that gap by providing new nesting sites and covered habitat. Transport and placement of the trees is a joint effort which includes staff and volunteers from [U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service \(USFWS\)](#) and the [Maryland Environmental Service \(MES\)](#). The trees are placed in mounds and the small nooks make perfect starter nests.

In 1990, there were 10 species of birds known to visit Poplar Island. Today, more than 200 have been recorded.

Discarded holiday trees continue to benefit the environment by providing wildlife habitat at Poplar Island. Top photo by MES; bottom photo by [Chesapeake Bay Program](#)

Port Receives \$2.4M in EPA Funds to Improve Air Quality

As 2018 ended, [Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Port Administration \(MDOT MPA\)](#) received some very good news. The [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)](#) awarded the Port \$2.4 million through the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) to repower marine engines, upgrade diesel dray trucks, and replace equipment that is used to move cargo.

"Our administration is committed to growing Maryland's economy while protecting our environment," said Governor Larry Hogan. "This federal funding will support growth at one of our state's top economic engines, while significantly reducing emissions and building on the clean air progress that we have made."

The funding will help replace approximately 35 dray trucks and 30 pieces of cargo-handling equipment such as forklifts and yard tractors; it will also repower four marine engines.



The new funding will result in lifetime emissions reductions of approximately 37 tons of particulate matter, 398 tons of nitrogen oxides, 165 tons of carbon monoxide, and 724 tons of carbon dioxide and will save more than 64,000 tons of fuel. Photo by Owusu Trucking, LLC

What Is Extra Smart, Powered by the Sun, Reduces Litter, and Has an Appetite for Trash?

To help stop litter in Baltimore City and the surrounding waterways, MDOT MPA recently provided \$900,000 to fund more than 200 Smart Cans. These solar-powered trash cans have compactors that allow more trash and recyclables to be securely stored and send electronic signals to notify workers when full.

Nineteen MDOT MPA-funded cans were installed in neighborhoods near the [Masonville Dredged Material Containment Facility \(DMCF\)](#), including Curtis Bay, Brooklyn, and Lakeland. Baltimore's central business district and other high-profile business and commuter corridors received another 197 cans funded by MDOT MPA as part of mitigation for construction of the Masonville DMCF.

"With help from residents who take the simple steps to keep Baltimore clean," said [Baltimore City Department of Public Works \(DPW\)](#) Director Rudolph S. Chow, P.E. "We can make a change for the better in our neighborhoods and our environment."

Depending on availability of funding, DPW plans to roll out another 270 cans to other business districts in 2019, in addition to MDOT MPA's contribution. Photo by MDOT MPA



Ten New Bird Species Recorded at Masonville Cove, Including Two Firsts for Baltimore

Governor Larry Hogan declared 2018 “The Year of the Bird,” and [Masonville Cove](#) rose to the occasion. Located in the Brooklyn/Curtis Bay area, Masonville Cove was developed as part of several mitigation and community enhancement projects tied to MDOT MPA’s construction of the adjacent Masonville DMCF.



According to MES Senior Environmental Specialist Tim Carney, since August 2018, birders have recorded 10 new species at Masonville:

- barn owl
- Blackburnian warbler
- red-breasted nuthatch
- dickcissel
- Connecticut warbler
- black skimmer
- Nelson’s sparrow
- LeConte’s sparrow
- barred owl
- black scoter

Here are just a few bird species spotted at Masonville Cove, including a Cooper’s hawk (top left), red-shouldered hawk (top right), and LeConte’s sparrow (bottom).

Photos by MES/Tim Carney

“The black skimmer and LeConte’s sparrow were first records for Baltimore City as a whole – neither species had ever been recorded in the city before,” said Carney. “There were also plenty of other exciting birds at Masonville this season that had only been observed there a few times before. In fact, a snowy owl was sighted recently by the night crew.”

Masonville Cleanup Inspires and Empowers Faith-Based Group

On a brisk Sunday afternoon in October, members of the [Chizuk Amuno Congregation](#) participated in a cleanup at Masonville Cove. The volunteers are members of the congregation's Young Professionals of Chizuk and the Shmirat Adamah Committee, which means Guardians of the Earth.

"This cleanup was very special in that it highlights the engagement of key community pillars, such as faith-based congregations, in both relatable and relevant ways," said the [National Aquarium's](#) Director of Conservation Community Engagement Curtis Bennett. "This congregation wanted and ultimately had a transformational experience in nature. Through the integration of faith and stewardship, its members were inspired and empowered to continue to serve as stewards of the environment. This is the true power of a site like Masonville Cove. When we engage people, school and community groups in relatable and relevant ways, they become connected, and they become a part of the Masonville Cove story."



Volunteers from the Chizuk Amuno Congregation had a great day at Masonville Cove and are making plans to return for future service projects. Photo by Chizuk Amuno Congregation

2018 Annual Report to the DMMP Executive Committee

The [2018 Annual Report to the DMMP Executive Committee](#) highlights several accomplishments over the past year and proposes several recommendations for moving projects forward. The report calls for ensuring the continuation of strong stakeholder engagement, implementation of the Harbor Team recommendations, focusing on long-term

DMMP planning beyond 20 years, and coordinating with the [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers](#) on the proposed Mid-Bay project, which would use dredged material provide remote island wetland and upland habitat in Dorchester County.



"We look forward to working with our stakeholders to ensure the DMMP recommendations are fully implemented," said MDOT MPA Director of [Harbor Development](#) Chris Correale.

The Executive Committee, tasked with implementing the Dredged Material Management Act of 2001, approved the report on November 28, 2018.

The Dredged Material Management Program (DMMP) Management Committee prepares a report annually as part of implementation of the Dredged Material Management Act of 2001.

Meet the New Chair of the Citizen's Advisory Committee

Members of the [DMMP Citizens Advisory Committee \(CAC\)](#) have selected a new leader. Adam Lindquist took the helm after Fran Taylor, the long-time chair, stepped down after 14 years. Lindquist is the director of the Healthy Harbor Initiative for the [Waterfront Partnership of Baltimore](#).

"I know the other members of the Citizens Advisory Committee join me in thanking Fran for his many years of service and his leadership. I truly have some big shoes to fill," said Lindquist. "I look forward to working with the Committee to build on Fran's many accomplishments and keep the dialogue going between citizens and the State of Maryland as we all work together for our Port to continue to thrive."



Adam Lindquist is the new chair of the CAC, whose members represent communities, local governments, recreational and commercial users of the Chesapeake Bay, and environmental interests. Courtesy Photo

P O R T

Fair Winds and Following Seas to Barbara McMahon

Dedicated MDOT MPA employee, Barbara McMahon has retired after 25 years of service. As manager of MDOT MPA's Safety, Environment and Risk Management (SERM) department, McMahon was responsible for meeting safety and environmental requirements at landside facilities.

"We're very grateful that Barb chose to dedicate so much of her career to the Port of Baltimore. She was a true leader who encouraged us to think outside the box. MDOT MPA will be benefiting from her contributions for many years to come," said MDOT MPA Executive Director James J. White.

She came to MPA in 1994 from the steel industry where she was one of the few women with a safety engineering background. At MDOT MPA, she led the design and implementation of SERM's cutting edge environmental programs. Bill Richardson has taken over her duties at SERM.



In 2018, Barbara McMahon accepted the Environmental Hero Award from MDOT Deputy Secretary R. Earl Lewis, Jr. Photo by MDOT MPA

UPCOMING EVENTS

DMMP Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting - February 13th at 6:30PM

(Snow Date: February 20)

Point Breeze Maritime Center I
2200 Broening Highway
Baltimore, MD 21224

For questions or to confirm attendance please contact [Greenport](#).

Pearce Creek Implementation Committee Meeting - February 15th at 10:00AM

Cecilton Community Center at Parklands
90 B North Center Street
Cecilton, MD 21919

For questions or to confirm attendance please contact [Greenport](#).

Innovative Reuse Committee Meeting -February 26th at 5:30PM

(Snow Date: March 5th)

Pt. Breeze Maritime Center I
2200 Broening Highway
Baltimore, MD 21224

For questions or to confirm attendance please contact [Greenport](#).

Baltimore Port Alliance Education Meeting - March 1st at 9:00 AM

(Snow Date: March 8th)

Association of Maryland Pilots
3720 Dillon Street
Baltimore, MD 21224

For questions or to confirm attendance please contact [Greenport](#).

Harbor Safety Meeting - March 13th at 10:00 AM

(Snow Date: March 20th)

Association of Maryland Pilots
3720 Dillon Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21224

For questions or to confirm attendance please contact [Greenport](#).

Hart-Miller Island Citizens Oversight Committee - March 19th - 6:30 PM

(Snow Date: March 26th)

Pt. Breeze Maritime Center I
2200 Broening Highway

Baltimore, MD 21224

For questions or to confirm attendance please contact [Greenport](#).

DMMP Management Committee Meeting - March 27th at 10:00AM

World Trade Center

401 East Pratt Street, Baltimore, MD 21202.

For questions or to confirm attendance please contact [Greenport](#).



MDOT MPA Website



GreenPort Website



Port of Baltimore Magazine

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION[™]

MARYLAND PORT ADMINISTRATION

GreenPort Newsletter is the Maryland Department of Transportation's Maryland Port Administration's bi-monthly update of projects and programs that help the agency contribute to a thriving economy, environmental stewardship, and community partnerships. As always, we thank the many private sector businesses, government leaders, communities, and individual citizens who have helped make these achievements a reality.



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