

COX CREEK

Dredged Material Containment Facility (DMCF)

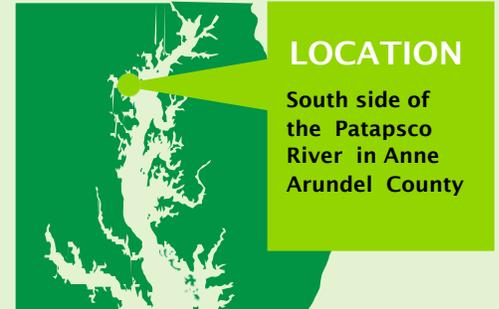


Located on the south side of the Patapsco River downstream of the Francis Scott Key Bridge, the Cox Creek DMCF is a placement site for sediment that has been cleared from shipping channels in the Baltimore Harbor. Constructed by the US Army Corps of Engineers in the 1960s, the site was used as a dredged material placement site by private industry until 1984. In the 1990s, MDOT MPA purchased the site, which included industrial acreage, the Swan Creek Conservation Area, and the placement site. Cox Creek began receiving dredged material in 2005.

EXPANSION

After Hart-Miller Island stopped receiving dredged material in 2009, Cox Creek became critical for supporting Harbor dredging operations serving the Port of Baltimore. The only other site available to contain dredged material from the Harbor is the Masonville DMCF in Baltimore City.

Roughly half of this site's total placement capacity of 6.4 million cubic yards has already been filled. An expansion project that began in 2017 will provide an additional 11.3 million cubic yards of capacity. Additionally, some acreage will be used to facilitate the beneficial use and innovative reuse of dredged material. A new Operations and Maintenance Complex opened in 2019.



LOCATION

South side of the Patapsco River in Anne Arundel County

237 ACRES

Original DMCF: 144 ac
Original DMCF Capacity: 6.5 mcy



First Inflow of Material Came from Annapolis Harbor

Cox Creek Citizens Oversight Committee provides input, feedback, and support



MPA is in the process of expanding Cox Creek by vertically raising the dikes and building onto the MPA-owned upland property



Expansion construction: Began in 2017 and is still currently underway

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Sunrise at Swan Creek. Photo by birder Wendy Crowe during a bird walk led by Maryland Environmental Service (MES) Senior Environmental Specialist Tim Carney.

Swan Creek

Area birders have ranked Cox Creek DMCF and the adjacent Swan Creek Wetlands as the No. 1 hotspot on the popular website, eBird, for several years. The ranking is based on the total number of species observed out of nearly 2,000 Maryland locations.

The shallow water and mudflats within the containment facility cells are attractive to shorebirds. Other species are attracted to the mature forest, freshwater wetlands, tidally-influenced wetlands, open grassy areas, and the Patapsco River.



ACCESS

Due to construction associated with expansion of the site, birding activities are limited to pre-scheduled guided tours only. Contact Maryland Environmental Service (MES) Senior Environmental Specialist Tim Carney at tcarn@menv.com to be added to the birding contact list.



More than 216 species identified on the Cox Creek property draw birding enthusiasts from the greater Baltimore area and beyond.



“Cox Creek is a unique birding hotspot because it offers many types of habitat, and each habitat attracts its own variety of birds.”

-Stan Arnold, local birder