



# Masonville

DREDGED MATERIAL PLACEMENT SITE

## Quick Facts

- Located along the Middle Branch of the Patapsco River in Baltimore
- 110 acres available for dredged material placement
- Began operations in 2010
- Receives dredged material from the Baltimore Harbor channels
- No negative effects on water quality
- Will have capacity for a total volume of 11 million cubic yards of dredged material
- Includes approximately 52 acres of protected land in Masonville Cove
- Environmental Education center, fishing pier, and nature trails open for public access, passive recreation and community enjoyment

The Masonville facility, located along the Middle Branch of the Patapsco River near the Hanover Street Bridge, is a carefully engineered placement site for sediment that has been cleared from shipping channels in the Baltimore Harbor. Work began at Masonville in 2007, and the site began receiving dredged material in 2010. When Hart-Miller Island stopped receiving inflow of dredged material in 2009, the capacity available at Masonville became critical for harbor dredging operations serving the Port of Baltimore. Masonville is one of just two sites that is available to receive dredged material from the harbor; the other is Cox Creek in Northern Anne Arundel County.

The current elevation of the dikes along the perimeter of the facility is 10 feet above mean water level. Over time, the dikes will be raised to 42 feet above mean water level, providing a total capacity of approximately 11 million cubic yards of dredged material. The closure plan for the Masonville placement site, when it reaches full capacity, includes converting the newly created land into terminal space for Port cargo operations. A new shipping pier was built 2010 to serve the needs of neighboring terminal tenants.

Masonville, named for an extinct railroad town, was once an industrial riverside area. After purchasing the site, the Maryland Department of Transportation Port Administration removed large amounts of abandoned industrial debris and launched an extensive environmental restoration effort. This included developing the Masonville Cove Environmental Education Center, a “green” building that opened in 2009 with acres of surrounding land that encompass nature trails, restored wetlands, a fishing pier, and a floating dock. Extensive educational programs for students is provided by Living Classrooms Foundation and the National Aquarium. Other recreational, education and environmental activities available to children and adults include kayaking, birdwatching, fishing and hiking. More than 2,000 students participate in Masonville programs each year, including use of laboratory space in the environmental center. Special events, such as open houses, draw regular crowds.

In 2013, the US Fish and Wildlife Service launched a new nationwide program by announcing Masonville Cove as its first Urban Wildlife Refuge partner.

For more information, including tours and public access to the cove and environmental education center, visit [www.marylandports.com/greenport](http://www.marylandports.com/greenport) or email [OutreachTours@menv.com](mailto:OutreachTours@menv.com).

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