

# GreenPort Newsletter of Baltimore

May/June 2019



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## ENVIRONMENT

### Completion of Baltimore City Tree Planting Project

Thanks to the hard work of more than 150 volunteers, including many from [Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Port Administration](#) (MDOT MPA) and [Maryland Environmental Service](#) (MES), and a strong corporate, government, and nonprofit partnership, a highway corridor in Baltimore City is now home to 477 new trees. MDOT MPA provided \$150,000 for the project along U.S. Route 40 in Harlem Park. The project took two years to complete.

"We're very grateful for this partnership with MDOT MPA, [Maryland Department of Natural Resources](#) (MD DNR), [Baltimore Gas and Electric](#), and [Baltimore Tree Trust](#)," said [Blue Water Baltimore](#) Executive Director Jennifer Aiosa. "Now nearby residents will benefit from better air quality, more effective stormwater management, and a beautiful view of the new trees."



*MDOT MPA's Urban Forestry Partnership helped plant 477 trees along this Baltimore City highway corridor. Photo by MDOT MPA*

## EDUCATION

### MAEOE Youth Summit

For many of the 3,000 students, the field trip to celebrate their [Green Schools](#) status at the 2019 [Maryland Association for Environmental & Outdoor Education](#) (MAEOE) Youth Summit at [Sandy Point State Park](#) would be their first time visiting the Chesapeake Bay.

Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford, Secretary of the Environment Ben Grumbles, and Secretary of Natural Resources Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio were on hand to thank the students and educators from 100 Maryland schools for their commitment to the environment. "It all starts with you," said Secretary Grumbles.



"The Maryland Green Schools program plays an important role in fulfilling the state's commitment to ensure our young people graduate environmentally literate," said MAEOE Executive Director Laura Johnson Collard. Dr. Carol Williamson was there to represent Dr. Karen Salmon, Superintendent, [Maryland State Department of Education](#). MDOT MPA outreach coordinator for Harbor Development, Katrina Jones, is MAEOE Past President and served as one of the emcees for the award ceremonies.

*Antonia Bookbinder from [Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation](#) impresses Maryland Secretary of the Environment Ben Grumbles with her passion for curbing plastic bag usage and litter. Photo by Jody Couser/EcoLogix Group, Inc.*





Students from the [Sisters Academy of Baltimore](#) celebrate their new Green School status.

Photo by Jody Couser/[EcoLogix Group, Inc.](#)

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## A Look Back at Outreach and Education Achievements

MDOT MPA is helping to create the next generation of conservation stewards through its Outreach and Education Program. Here are a few highlights:

- MDOT MPA provides a network of outdoor classrooms for education programs and meaningful Chesapeake Bay experience activities at each of the Port's environmental restoration sites and Dredged Material Containment Facilities (DMCFs).
- Since 2010, there have been over 56,000 student interactions through in-class programs, presentations, and field experiences.
- MDOT MPA is a proud partner with MAEOE since 2004, the organization that certifies Maryland Green Schools and Centers. To date, there are 621 Maryland Green Schools and 42 Green Centers.
- To date more than 2,300 Poplar Island diamondback terrapins have been a part of a head start program administered by [Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center](#), the [National Aquarium](#), and MES.



Since Masonville Cove is accessible by land, it was selected to be included in the [Project Green Classrooms](#) recommendations to increase access to nearby nature. Project Green Classrooms was established by Governor Larry Hogan through an [Executive Order](#) in 2017.

Photo by [Living Classrooms Foundation](#)

## OUTREACH

### Hiring & Career Expo Attracts Hundreds of Job Seekers

In May, the [Baltimore Port Alliance](#) (BPA) hosted a Hiring & Career Expo at the [Community College of Baltimore County's Dundalk](#) campus, attracting more than 215 job seekers and more than 30 Port-related employers ranging from private industry to government. Attendees learned about job openings and career opportunities in logistics, shipping, truck driving, equipment maintenance, banking, security, and manufacturing.

[Bahri Logistics](#)' Regional HR Business Partner Tineshia Fahie said she had met a few potential candidates, including one very good lead. "Even one candidate makes our time here today more than worth it," she said.

This is the first hiring event organized by the BPA's Education and Outreach Committee, which is co-chaired by Katrina Jones and [NYK Line](#)'s Area Operations Manager Scott Senko. For more information about Port-related employment, visit <https://pobdirectory.com/resources/>.





**Left:** Charles Atkinson and Tineshia Fahie representing Bahri Logistics enjoy meeting prospective job candidates. **Right:** Tanika C. learns more about the employment opportunities offered by the [U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection](#). Photos by Jody Couser/EcoLogix Group, Inc.

## COMMUNITY

### Masonville Cove Partners Celebrate a "Decade of Dedication"

The partnership between MDOT MPA, [Living Classrooms Foundation](#), National Aquarium, MES, and [US Fish & Wildlife Service](#) (USFWS) is celebrating 10 years of working together to increase public access at [Masonville Cove](#). The Masonville Cove Environmental Education Campus (MCEEC) is recognized as a model for providing the community and schoolchildren an opportunity to connect with their natural environment and participate in meaningful stewardship projects.

Thanks to a community-driven effort, this former brownfield is now home to nature trails and what is believed to be Baltimore City's only pair of nesting eagles this year.

The Masonville partners are celebrating this "Decade of Dedication," by extending evening hours to 8:00 pm on 1st Thursdays of each month through 2019, hosting special weekend events, and activities such as yoga night and night hikes. For more information, call MCEEC at (410) 246-0669 or visit <http://www.masonvillecove.org/>. Be sure to follow Captain Trash Wheel on social media!



*Local communities help shape the success story at Masonville Cove.*

*Photo by [Chesapeake Bay Program](#)*

## Masonville Cove Hosts Tours for High Profile Events

Masonville Cove was a popular place in May, hosting tours for three high profile events:

### **Baltimore Wildlife Week**

The [National Wildlife Federation](#) partnered with MD Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to create a “Stormwater BMP Crawl,” a tour of stormwater best management practices (BMPs) in Baltimore City, which included Masonville Cove.

### **Baltimore Wild Fest & GreenScape**

During the popular [B'More Wild Fest and GreenScape](#) at [Middle Branch Park](#), MDOT MPA provided a shuttle service so that attendees could visit Masonville Cove. Their tour included an introduction to birding and a nature photography program courtesy of USFWS.

### **Choose Clean Water Conference**

[Choose Clean Water Conference](#) attendees toured Masonville Cove and visited partners at [Benjamin Franklin High School](#) and [Garrett Park](#) to learn more about the collaboration in the community.



**Top:** B'More Wild Fest and GreenScape attendees enjoy a programming at Masonville Cove. Photo by Danielle Wilson, MES **Left:** Participants in the Baltimore Wildlife Week Stormwater BMP Crawl visit Masonville Cove. Photo by Holly Gallagher/National Wildlife Federation **Right:** Choose Clean Water Conference attendees learn about Masonville Cove's 54 acres of wetland habitat, nature trails, bird sanctuary, and Captain Trash Wheel. Photo by Marlo Atkinson, [Greater Baltimore Wilderness Coalition](#)

## Many Hands Make Lighter Work at Filbert Street Community Garden

With the start of spring, 40 Baltimore Port Alliance volunteers turned out on a Saturday morning in March to help the [Filbert Street Community Garden](#) prepare for the season by planting, weeding, and mulching.

"It was especially gratifying to see so many kids turn out with their parents – hopefully we can continue to engage the next generation and make these events truly a family outing," said [C. Steinweg's](#) General Manager, Rupert Denney, who also serves as co-chair of the BPA's Environment Committee.

"MDOT MPA is committed to being a good neighbor to all the communities, which surround our terminal operations," said MDOT MPA's Manager, Safety, Environment & Risk Management Bill Richardson, who also serves as co-chair of BPA.





Volunteers from MDOT MPA, [Ports America Chesapeake](#), [Vane Brothers](#), [John S. Connor, Inc.](#), [BalTerm](#), C. Steinweg, [Maritime Applied Physics Corporation](#), [EcoLogix Group](#) and [Pride International](#) joined garden caretakers and local residents to ready the Filbert Street Community Garden for the season. Photo by Blaise Willig/Vane Brothers

## DREDGING

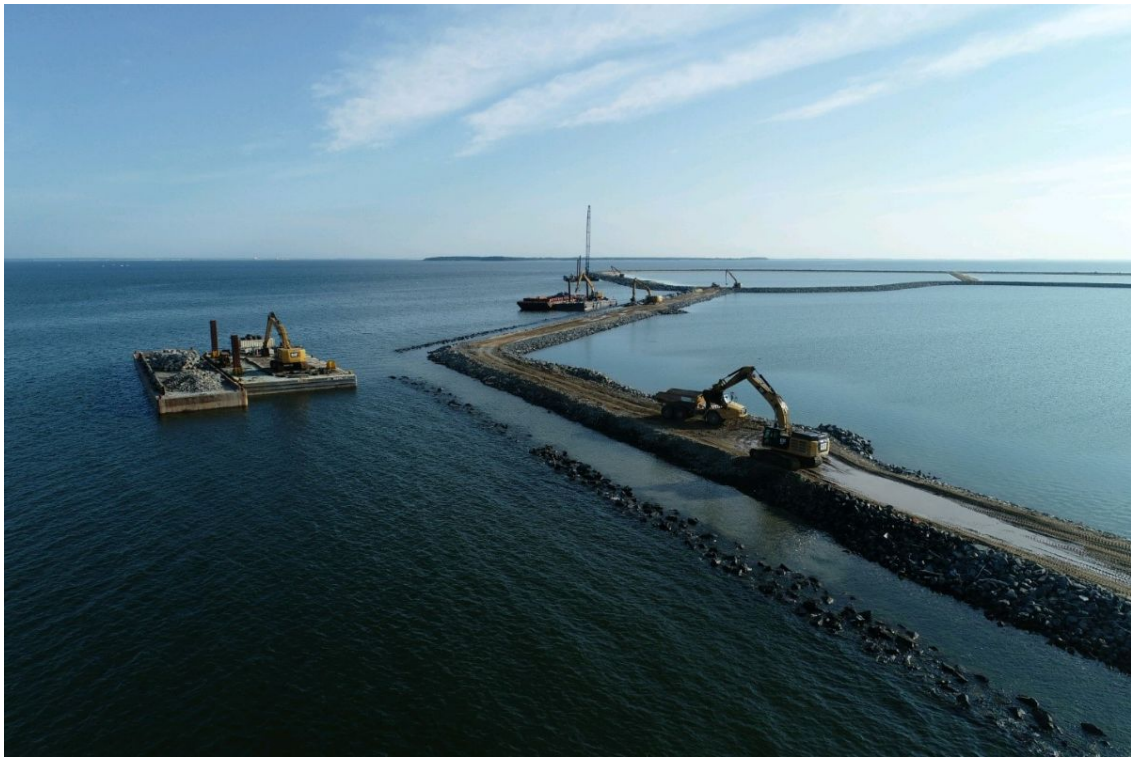
### Update on Poplar Island Expansion

Congress authorized the expansion of Poplar Island in 2007 to accommodate more dredged material from shipping channels approaching the Port of Baltimore and to expand on the island's habitat achievements. Construction of the 575-acre expansion began in 2016, and when complete will result in a total project placement capacity of about 68 million cubic yards of material.

The 1,715 acres of remote island habitat is an important stopover along the Atlantic Flyway for many bird species including some threatened and endangered bird species. Poplar Island also provides habitat and feeding grounds for many marine species and diamondback terrapins. Construction of the Poplar Island Expansion is anticipated to be completed in summer 2020 with the first inflow expected in the 2020/2021 inflow season.

All stockpiling of sand for dike construction has been completed, and the entire wetland and embayment perimeter dike is complete. Construction is underway on the work area of Cell 11 (the future upland cell). U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) contractors will then construct cross dikes, install spillway structures, and open the semi-protected open water embayment. The embayment is a new habitat feature for the site, where the Bay bottom will remain primarily undisturbed, limiting impacts to the benthic community and providing important fisheries habitat.





*This drone image shows the construction underway to expand Poplar Island.*

*Photo by Jeff Lantiegne/[The Wesson Group](#)*

## PORT

### Completion of TIGER Grants

One of the newest stormwater management systems in the Port of Baltimore is nearing completion at the Fairfield Marine Terminal. A large underground sand filter will absorb and treat the runoff from nearly 14 acres of the terminal. Approximately 7.5 acres of that is new space for cargo that was created as part of the Port's "Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery" (TIGER) grant project.

The TIGER project used material dredged during the widening of the Seagirt Marine Terminal's navigation channels to fill an antiquated wet basin to allow for construction of the new terminal. The sand filters help to complete the project and ensure that only clean stormwater enters Baltimore Harbor.



*This sand filter at the Fairfield Marine Terminal will trap sediments and pollution from stormwater runoff before it flows into the Patapsco River. Photo by Bryce Selby/MES*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**DMMP Management Committee Meeting - June 26th at 10:00AM**

World Trade Center  
401 E. Pratt Street, Stanton Room  
Baltimore, MD 21202

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

**Cox Creek Citizens Oversight Committee - July 10th at 5:30PM**

Orchard Beach Improvement Association  
1000 Hilltop Drive  
Pasadena, MD 21122

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

**Hart-Miller Island Citizens Oversight Committee - July 16th - 6:30 PM**

2310 Broening Highway  
Baltimore, MD 21224

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

**DMMP Citizens Advisory Committee/Harbor Team Meeting - August 7th at 6:00 PM**

MedStar Harbor Hospital  
3001 S Hanover St  
Baltimore, MD 21225

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



MDOT MPA Website



GreenPort Website



Port of Baltimore Magazine



*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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