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## ENVIRONMENT

### Baltimore to host first North American Greenport Congress



*MDOT MPA will host the international GreenPort Congress in May. Photo: MDOT MPA*

The Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Port Administration (MDOT MPA) has been chosen to host the first North American GreenPort Congress on May 16-18. The GreenPort Congress is an international conference that brings together maritime professionals from around the world to discuss environmental initiatives and developments.

The conference will be held at the Baltimore Convention Center with sessions ranging from smart ports and land redevelopment to managing dredged materials and the future of commerce vessels in a rapidly changing industry.

The Port of Baltimore has been recognized for its environmental efforts for several years and was recently named a Green Supply Chain partner by *Inbound Logistics* magazine.

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## Reducing emissions at the Port of Baltimore

Meet William Thomas, a truck owner who upgraded to a “cleaner, greener” vehicle with help from the MDOT MPA, in this new video.



Thomas was a 2017 participant in the [Dray Truck Replacement Program](#), which helps defray the cost of a new truck that meets emission standards set by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The older truck is disabled to ensure that it is no longer in service.

The program has helped replace 170 trucks to date, with funding from the EPA, MDOT MPA, and the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE).

Similar programs support upgrades for trains and other diesel-run equipment.

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## Naming the Masonville Trash Wheel

A naming contest is underway for a new trash interceptor that will be installed during the winter at [Masonville Cove](#). The interceptor or “trash wheel” is the third in the Baltimore area to receive support from the MDOT MPA; the two wheels currently operating in Baltimore Harbor have drawn fans on social media and become fondly known as [Mr. Trash Wheel](#) and [Professor Trash Wheel](#).

Residents and students of communities next to Masonville Cove, including Cherry Hill, Brooklyn, and Curtis Bay, have submitted their suggestions for naming the third wheel. The winning suggestions from this first phase will be released soon, and votes will be collected on social media.

Watch for an announcement in late October on the MDOT MPA’s Facebook, Instagram and Twitter feeds, and vote for your favorite!



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## Explore a new section of Masonville Cove

A new portion of [Masonville Cove](#) upland area is open to the public. This 25-acre upland area features non-tidal wetlands, two osprey platforms, tidal wetlands, natural tree groves, and walking trails.

The MDOT MPA is restoring the long-polluted and neglected Masonville Cove as part of its operations at the adjacent dredged material placement site. Much of the cove is already open to the public for hiking, fishing, watching wildlife, and enjoying educational programs.

The newly opened area has undergone a clean-up and reforestation effort over the past few years. A two-foot soil cap was installed on about 12 acres to offset the impact of debris that had been on site for many years. The area was then replanted with native trees, a portion of which were funded through a Natural Filters Grant from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.



*The National Aquarium hosted a bird walk in the newly opened upland area during the Masonville Bioblitz. Photo: National Aquarium*

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## MDOT MPA receives Environmental Excellence Award

At a ceremony in May, R. Earl Lewis, Deputy Secretary of MDOT, presented the MDOT MPA with an Environmental Excellence Award for its Air Quality Voluntary Agreement. The agreement, which began in 2015, includes commitments by the MDOT MPA and MDE to work cooperatively on voluntary programs to reduce emissions and increase energy efficiency.

A workgroup was formed to share information and explore and propose new initiatives. The members work with other agencies, the private sector, and advocacy groups to identify and quantify sources of pollutants, analyze the costs and benefits of potential projects, and find funding.

The workgroup is also developing strategies to address concerns of nearby communities.

Barbara McMahon, MDOT MPA's general manager of Safety, Environment, and Risk Management, said that stewardship is a priority. "We believe that taking responsibility for clean air, land, and water not only complements good business, but drives it," McMahon said.

## Harriet the Masonville osprey nears South America

Harriet the osprey, a popular resident of Masonville Cove, is nearing the end of her 2,000-mile migration to South America. Harriet survived near-misses with Hurricanes Irma, Jose, and Marie before lingering in the Florida Keys and Cuba. Most recently, she was near Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

"We're really excited about her. We're calling her Hurricane Harriet," said Chris Guy of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

A tracking device reports her location every three days. The next leg of the journey, Guy said, is a "heroine flight" to the Amazon basin where she will spend her winter months.

"This is the most difficult part of her migration because it's over more than 400 miles of open ocean," Guy said. "We wish her all the best."

You can keep track of her journey on the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Chesapeake Bay Field Office Facebook page](#).



Green dots on this map show Harriet the osprey's progress on her migration to South America.

Photo: USFWS

## EDUCATION

### Fellowship is a productive partnership

Sean Newlin, a graduate student in public policy, at the University of California, recently completed a summer fellowship at the MDOT MPA, researching ways to reduce emissions associated with port commerce.

In August, he delivered a detailed report on options that merit further study. The report will help the MDOT MPA update its 2015 environmental strategy.

"It's is a two-way street with summer fellows: we provide the experience of working in the port environment and in turn receive fresh ideas," said Barbara McMahon, MDOT MPA's general manager of Safety, Environment, and Risk Management.

Newlin faced at least one unexpected challenge during his stay. "I was impressed with how much was already happening, so to come up with new recommendations above and beyond was a challenge – the MDOT MPA has been thinking about emission reduction for many years," he said.

## DREDGING

### A drone's-eye view of Poplar Island expansion



Learn about the 575-acre expansion of Poplar Island through the "eyes" of a camera-equipped drone. In this video by the US Army Corp of Engineers, you can see the beginning of the project.

Poplar Island is being restored using dredged material from shipping channels. The expansion will involve an additional 28 million cubic yards of dredged material, which occupies roughly the same volume as 316,000 shipping containers.

After being drained, graded, and planted, the expanded area will offer still more habitat for the wildlife that lives, nests or makes a stop on Poplar Island. This includes habitat for many threatened and endangered bird species.

The expansion area has been divided into different work areas or "cells." Cell creation starts with the construction of a dike that surrounds the cell and protects it from erosion. In the video, the perimeter dike for cell 7 is now visible.

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### Progress at Pearce Creek

The MDOT MPA and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers continue working to reactivate the [Pearce Creek dredged material placement site](#), which will be ready to accept material from the

Chesapeake & Delaware Canal approach channels serving the Port of Baltimore later this fall.

As part of the project, the MDOT MPA is funding a public waterline from the Town of Cecilton to neighborhoods in the Pearce Creek area, and construction has reached a major milestone – the first home was connected to the water system on September 13.

The MDOT MPA appreciates the ongoing coordination with residents and remains enthusiastic about spring 2018, when all affected homes are expected to be connected to the public waterline.



*The waterline being installed within the communities. Photo: AECOM*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Cox Creek Citizens Oversight Committee Meeting - October 11th from 6:30PM to 8:30PM**

Riviera Beach Public Library  
1130 Duvall Hwy, Pasadena, MD 21122

**Pearce Creek Implementation Committee (PCIC) Meeting - October 20th at 10:00AM**

The Parklands Community Building  
90B North Center Street, Cecilton, MD 21913

**Harbor Team Meeting - October 26th at 6:30PM**

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

**Dredged Material Management Program (DMMP) Annual Meeting -  
November 3rd at 10:00AM**

Sollers Point Multi-Purpose Center  
323 Sollers Point Road, Dundalk, MD 21222

 MPA Website

 GreenPort Website

 Port of Baltimore Magazine

**MDOT** 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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