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EDUCATION

“Head Start” for Terrapins Celebrates 10th Year

A popular and successful program that engages Maryland students and teachers in conservation by giving terrapin a “head start” in classrooms is celebrating its 10th year thanks to a partnership with [Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Port Administration \(MDOT MPA\)](#), [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers](#), [Maryland Environmental Service \(MES\)](#), [Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center](#), and the [National Aquarium](#).

During their time in the classroom, the turtles grow to the size of a 3- to 5-year-old wild terrapin. By giving the hatchlings a head start, the students hope to give them a better chance of survival once they are released back into the wild on [Poplar Island](#).

More than 2,000 terrapins have been head-started since the program began. This academic year there are 161 terrapins in the program.



Head Start for Terrapins offers children the opportunity to engage in conservation.

Photo: MES



Young terrapin from the head start program prepares for release at Poplar Island.

Photo: MES

Summer Camp Visits Swan Creek Wetlands & Cox Creek

When longtime Turner Station community advocate Dunbar Brooks passed away, his daughter Cheryl Brooks, and wife Edyth Brooks, found a way to honor him with the Dunbar Brooks Education Foundation and its tuition-free Empowerment Camp.

In August, the campers visited the Swan Creek Wetlands and [Cox Creek Dredged Material Containment Facility \(DMCF\)](#), where they enjoyed bird identification, fish seining, and lessons about osprey.

“It’s always a pleasure to share the beauty of our natural environment with students and the public. While Swan Creek Wetlands and Cox Creek are currently closed for construction, we welcome summer camps, students, birders, and other interested parties at several other sites, including [Masonville Cove](#), [Hart-Miller Island](#), and Poplar Island,” said MDOT MPA’s Outreach Coordinator for Harbor Development Katrina Jones.



Campers from the Dunbar Brooks Education Foundation’s Empowerment Camp enjoy a visit to Swan Creek Wetlands and Cox Creek DMCF.

Photo: MES

PORT

Construction Begins at the Cox Creek Operations & Maintenance Complex

In April construction began on the new Cox Creek Operations & Maintenance Complex. The complex is expected to take 18 months to complete and will feature a lab, office space, meeting room, and vehicle maintenance garage.

“The building is the first construction project on site since the demolition began for the Cox Creek Dredged Material Containment Facility expansion. The 10,943 square foot building replaces the existing operations trailer currently used,” said MDOT MPA Project Manager Sergio Adantor. “We’ve also included a larger conference room to accommodate project meetings and educational programs.”

The complex will include LED lighting, waste oil space heaters to heat the shop and storage buildings, and an innovative system of five water quality micro-bioretenion detention facilities to treat 3.5 acres of new impervious area.



*Construction of the new Cox Creek Operations & Maintenance Complex at the Cox Creek Dredged Material Placement Site is expected to take 18 months to complete.
Schematic design from MDOT MPA*

ENVIRONMENT

Voluntary Agreement to Improve Air Quality Continues to Show Big Results

The voluntary agreement signed in 2015 committing [MDOT](#), MDOT MPA, and [Maryland Department of the Environment \(MDE\)](#) to develop and implement projects that reduce emissions or increase energy efficiency continues to pay large dividends, including:

- Ongoing support to fund the replacement of older dray trucks (173 replacements to date)
- 26 pieces cargo-handling equipment replaced
- 6 switcher locomotives equipped with idle-reduction technology
- Launch of "Idle Free MD," an education program aimed at reducing all vehicle idling

A workgroup of agency representatives meets monthly, and the agencies have enlisted help and support from citizens, businesses, and advocates. "We have successfully implemented several projects in partnership and consultation with communities," said Director George (Tad) Aburn, Air and Radiation Administration, MDE. "I look forward to continuing to build on this partnership with my agency partners and key stakeholders as we work together on future air quality initiatives."



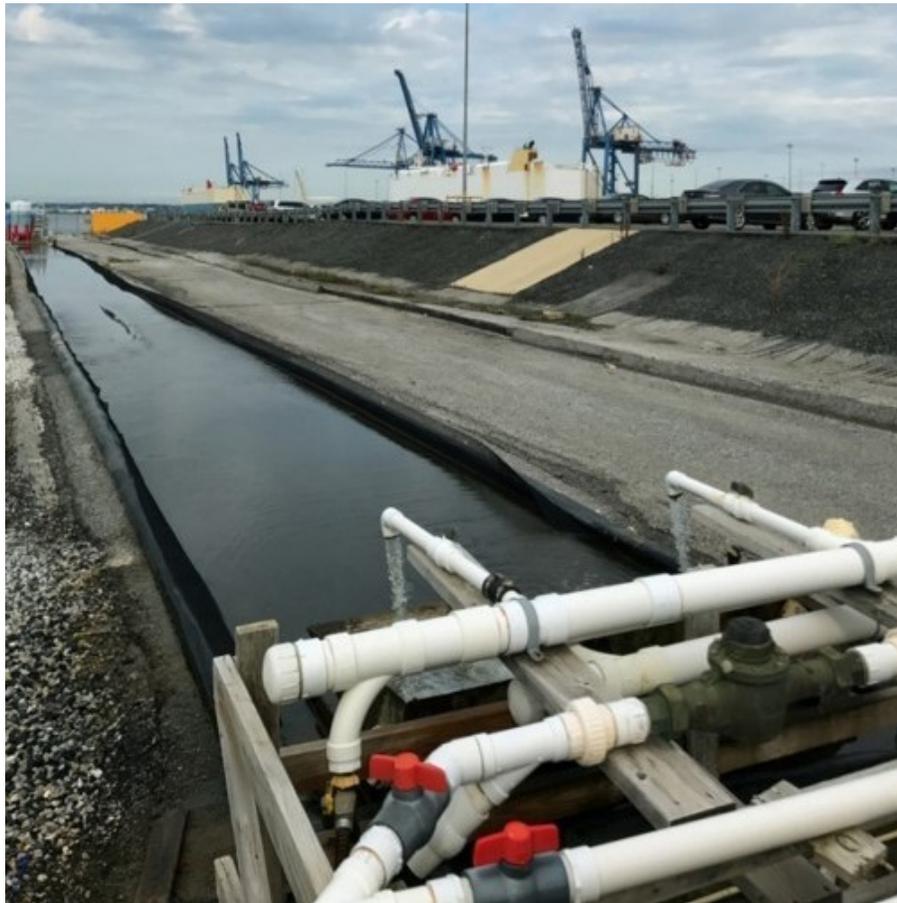
*Stakeholders participated in the signing of the Maryland Inter-Agency Voluntary Agreement in 2015.
Photo: MDE*

Innovative Reuse Project Gets Underway to Benefit Algal Flow-Way

Workers will soon begin hauling dredged material for use as engineered fill to prepare for a new algal flow-way (AFW) at the retired Hawkins Point Dredged Material Containment Facility.

"Preparing the site with dredged material is an excellent opportunity to coordinate with MDE on an innovative reuse project guided by the recent [regulatory guidance document](#)," said MDOT MPA Office of Harbor Development Environmental Analyst Kristen Keene.

"We gained valuable information from the AFW pilot project at the Dundalk Marine Terminal, now we are excited about scaling up these efforts at Hawkins Point," said Bill Richardson, environmental manager, MDOT MPA. "Promoting the growth of algae helps improve water quality by removing nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment. Waste algae could be converted into biogas, a sustainable energy source."



The algal flow-way pilot project at the Dundalk Marine Terminal successfully demonstrated the ability to improve water quality, convert waste algae into biogas, and produce electricity using a fuel cell.

Photo: MDOT MPA



Construction of an algal flow-way at the retired Hawkins Point Dredged Material Containment Facility will begin in 2021.

Photo: MDOT MPA

Graduate Student's 8-Week Summer

Fellowship Benefits Port

Through the [Environmental Defense Fund's](#) Climate Corps program, graduate student Justin Krupa spent his summer with MDOT MPA investigating the feasibility of fuel cell technology at the Dundalk Marine Terminal. He assessed energy usage at Port facilities, evaluated fuel cell vendors, examined avoided emissions by using fuel cell technology and cost analysis scenarios for fuel cell deployment.

"Thanks to Justin's expertise and focus on environment and energy issues for the Port this summer, we now have answers to many of our internal questions which will help us moving forward," said MDOT MPA Air Quality Policy and Program Manager Chandra Chithaluru.



*Krupa photographed during his fellowship, is currently pursuing a graduate degree in sustainable technology at Appalachian State University in Boone, N.C.
Photo by MDOT MPA*

OUTREACH

Port Community Volunteers Clear Fallen Tree

In May, significant rainfall caused a tree to fall at the Madeira Street Community Garden in East Baltimore, where the [C.A.R.E. Community Association](#) maintains a garden where vacant buildings once stood.

The [Baltimore Port Alliance's](#) Environmental Committee coordinated volunteers from MDOT MPA, [Baltimore City Environmental Control Board](#), [Ports America Chesapeake](#), [Vane Brothers](#), [John S. Connor, Inc.](#), [C. Steinweg Group](#), [EcoLogix Group](#) and the [Baltimore Maritime Exchange](#). Together with community residents, they removed the tree, trimmed overgrown weeds and made minor fence repairs.

"We're very grateful to Joe Greco, Ports America Chesapeake, for bringing his bobcat to help do the heavy lifting, and the many volunteers who brought their own chainsaws, trimmers, and weed whackers," said Rupert Denney, co-chair of the Baltimore Port Alliance Environment Committee and general manager of C. Steinweg.

Learn more from this [podcast](#) produced by [CharmTV](#).



*Barbara McMahon, co-chair of the Baltimore Port Alliance Environmental Committee and manager, safety, environment and risk management, MDOT MPA, greets Baltimore City Councilwoman Shannon Sneed who stopped by to thank the volunteers
Photo: EcoLogix Group, Inc.*



*Several parents brought their children to help. The youngest volunteers had a wonderful time while learning about the importance of giving back to our communities.
Photo: EcoLogix Group, Inc.*

Dredged Material Management Program (DMMP) Annual Meeting

The DMMP Annual Meeting will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., November 2, 2018 at the Sollers Point Multi-Purpose Center, 323 Sollers Point Road, Dundalk, Maryland 21222.

This public meeting is open to all DMMP Committee members and other interested individuals. Topics include a "State of the Port" presentation, an overview of the 2018 DMMP Annual Report, and information on key DMMP projects. Keynote speakers include a representative from the Baltimore City School System on their Science Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) programs and a representative from Wallenius Wilhelmsen to discuss their environmental sustainability initiatives.

"This annual meeting will show the relationship between the Port's dredging program and STEM activities in schools," said Chris Correale, MDOT MPA Director of Harbor Development. Click [HERE](#) to RSVP.



This aerial image of Poplar Island was taken in 2018.

Photo: MDOT MPA

UPCOMING EVENTS

Harbor Team Meeting - October 25th at 6:00PM

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

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

DMMP Annual Meeting - November 2nd at 9:30AM to 12:00PM

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

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

Hart-Miller Island Citizens Oversight Committee - November 13th at 6:30 PM

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

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

Innovative Reuse Committee Meeting - November 27th at 5:30PM

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

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

Executive Committee Meeting - November 28th at 2:00PM

Maryland Department of Transportation Headquarters
7201 Corporate Center Drive

Hanover, MD 21076

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

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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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