

# GreenPort Newsletter of Baltimore

September/October 2019



*Baltimore Oriole at Masonville Cove. Photo by Tim Carney/MES*



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## ENVIRONMENT

### Outdoor Classroom Welcomes Living Shoreline

A popular place for field trips and summer camps will soon have a new living shoreline with 5,000 native plants. The three-year project at [Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center](#) on the Severn River in Millersville involves the [Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Port Administration](#) (MDOT MPA), the [Maryland Environmental Service](#)

(MES), [Anne Arundel County Public Schools](#) (AACPS), and the [Chesapeake Bay Trust](#).

MDOT MPA will receive stormwater credits to help meet its environmental goals. "This was a great opportunity for MDOT MPA to work together with Arlington Echo to help establish a living shoreline," said MDOT MPA's General Manager of Safety, Environment & Risk Management (SERM) Bill Richardson. "It's even better that it can serve as a living classroom for the students who visit."



**Left:** In this "before" photo, one can see the shoreline is lacking wildlife habitat for aquatic plants and animals that thrive at a more natural shoreline. **Right:** The shoreline along the Severn River will soon be lush with native grasses, welcoming to small fish and able to withstand waves that could erode it. Photos by MES

## DREDGING

### Restoration of James and Barren Islands Will Provide 2,144 acres for Wildlife

A design agreement has been signed for the [Mid-Bay Island Project](#), which will restore two eroding Chesapeake Bay islands with sediment dredged from shipping channels.

"The [Corps of Engineers](#) executes many missions and projects that benefit the nation, including maintaining federal navigation channels and large-scale ecosystem restoration projects," said Baltimore District Commander Col. John Litz. "We're proud to partner with MDOT MPA on this [project](#) that will have a significant beneficial impact on the Port of Baltimore and the economy."

"To support the economic giant that is the Port of Baltimore, we need to continually dredge our shipping channel to accommodate the massive ships that are carrying more cargo than ever before," said Gov. Larry Hogan. "This important dredging project will also help us stem the tide of erosion to preserve James and Barren islands and protect Dorchester County residents from additional shoreline erosion."



*Restoration of Barren Island (pictured here) could begin as early as 2022 with James Island to follow in 2024. The project will help achieve the [Chesapeake Bay Program's Vital Habitats Goal](#).*

*Photo by [National Aquarium](#)*

## PORT

### Soil Reuse Project Wins Award

A partnership between MDOT MPA and the Maryland Department of Transportation [Maryland Transit Administration](#) (MDOT MTA) to reuse surplus soil at [Masonville Cove](#) saved the state millions of dollars, preserved precious landfill capacity, and opened up more public green space. Together, the agencies saved at least \$4 million by redirecting surplus soil from MDOT MTA projects for reuse, earning them MDOT's 2019 Environmental Excellence Sustainability Award.

"This is a great example of the One-MDOT approach where communication and collaboration benefitted the agencies and saved money for the state," said MDOT MPA's General Manager of Safety, Environment & Risk Management (SERM) Bill Richardson.

"MDOT MTA is proud to collaborate with MDOT MPA on this meaningful project that benefits both agencies and has a positive environmental impact on the state," said MDOT MTA Environmental Manager Robert Frazier.





*Pictured here from left to right is Director of the MDOT MPA Office of Harbor Development, Kristen Fidler; Senior Engineer, MES, Mindy Strevig; General Manager of MDOT MPA SERM, Bill Richardson; MDOT MTA Environmental Manager, Robert Frazier; and MDOT Deputy Secretary R. Earl Lewis, Jr., who presented the award. Photo by MDOT MPA*

## COMMUNITY

### Baltimore Port Alliance Takes Container Gardening to New Level

The **Baltimore Port Alliance (BPA)** stepped in to help East Baltimore's C.A.R.E. – Cleaning, Active, Restoring Efforts – Community Association's Madeira Street Garden by donating a 20-foot shipping container as a storage facility, courtesy of **Ports America Chesapeake (PAC)**.

"We have over 70 lots in total that we help maintain through the adopt-a-lot program. Some of the lots are dedicated vegetable gardens, others are flower gardens or open space," said C.A.R.E. President Cynthia Gross. "So, we have to have all types of equipment on hand to cover all types of scenarios. We lend equipment to residents or other nearby community groups if asked and available.



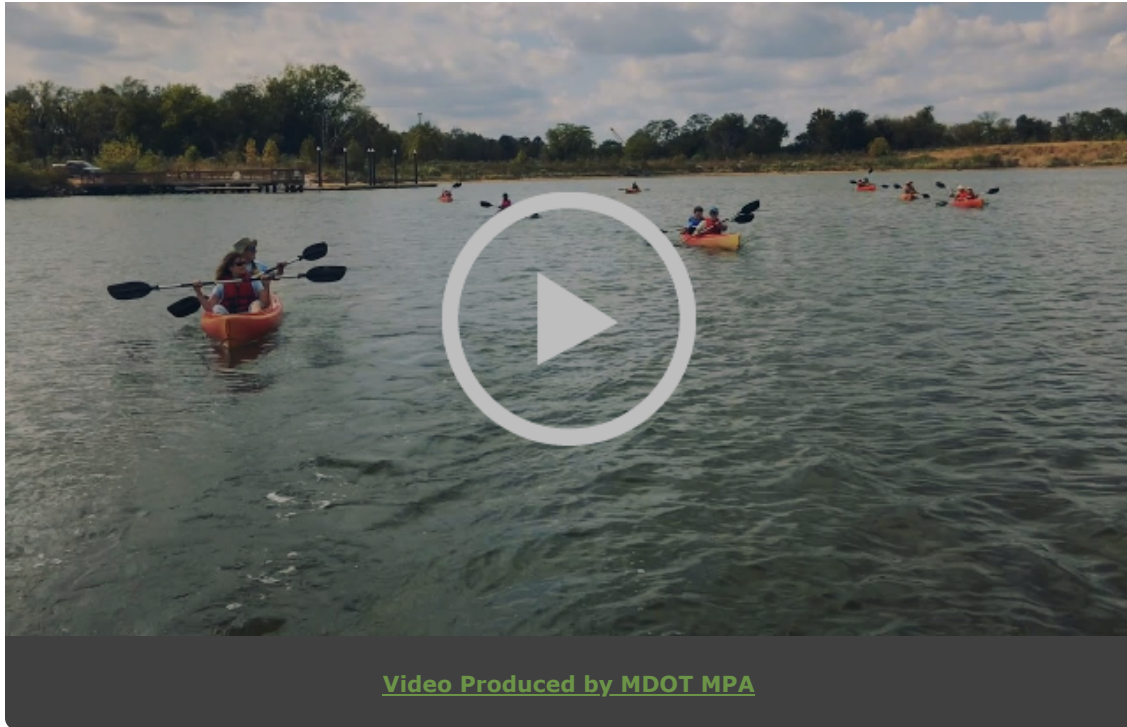
Solomon Egbe, a committee member and PAC employee, coordinated the project and Darren Thompson, PAC's Director of Operations at Seagirt Marine Terminal, oversaw the container preparation and delivery.

PAC donated the used container, painted it and arranged for delivery to the Madeira Street Community Garden by Ted's Towing in early July. Here, John Walker (in the white shirt), who is the garden caretaker and C.A.R.E. representative welcomes the tow truck driver. Photo by Dan Spack/**EcoLogix Group, Inc.**

# Masonville Cove Hosts Urban Wildlife Refuge Day Celebrations

Congress established September 29 as National Urban Wildlife Refuge Day to recognize how the refuges enrich the lives of Americans and better their communities. There are 101 urban refuges in the US and 14 Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnerships. In 2013, Masonville Cove was designated as the nation's first Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership.

Masonville Cove served as the host of two celebrations for the second-ever National Urban Wildlife Refuge Day. [US Fish and Wildlife Service](#) (USFWS) leadership celebrated there on September 26th by tagging monarch butterflies. Another celebration on the 29th offered free guided kayak tours and fun outdoor activities. "It was wonderful to see so many new faces exploring their Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership," said MDOT MPA Outreach Coordinator for Harbor Development Katrina Jones. "We hope they'll help spread the word about this wonderful spot to enjoy nature right in Baltimore City."



## Decade of Dedication Events Continue at Masonville Cove

It has been 10 years since a community-driven effort turned a contaminated brownfield and former dumping ground in Baltimore Harbor into a thriving ecological habitat and educational center. Looking back over the last decade, community members and partners including MDOT MPA, [Living Classrooms Foundation](#), National Aquarium, MES, and USFWS, thought their success called for a celebration.



# DECADE OF DEDICATION



*Photo collage by MES*

"Decade of Dedication" became the theme and special events were held throughout 2019 at Masonville Cove, including extended evening hours to 8:00 p.m. on the first Thursdays of each month, a movie night showing of "The Lorax", yoga classes, feathered friends day, critters at the cove, and fishing at the cove, kayaking adventures, and night hikes.

For more information about the remaining events, call (410) 246-0669 or visit [www.masonvillecove.org](http://www.masonvillecove.org).

- 11/7 Nature Bingo and Maryland STEM Festival
- 11/17 Hiking with the Captain
- 12/5 Owl Prowl
- 12/14 Captain's Scavenger Hunt

## OUTREACH

### First Joint Meeting of the DMMP Citizens Advisory Committee and Harbor Team

The Citizens Advisory Committee and Harbor Team held a joint meeting for the first time on August 7 at MedStar Harbor Hospital, which included learning about the Clean Water Community Healing Project. This set the stage for participants to learn more about MDOT MPA's commitment to the environment while overlooking the Middle Branch of the Patapsco River and Masonville Cove.

Presenters stressed the need for dredging to keep the Port of Baltimore open for business, including from the perspective of Captain Eric Nielsen, president of the Association of

Maryland Pilots; coordination of the state and federal current 20-year dredged material management plans; and MDOT MPA's sustainability initiatives. The [2019 Maryland DMMP Mid-Year Report](#) is available online.



From left to right: Director of the MDOT MPA Office of Harbor Development Kristen Fidler, MDOT MPA Chief of Project Development Holly Miller, and US Army Corps of Engineers Baltimore District Project Managers Ray Tracy and Justin Callahan. Photo by Angie Ashley/Angie Ashley Consulting

## EDUCATION

### Conservation Interns: Where Are They Now? Part 2

An article in the last edition of the GreenPort Newsletter provided an update on conservation interns who participated in the [Urban Conservation and Education Internship \(UCEI\)](#) Program. Since 2014, the National Aquarium has partnered with MDOT MPA, Living Classrooms Foundation, and Chesapeake Bay Field Office (USFWS) and [Patuxent Research Refuge](#) (USFWS) to offer these opportunities for college interns with an interest in conservation from the greater Baltimore area. To date, 19 college students have completed the program. Here's another look at where some of these ambitious interns are today.

Daje Reeder (2017) recently graduated from [Towson University](#) and is looking for field research, specifically in marine biology, but she is also interested in conservation, environmental health, and educating youth about environmental science.

Sheldon Mason (2016) is a student at [Community College of Baltimore County](#), and recently concluded a position at the National Aquarium.

Anastasia Alvarez-Johnson (2015) graduated from [Virginia Tech](#) and recently accepted an environmental education position at [Smithsonian Environmental Research Center](#).

*UCEI interns enjoy a birding tour at Masonville Cove. Photo by National Aquarium*



Stephen Celano (2015) graduated from Towson University and accepted a job with [Ecotone](#), an ecological restoration company. As part of their design team, he collects stream field data and then designs erosion controls for a new channel.

Logan Kline (2016) graduated from [University of Maryland College Park](#) and completed an internship at [Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge](#) and a bird biology internship in Ecuador. She received a [NOAA](#) scholarship; worked at [NASA Goddard Space Flight Center](#); and is currently working for NOAA in Massachusetts on a project exploring illegal fishing in Australian marine parks.

Karlis Grauze (2015) was recently accepted into the [Chesapeake Conservation Corps](#) program through the Chesapeake Bay Trust.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Cox Creek Citizens Oversight Committee - October 16th at 5:30 PM**

Cox Creek Operations & Maintenance Complex  
1000 Kembo Road  
Baltimore, MD 21226

**For questions please contact [Greenport](#).**

### **Cox Creek Open House - October 26th at 10 AM to 2 PM**

Cox Creek Operations & Maintenance Complex  
1000 Kembo Road  
Baltimore, MD 21226

**For questions please contact [Greenport](#).**

### **DMMP Management Committee Meeting - November 8th at 9:00AM**

Sollers Point Multi-Purpose Center  
323 Sollers Point Road  
Turner Station, MD 21222

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

### **DMMP Annual Meeting - November 8th at 10:00AM**

Sollers Point Multi-Purpose Center  
323 Sollers Point Road  
Turner Station, MD 21222

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

### **Pearce Creek Implementation Committee Meeting - November 15th at 10:00AM**

Cecilton Community Center at Parklands  
90 B North Center Street  
Cecilton, MD 21919



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

**Hart-Miller Island Citizens Oversight Committee - November 19th**

Point Breeze Maritime Center I

2200 Broening Highway

Baltimore, MD 21224

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

**Innovative Reuse Committee Meeting - November 26 at 5:30 PM**

Point Breeze Maritime Center I

2200 Broening Highway

Baltimore, MD 21224

**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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