

Hart-Miller Island

Dredged Material Placement Site



Hart-Miller Island (HMI), located in the upper Chesapeake Bay, received material dredged from Baltimore Harbor shipping channels between 1984 and 2009. Originally, Hart-Miller Island was a chain of three islands that suffered from severe erosion. In 1970, Port partners suggested using dredged material to restore the remnants of Hart Island and Miller Island to create more than 1,100 acres of habitat.

A FIRST FOR THE CHESAPEAKE

The project was the first of its kind in the Chesapeake Bay. Citizens, conservationists, and scientists feared that the dredged material that often came from contaminated sites would harm fish, wildlife, and water quality. There were also concerns about future commercial use of the island and noise, odor, and aesthetics.

To address these concerns, the Hart-Miller Island Citizens Oversight Committee was formed in 1981, providing an open dialogue with the communities surrounding the site, which is now partly used as a state park. The 300-acre South Cell was restored in 2006, and the habitat design for the 800-acre North Cell is underway.



1,100 ACRES



Holds 100 mcy of material

1984



South Cell inflow of Harbor material occurred between 1984-1990
North Cell inflow of Harbor material occurred between 1985-2009



The Friends of Hart-Miller Island State Park was officially established in January 2021. The group's vision is to promote and enhance Hart-Miller Island as a resource that enhances the natural, economic, educational, recreational health benefits, and overall quality of life for current and future generations.



HMI has become a haven for boaters and wildlife, including 285 documented bird species

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Hart-Miller Island State Park

In 2016, the Hart-Miller Island South Cell opened to the public a part of HMI State Park which welcomes thousands of visitors each year. The park, managed by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, features a large pond and 5.3 miles of trails with breathtaking views of the Chesapeake Bay. Conditions on and around the island are monitored—and have been for decades—to protect fish, wildlife, and water quality. No negative effects from Hart-Miller Island have been observed in the surrounding environment.



ACCESS

HMI State Park and the South Cell are open seasonally and accessible only by private boat. Bikes can be rented on site. For information, including public tours, email OutreachTours@menv.com, or visit www.marylandports.com/greenport.



A wide range of wildlife visits the island, including songbirds, owls, herons, deer, foxes, and muskrats. At times, the sheer number of waterfowl and migratory birds creates the largest single concentration of waterfowl in the Mid-Atlantic region.



“The island is only accessible by personal boat, so if you don’t have a boat, make friends with someone who does! We highly recommend renting a bike to check out the South Cell of the island. For much of the ride, you have the Bay to one side of the trail and a large marshy pond to the other. The views are breathtaking.”

-PropTalk Magazine