

Mid-Chesapeake Bay Island

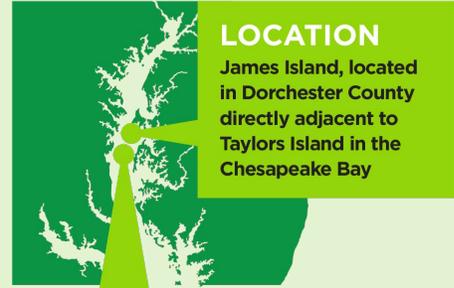
Ecosystem Restoration Project



Funding was included in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) federal fiscal year 2020 work plan for the Mid-Chesapeake Bay Island Project, which will restore two eroding Chesapeake Bay islands, James and Barren. Sediment dredged from navigation channels will create more wildlife habitat and restore the ecosystem of these islands, providing protection from erosion by reducing wave heights. The federal work plan provides funding to continue planning and design. Construction funding is still needed for project implementation.

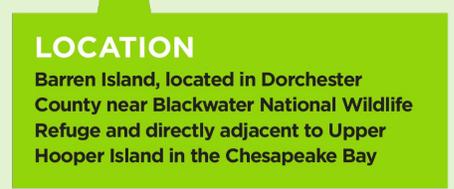
MAINTAINING SHIPPING CHANNELS HELPS RESTORE HABITAT

In September 2008, USACE, Baltimore District, released the Mid-Chesapeake Bay Island Ecosystem Restoration Integrated Feasibility Report & Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The study examined the feasibility of protecting and restoring aquatic, intertidal wetland, and upland habitat for fish and wildlife at James and Barren Islands utilizing dredged material from local navigation channels and the federal Chesapeake Bay approach channels serving the Port of Baltimore and the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal. After careful review and consideration of technical, economic, and environmental factors, as well as stakeholder input, it was determined that restoration of James Island and Barren Island was the preferred alternative.



LOCATION

James Island, located in Dorchester County directly adjacent to Taylors Island in the Chesapeake Bay



LOCATION

Barren Island, located in Dorchester County near Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge and directly adjacent to Upper Hooper Island in the Chesapeake Bay

2,144 ACRES



Total anticipated restoration footprint

Total anticipated capacity: 90-95 mcy



4-year engineering and design phase began in 2019

The entire project would provide more than 30 years of capacity, which will be critical when Poplar Island reaches capacity



If fully funded, James & Barren Islands could act as a buffer to protect nearby waterfront communities

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James Island

RESTORATION

The restoration of James Island, located in Dorchester County directly adjacent to Taylors Island in the Chesapeake Bay, will utilize dredged material from the Chesapeake Bay approach channels serving the Port of Baltimore to restore 2,072 acres of lost remote island habitat. Approximately 45% of the dredged material placement site will provide upland habitat and 55% wetland habitat.

The restoration of Barren Island, located in Dorchester County near Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge and directly adjacent to Upper Hooper Island in the Chesapeake Bay, will utilize dredged material from the Honga River to restore a minimum of 72 acres of remote island habitat. The restoration will also include the installation of stone sills and a large protective breakwater. The newly formed wetlands and structures will slow not only the erosion of Barren Island itself but also the adjacent land.



Barren Island

ACCESS

MDOT MPA will engage with local community stakeholders concerning access and recreation.



Given the success of the Poplar Island Ecosystem Restoration Project, the restored islands are expected to provide valuable habitat to a diverse array of wildlife while maintaining the economic viability of the Port of Baltimore. This will greatly aid in achieving the Chesapeake Bay Program's Vital Habitats Goal.



National Aquarium

“Keeping the community engaged and informed about this exciting project to restore James and Barren islands is our top priority. MDOT MPA is working closely with USACE, area residents, and community groups in Dorchester County to provide information and updates on the Mid-Bay project.”

-MDOT MPA Director of Harbor Development Kristen Fidler