

Cox Creek

Dredged Material Containment Facility (DMCF)



LOCATION

South side of the
Patapsco River
in Anne Arundel
County

237 ACRES



Capacity: 14.8 million cubic yards (mcy)
DMCF expansion underway

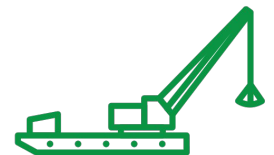
Located on the south side of the Patapsco River downstream of the Francis Scott Key Bridge, the Cox Creek DMCF is a placement site for sediment that has been cleared from shipping channels in the Baltimore Harbor. Constructed by the US Army Corps of Engineers in the 1960s, the site was used as a dredged material placement site by private industry until 1984. In 1997, the Maryland Port Administration (MPA) purchased the site, which included industrial acreage, the Swan Creek Conservation Area, and the placement site. Cox Creek DMCF began receiving dredged material in 2005.

COX CREEK EXPANSION REALIZED

After Hart-Miller Island stopped receiving dredged material in 2009, Cox Creek DMCF became critical for supporting Harbor dredging operations serving the Port of Baltimore. The only other site available to contain dredged material from the Harbor is the Masonville DMCF in Baltimore City.

MPA has completed a significant construction milestone, raising the dike to +60 ft, which contributes significantly to MPA's ability to meet its 20-year planning mandate. The plan is to raise the dike to +80 ft, and the feasibility study to prepare for design and that expansion is underway. To maximize the capacity, efforts have focused on excavating material from a borrow area within the DMCF and utilizing it for construction. This excavated material is currently being stockpiled for future use.

2005



First Inflow of dredged material came
from Annapolis Harbor

Cox Creek Citizens
Oversight Committee
provides input,
feedback, and support



Cox Creek DMCF
expansion underway
by vertically raising the
dikes and laterally
building onto the MPA
owned upland property

Cox Creek



ACCESS

Due to construction associated with expansion of the site, birding activities are limited to pre-scheduled guided tours only.



Cox Creek DMCF is a rest stop for migrating birds, a nesting site for spring resident bird populations, and a magnet for birders. Official censuses, birding tours, and onsite staff have recorded 267 species, with 41 species confirmed as breeding on site. The site is currently ranked as the No. 5 birding hotspot in Maryland for a total species seen out of over 2,400 hotspots.

SWAN CREEK NATURE TRAIL

The Cox Creek Citizens Oversight Committee (CC COC) continues to provide input to MPA regarding facility operations and recommendations on minimizing the potential impacts it may have on the communities and natural resources in the area.

A recent project demonstrating this fruitful collaboration is the Swan Creek Nature Trail. Developed in coordination with CC COC and community stakeholders, the Swan Creek Nature Trail is a community enhancement project to create an approximately 2 mile loop in the Cox Creek Forested Conservation Easement Area. The trail design includes boardwalks, a bridge, outdoor classrooms, and informational and directional signage. The final design for the Swan Creek Nature Trail is nearing completion and construction is planned to start next summer. The goal is to open the trail to the public by 2025.



“Cox Creek is a unique birding hotspot because it offers many types of habitat, and each habitat attracts its own variety of birds.”

— Stan Arnold, local birder



www.Maryland-DMMP.com

