

# Hart-Miller Island

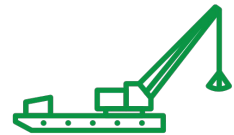
Dredged Material Placement Site



**1,100 ACRES** 

Holds 100 million cubic yards (mcy) of dredged material

Originally, Hart-Miller Island (HMI) was a chain of three islands that suffered from severe erosion. In 1970, Port partners suggested using dredged material to restore the remnants to replicate the original footprint of the two larger islands, Hart and Miller. They were joined by the construction of a dike in 1981, and between 1984 and 2009, the impoundment was filled with dredged material from Baltimore Harbor shipping channels, eventually creating Hart-Miller Island.



Inflow of Harbor material occurred between 1984-1990 in the South Cell and between 1985-2009 in the North Cell

## 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 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 290-acre South Cell was restored in 2005, and the habitat design for the 750-acre North Cell is underway. Upon restoration of the North Cell, the entire site will be managed as a state park.



Friends of Hart-Miller Island State Park was established in 2021 to promote and enhance Hart-Miller Island as a resource that provides the natural, economic, educational, and recreational benefits



HMI has become a haven for boaters and wildlife, including approximately 300 documented bird species

# Hart-Miller Island State Park



In 2016, the Hart-Miller Island South Cell opened to the public as part of the HMI State Park. It now welcomes tens of thousands of visitors each year to fish, camp, boat, swim, bike, hike, and picnic. The HMI State Park, managed by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, features a large pond and over five miles of trails with breathtaking views of the Chesapeake Bay. Conditions on and around the Island were monitored for decades to protect wildlife and water quality. No negative effects from Hart-Miller Island have been observed in the surrounding environment. MDE recently recognized that the HMI South Cell is fully restored and functioning as wildlife habitat and therefore removed all monitoring requirements from the site's discharge permit.



## ACCESS

HMI State Park is open seasonally and accessible only by boat. Bikes can be rented on-site. For more information on seasonally visiting the DNR state park: <https://dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/pages/central/hartmiller.aspx>

For information, including public tours, visit [maryland-dmmp.com](http://maryland-dmmp.com).



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 one of the largest single concentrations 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



[www.Maryland-DMMP.com](http://www.Maryland-DMMP.com)

