



The Mid-Chesapeake Bay Island Ecosystem Restoration Project - commonly known as Mid-Bay - is located in Dorchester County near what remains of the separate James and Barren Islands. The project will use dredged material from the Chesapeake Bay's Maryland navigation channels to restore remote island and wetland habitat near James and Barren Islands, which will provide improved health and sustainability to aquatic and wildlife species. Additionally, the restoration project will benefit navigational safety and passive recreation, while providing additional shoreline protection. The project is being completed under a federal/state partnership between the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Baltimore District and Maryland Port Administration (MPA).



Learn More

To learn more about the USACE and the Mid-Bay Project, please visit: nab.usace.army.mil/Mid-Bay/

To learn more about the MPA and the Mid-Bay Project, including a short informational video, please visit: maryland-dmmp.com

Questions? Comments?

If you have any questions, please contact Rachael Gilde at Rgilde@marylandports.com

Stay "In The Know"!

Sign up for project updates at the Maryland Dredged Material Management Program (DMMP) website: maryland-dmmp.com/placement-sites/mid-bay-island/

259 Najoles Rd
Millersville, MD 21108
Attn: Ms. Maura Morris



Upcoming Events

Mid-Bay Community Poster Session

November 6, 2024
4:30 - 6:30 PM
Madison Volunteer Fire Department
1154 Taylors Island Road
Madison, MD 21648

The Mid-Bay Project Team will share the latest updates on restoration efforts at Barren and James Islands and will be available to answer any questions you may have.

Project Newsletter

Fall 2024



View the Upcoming Events Section for Community Meeting Information!

Safety Announcement

Please continue to use extreme caution when accessing the water immediately west of **Barren Island**. Note the new stone structures within the waters surrounding Barren Island constructed during Phase I. Once Phase II construction begins, a new safety figure will be released. All water-users, continue to pay attention to all Local Notices to Mariners released by the US Coast Guard.

Community Outreach Updates

Thank you to everyone who attended the public meeting held on April 17, 2024, at the **Madison Volunteer Fire Company!** The Mid-Bay Outreach Team continues to hold meetings and attend community events to provide project information to interested members of the community. Most recently, the Outreach Team attended the Juneteenth event hosted by Groove City Black Heritage and Culture Group in Cambridge, the 32nd Annual Native American Festival hosted by the Nause-Waiwash Tribe, and the Dorchester Showcase.



Youth Engagement at Juneteenth Festival



Traditional Dance at Nause-Waiwash Festival



Bald Eagle from the Nanjemoy Creek Environmental Education Center



Dorchester Showcase

Is your community group or local organization interested in learning more about the Mid-Bay Project? Please contact Rob Etgen (Retgen@councilfire.org) of the Outreach Team, and let us know how we can connect with you!

BARREN ISLAND

Barren Island is located adjacent to Upper Hoopers Island. The ecosystem restoration effort will include the addition of a minimum of 72 acres of wetland habitat, and installation of sills and breakwaters to protect the island remnants and adjacent seagrass bed habitat. Restoration benefits will include reduction in storm-related shoreline erosion, improved water quality, and reduced wave energy within the area.

James Island Update

The Project Delivery Team continues to collaborate with state and federal natural resource agencies on the James Island design. While the design continues to progress, the draft supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (sEIS) for James Island was completed and posted for public and agency review. The public review and comment period ended on May 15, 2024. The sEIS can be found on the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) website at: (<https://www.nab.usace.army.mil/Mid-Bay/>). Comments will be addressed in the finalized sEIS.

The Joint Permit Application for the James Island Tidal Wetlands License (TWL) will be submitted by October 2024. Public notice for the TWL is anticipated in the last quarter of 2024. To be added to the interested parties list, please contact **Mary Phipps-Dickerson, at the Maryland Department of the Environment** (mary.phipps-dickerson@maryland.gov).

Coming 2025/2026!
JAMES ISLAND RESTORATION BENEFITS



The ecosystem restoration near James Island will occur as part of the Mid-Bay Project. James Island is located in the Chesapeake Bay off of Taylors Island. The authorized plan for the project will include the restoration of 2,072 acres, including 45% upland habitat (above the tide elevation) and 55% wetland habitat (below mean high tide) adjacent to James Island. Construction date contingent upon funding.

Barren Island Construction Update

Barren Island Phase I construction, which began in March 2023, is coming to a close with the remaining Phase I work anticipated for completion by October 2024. Phase I construction includes installation of a majority of the protective stone sills and breakwaters, which line the western side of the island.

Phase II construction is scheduled to begin in late 2024 – early 2025. Phase II construction includes replacing the poor foundation below the northeast sill and constructing the remaining northeast sill, interior confining structures, southern spillway, bird islands, and dredging of the Honga River Channel (**Figure 1**). The dredged material will be used as fill for the southern wetland.

Seacoast Marine Construction Inc. was awarded the contract for Phase II on August 13, 2024. Should you have services that could be provided through the Phase II construction, please contact **Rob Etgen** (Retgen@councilfire.org) to be added to the interested contractors list that will be provided to the Seacoast Marine Construction management team.

To inquire about potential job opportunities, reach out to: **Seacoast Marine Constructions Inc.** (www.seacoastdocks.com)

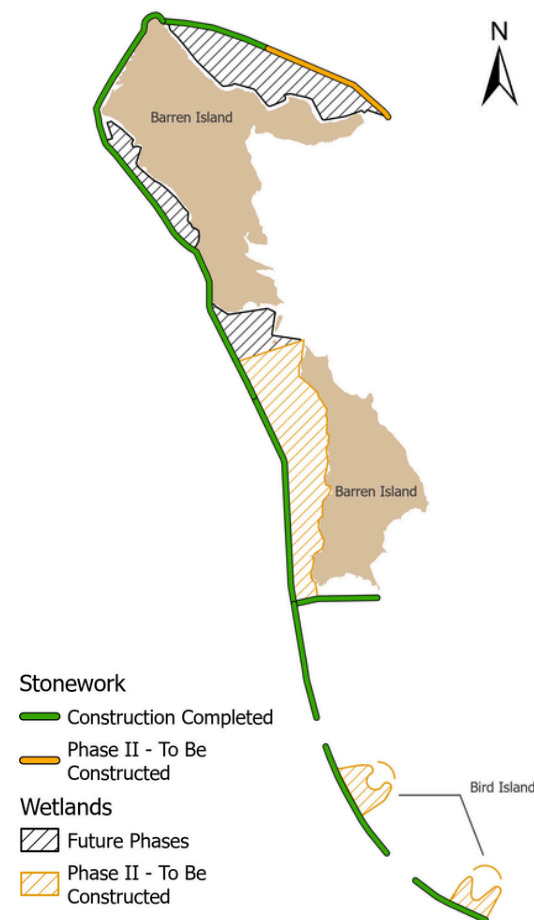
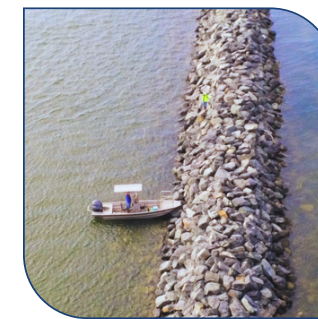


Figure 1. Barren Island Construction Progress



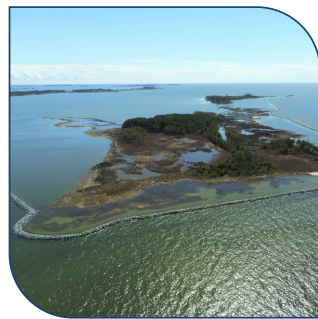
Construction of Southern Breakwater



Construction Inspection



Excavator on Barge Placing Rock



Phase I Construction

Barren Island Phase I Construction

