

Sediment to Solutions: Beneficial Use (BU)



DREDGED
MATERIAL
MANAGEMENT
PROGRAM

BU of dredged material means using sediment dredged from the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries for the restoration, creation, or enhancement of underwater grasses, island habitat, wetlands, and fish or shellfish habitat, as well as the stabilization of eroding shorelines. BU of dredged material is a critical component of the Dredged Material Management Program (DMMP). With strong community support and increasing educational efforts, the Maryland Port Administration (MPA) continues its longstanding history of leadership in BU with the launch of an updated 5-year Innovative Reuse (IR) and BU strategy in 2025.

GOAL

The BU program goal is to promote the long-term viability of the Port of Baltimore by implementing capacity recovery through sustainable beneficial use efforts as part of the DMMP in Maryland.



DREDGED MATERIAL IS BRINGING ISLANDS BACK TO LIFE

The Paul S. Sarbanes Ecosystem Restoration Project at Poplar Island (known as Poplar Island) is internationally recognized for BU of dredged material to rebuild remote island habitat and combat sea-level rise. Located in Talbot County, MD, the restored island has become a vital stopover along the Mid-Atlantic migratory bird flyway and supports a thriving ecosystem. Today, Poplar Island is home to more than 270 bird species, including the region's largest nesting colony of terns, along with +22,000 diamondback terrapin hatchlings and a wide range of other wildlife.



THE BENEFITS OF BENEFICIAL USE

- Preserves existing island habitat
- Restores islands and coastal wetlands
- Reduces erosion to local shorelines
- Enhances habitat for native and migratory birds and fish
- Sustains reliable, navigable shipping channels



www.Maryland-DMMP.com

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Beneficial Use



ADDRESSING COASTAL RESILIENCE

MPA is an active participant in the Maryland Commission on Climate Change and works closely with sister agencies and academic partners to identify opportunities to proactively plan and implement measures to reduce climate change impacts. The BU of dredged material is an essential tool, with projects providing sediment to build more resilient shorelines and adding elevation capital to habitats. MPA is committed to becoming resilient in the face of climate change by:

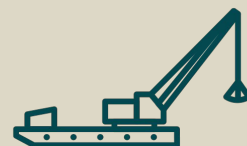
- Working with partners to research, plan, and implement sound resilience and adaptation policies and projects
- Advancing the 2025 Innovative Reuse and Beneficial Use Strategy to “Investigate how BU of dredged material can be expanded to address Maryland’s navigation, coastal security, and natural infrastructure needs.

Did you know you can request dredged material from MPA?

MPA has a formal process for requesting dredged material. Anyone can request any quantity ranging from a 5-gallon bucket for scientific study to larger quantities for wetland creation/beneficial use projects or to be used as engineered fill material for upland placement. To learn more about this process and/or to officially request dredged material please visit the MPA’s [Innovative Reuse and Beneficial Use Program website](#).

THE FUTURE OF BENEFICIAL USE: MID-BAY UNDERWAY

The Mid-Chesapeake Bay Island Ecosystem Restoration Project (Mid-Bay Project) is integral to the MPA’s 20-year rolling DMMP strategy. The BU of dredged material at this site will support the necessary depth of bay channels and reverse years of ongoing and accelerating erosion at James and Barren Islands. Located in Dorchester County, Maryland, the project will restore 2,144 acres of remote islands in the Chesapeake Bay, reduce storm-related shoreline erosion rates on neighboring shorelines, and create vibrant wetland and upland habitats for native plants, fish, and migratory and native birds. The project is projected to provide a total dredged material placement capacity of 90-95 mcy over the next 30+ years. That’s the equivalent of a 16-foot wide road from Baltimore to San Francisco.



“Maryland is leading the way in turning dredged material into a resource, rather than disposing of it as a waste.”

**~ Kate Charbonneau,
Assistant Secretary for Aquatic
Resources, Maryland DNR**



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