

Masonville Cove

Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership



DREDGED
MATERIAL
MANAGEMENT
PROGRAM



LOCATION

Middle Branch
of the Patapsco
River in
Baltimore City

Open to the public, this popular birding and fishing spot is the nation's first Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership.



Masonville Cove is a remediated 46-acre waterfront campus in Baltimore that offers wildlife habitat, walking trails, a fishing pier, and kayak access—all protected under a conservation easement. It also hosts an Environmental Education Center that provides programs for local schools and communities. Operated as a partnership between the Maryland Port Administration (MPA), Living Classrooms Foundation, the National Aquarium, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Masonville Cove became the nation's first Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership in 2013. In 2025 Masonville Cove was designated as a Chesapeake Gateways Network site, joining a network of places that provide visitors with opportunities to connect with the Chesapeake Bay watershed.



Masonville Cove provides habitat for over 300 species of birds and animals. Educators provide an abundance of programs that allow people to interact with wildlife, inspiring the next generation of environmental stewards.

Masonville serves an important role in education, community engagement, and outdoor recreation, but physical access to the site can be challenging.



Linked to the construction of an adjacent MPA dredged material containment facility, the site serves as both a refuge for wildlife and a public gateway, reconnecting nearby communities to the shoreline. Masonville Cove welcomes over 6,000 students and community visitors each year.

MASONVILLE COVE



PARTNERSHIP



www.Maryland-DMMP.com

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Masonville Cove Connector

As the nation's first Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership, Masonville Cove is well established as an educational and recreational community treasure, but gaining access to the site can be challenging. Consistent with its promise to restore access to the waterfront for the communities surrounding the Masonville DMCF, MPA and other partners have secured grants totaling \$2.86 million from the Federal Highways Administration Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) and USFWS to design and partially construct a shared use path connecting Masonville Cove to the Gwynns Falls Trail and adjacent communities.



Why Build the Connector to Masonville Cove?

- Establish safe, convenient, and equitable access
- Connect local communities to a unique recreational asset
- Integrate Masonville Cove into the larger outdoor recreational landscape in Baltimore

"I'm happy to hear the connector is happening in this community and this community hasn't been forgotten."

– Community Member



PART OF THE LARGER COMMUNITY

Once complete, the Masonville Cove Connector will link with the existing Gwynns Falls Trail and the proposed Baybrook Connector for a total of over 20 miles of trails, providing walking and biking connectivity with:

- Neighborhoods and local businesses
- A scenic and historic greenway
- Regional hospital and wellness facilities
- Light Rail station

NEXT STEPS

- Identify and engage partners
- Coordinate with adjacent City and State projects
- Continue progress toward 30% Design



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