

Poplar Island

Ecosystem Restoration Project



DREDGED
MATERIAL
MANAGEMENT
PROGRAM



LOCATION

In the
Chesapeake Bay
in Talbot County
off Tilghman
Island

1,715 acres

Total restoration footprint

71.1

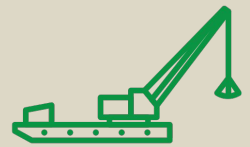
 million cubic yards
(mcy) of capacity

Total anticipated capacity

The Paul S. Sarbanes Ecosystem Restoration Project at Poplar Island (Poplar Island) is an international model for the beneficial use of dredged material located in the mid-Chesapeake Bay. The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and Maryland Port Administration (MPA) began the project to restore Poplar Island in the 1990s. In 1996, less than five acres remained of the 1,140 acres that were documented in 1847. About 100 residents called the Poplar Island town of Valliant home in the 1800s. By the 1920s, residents began leaving the island as more and more of its landmass fell victim to erosion. The island's remains were still used as a retreat in the 1930s and 1940s, and Presidents Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry S. Truman were among its visitors.

Poplar Island now receives approximately 2 million cubic yards (mcy) of dredged material each year, drawn from the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Approach Channels. At completion, the project will allow for the placement of approximately 71.1 mcy of dredged material. Lessons from this project are being incorporated into the planning and design of the Mid-Bay Project.

2001



First inflow was received in 2001



Restores 776 acres
of tidal wetlands,
829 acres of upland
habitat, and a
110-acre open
water embayment

International model
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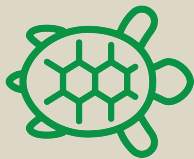


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Terrapin Education & Research Partnership

The Terrapin Education & Research Partnership (TERP) is a popular and award-winning program that engages Maryland students and teachers in conservation by giving terrapins a “head start” in classrooms. During their time in the classroom, the turtles grow to the size of a 3- to 5-year-old wild terrapin. By giving the hatchlings a head start, the students hope to give them a better chance of survival once they are released back into the wild on Poplar Island.



- 79,000+ students participated in classroom outreach programs and field experiences
- 22,000+ diamondback terrapins hatched on Poplar Island since 2002
- Over 3,600 terrapins head started by Maryland students since 2005 (about 200 turtles each year)
- 1,000+ classes released head start turtles on Poplar Island field trips
- 440+ head start turtles recaptured on Poplar Island since 2009

ACCESS

For more information, including tours, visit maryland-dmmp.com or poplarislandrestoration.com.



The island is a popular stopover site for migratory birds along the Mid-Atlantic flyway. More than 270 species of birds have been observed on or just offshore of Poplar Island and it is home to the largest nesting colonies of both common terns (State listed as Endangered) and least terns in the Maryland portion of the Chesapeake.



“My students [gained] a deeper appreciation of just how important it is for them to protect the Chesapeake Bay and all that it has to offer. Taking care and raising terrapins to release back into the waters of the bay is one of the highlights of being a fourth grader at Piney Orchard Elementary.”

– Heidi S. Beall, Fourth Grade Teacher, Piney Orchard Elementary, Anne Arundel County Public Schools



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www.Maryland-DMMP.com

