



DREDGED
MATERIAL
MANAGEMENT
PROGRAM

MARYLAND PORT ADMINISTRATION | DREDGED MATERIAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

2026 MID-YEAR REPORT

Stewardship Fueled by Science

The Maryland Port Administration (MPA) is responsible for stimulating the flow of waterborne commerce through the State of Maryland in a manner that benefits its citizens. The Port of Baltimore generates an annual economic impact of **\$70 billion** and supports **over 273,000 jobs** in the state. MPA's Office of Navigation, Innovation, and Stewardship (NIS) plays a vital role in ensuring the safety of vessels arriving at the port by managing navigation channels through the strategic, science-based Dredged Material Management Program (DMMP). NIS collaborates closely with DMMP committee members, elected officials, state and federal agencies, non-profit organizations, community groups, business partners, and other stakeholders to fulfill its mission.



The DMMP recommendations for 2026 focus on responsible stewardship, providing economic, environmental, and social benefits that will last for decades.

2026 Recommendations

» Funding & Policy Recommendations

1. Ensure **favorable legislation** and **sufficient funding** for priority DMMP projects, the US Army Corps of Engineers navigation program, and projects that benefit and favorably position the Port of Baltimore in new legislation.
2. Strive to **reduce greenhouse gas emissions** to meet the state's target of 60% reduction by 2031 and net zero by 2045, and advocate for adequate funding for implementation.

» NAVIGATION: Planning & Operations

3. Conduct **capacity and dredging demand planning** for sustainable dredged material management options for a rolling 20-year time frame and beyond.
4. Re-engage the Virginia Bay Enhancement Working Group (VA BEWG) to refine the list of suitable, cost-effective dredged material **placement options for the Virginia Channels**, including beneficial use opportunities.
5. Leveraging the best available science, facilitate the use of **nature-based and climate-resilient solutions** in long-term DMMP project planning.
6. In collaboration with the Bay Enhancement Working Group (BEWG), develop a set of recommendations for more transparent and predictable guidance to implement **beneficial use of dredged material** in the **Baltimore Harbor**.
7. Continue to implement long-term, sustainable, **large-scale Innovative Reuse** and capacity recovery efforts.
8. Develop a plan for the **Hart-Miller Island (HMI) north cell** habitat development in collaboration with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the HMI Citizens Oversight Committee.
9. Leverage adaptive management, **minimize and/or mitigate environmental impacts**, and consider equitable distribution of benefits in dredged material management.

» STEWARDSHIP: Engagement & Education

10. Increase public **awareness and understanding of the DMMP**, including the importance to Maryland's economy, its challenges, and benefits to Marylanders.
11. Work closely with affected communities and stakeholders to develop and implement strategies that promote fairness and **equity in the DMMP**.
12. **Ensure transparency** is maintained in the DMMP decision-making process and facilitate meaningful and impactful **involvement with stakeholders**.

MPA's science-based stewardship focuses on planning and implementing sustainable, climate-resilient solutions to maintain navigable channels at the Port of Baltimore. Through rigorous research, NIS ensures that sediment dredged from the channel system is used in productive and innovative ways, benefiting local communities and the environment. In 2026, working from its rolling 20-year plan, the DMMP is implementing strategic operational initiatives, including dredged material containment facility (DMCF) expansion, capacity optimization and recovery, exploration of new dredged material management options, institutionalizing Innovative Reuse and Beneficial Use (IR and BU), and meaningfully welcoming and engaging both existing and new stakeholders.

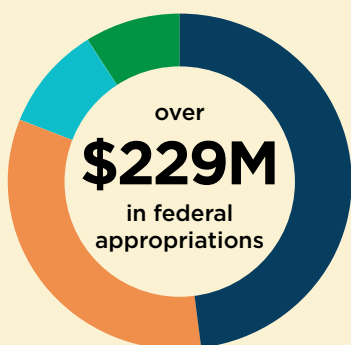


Funding & Policy

MPA prioritizes working closely with congressional delegations and federal and state partners to ensure favorable legislation, sufficient funding, and support for DMMP projects. MPA initiatives supporting these objectives include:

- **Informational Tours:** MPA continues to engage stakeholders and advance partnerships through site visits and collaborative dialogue at the Cox Creek DMCF and Cox Creek Sediment Technology and Reuse (STAR) Facility. These tours provide opportunities to educate and inform stakeholders about ongoing operations, the value and impact of the DMMP, and future planning for dredged material placement, including approaches that leverage public-private partnerships. The visits also foster information exchange and support the development of collaborative innovative solutions for dredged material management.
 - So far this year, MPA hosted the following groups for tours and site visits: The Secretary's Office of the Maryland Department of Transportation, Blue Water Baltimore, Anne Arundel County Department of Public Works, State Highway Administration Office of Materials Technology, and Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation.
- **Federal Funding Milestones:**

In early April, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) released the federal fiscal year (FFY) 2026 Work Plan showing positive and sufficient allocations for Baltimore, including:



- **\$109.10 million** toward the Mid-Chesapeake Bay Island Ecosystem Restoration Project (Mid-Bay Project)
- **\$76.69 million** for Baltimore Harbor and Channels (includes \$33.5 million in Energy Transfer Port funding)
- **\$22.50 million** for the Paul S. Sarbanes Ecosystem Restoration Project at Poplar Island (Poplar Island)
- **\$20.72 million** toward the Chesapeake & Delaware (C&D) Canal

- The President has released his FFY2027 budget proposal, which outlines the Administration's funding priorities for the upcoming fiscal year beginning on October 1, 2026. MPA is closely monitoring congressional actions related to the budget, which currently includes line items to fund Baltimore Harbor and Channels maintenance dredging, Poplar Island, and C&D Canal dredging.



Navigation: Planning and Operations

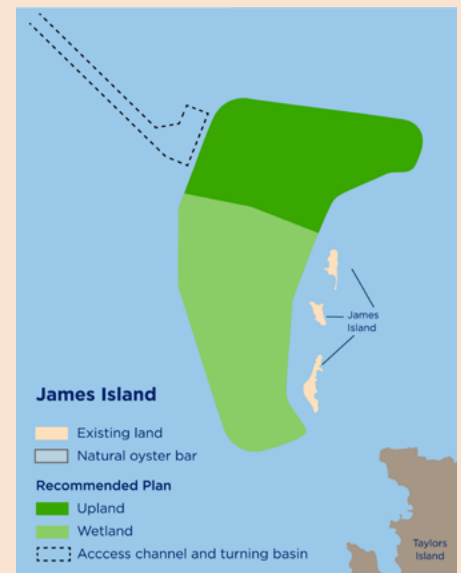
MPA is actively implementing strategic initiatives based on scientific best practices and the DMMP's rolling 20-year plan. These initiatives involve planning and constructing new and expanding existing DMCFs, optimizing capacity, and enhancing the safety and efficiency of shipping channels that serve the Port's terminals.

» Seagirt Loop Channel Modification

- **Improving Safety and Efficiency:** In 2023, MPA and USACE completed the Seagirt Loop Feasibility Study, which evaluated the current navigation procedures for ships at the Seagirt Marine Terminal. The study revealed that deepening the West Seagirt Branch Channel to 50 feet and widening its bends could greatly reduce delays and risks, enhancing the movement of ultra-large container vessels. The pre-construction engineering and design phase began in 2024 and is expected to be completed by late 2027, with 60% design anticipated by September. This phase will yield the final channel design, an implementation schedule, and estimated construction costs.

» Mid-Chesapeake Bay Island Ecosystem Restoration Project

- **Building Generational Capacity:** As Poplar Island nears capacity for material placement, the Mid-Bay Project will become the next site for the beneficial use of 90 to 95 million cubic yards (mcy) of dredged material over the next 30 years. This project is advancing with notable progress on design and construction and will eventually restore 2,144 acres of valuable remote island habitat. It is a federal-state partnership between USACE and MPA, funded with a split of 65% federal and 35% state contributions. To date, the project has received \$155.8 million in federal funding.
 - **Barren Island** - Phase 1 construction, which entailed installing protective stone sills and breakwaters, is complete. Phase 2 construction began in January 2025 and is expected to last approximately three years. This phase includes the preparation of the southwest wetland to receive dredged material, the creation of two bird island habitat features for breeding birds, and improvements to the northeast stone sill. Construction of the northeast sill and bird islands, as well as installation of reef structures, is anticipated to be completed this summer. Dredging and placement of sediment from the Honga River into the southwest wetland of Barren Island is expected to begin in late 2026.
 - **James Island** - USACE awarded a \$53.8 million base contract for Phase 1 James Island construction, which began this year. This construction consists primarily of the creation of a confined sand stockpile to be used for future dike construction. Several contract options were also awarded for the construction of portions of the toe dike in the upland cell. The project team is actively working on the design for Phase 2.



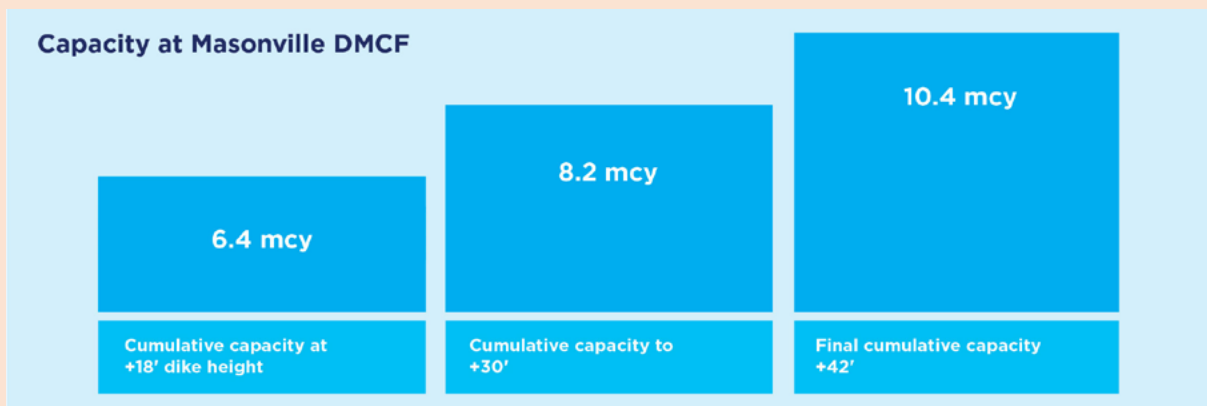
» Cox Creek DMCF

- **Expanding Capacity Responsibly:** MPA is planning for the excavation of approximately 300,000 cubic yards (cy) of clay from the upland cell of the Cox Creek DMCF, anticipated to begin later this year. Excavation will maximize available capacity at the facility and the clay will be stockpiled at the Cox Creek STAR Facility. This clay will be used to raise the dikes to +80 feet at the Cox Creek DMCF and have a value of up to \$10 million in saved material costs.

- **Innovating in Water Quality:** As part of MPA's commitment to science-based, environmentally responsible management, NIS is exploring the use of a nature-based solution called biochar as a water quality treatment method at its DMCFs when discharge permit requirements are not met. Biochar, a carbon-rich material produced by heating organic matter, has shown promise as a natural filtration medium that can improve water quality. A recent literature review and evaluation of other potential filter amendments identified the most effective biochar blends. These findings informed recommendations for the development of a comprehensive "treatment train" to address water quality at DMCFs.
- **Habitat Restoration Underway:** The Board of Public Works approved MPA's request for the Genesee Valley Outdoor Learning Center conservation easement for a wetland mitigation and habitat restoration project related to the +60 feet dike raising at Cox Creek DMCF. With final approval from USACE, a construction contract was awarded in February. Construction started in early May and will last about seven months, with MPA responsible for long-term maintenance and monitoring of the site.
- **Swan Creek Nature Trail:** Working closely with the Cox Creek Citizens Oversight Committee, MPA has made exciting progress on the Swan Creek Nature Trail adjacent to the Cox Creek DMCF. This trail will create an approximately two-mile loop through the forest conservation easement area, providing access for surrounding communities and outdoor recreation and education opportunities. The design is complete; contracting and permitting are in progress, and construction is expected to begin this fall. Trail construction is being carefully planned to protect sensitive wildlife species. The trail is expected to open to the public in 2027.

» Masonville DMCF and Masonville Cove

- **Capacity Expansion Progress:** The design to raise the dike to +42 feet is complete, and the necessary permit from the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) was approved in January. Solicitation for construction bids was advertised in March, and a contract award is expected in June. The final elevation of +42 feet will result in the site gaining approximately 2.2 mcy of capacity.



- **Connecting Communities to Masonville Cove:** As the nation's first Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership, Masonville Cove is an educational and recreational treasure in South Baltimore, but it can be hard to access. Consistent with its promise to restore access to the waterfront, MPA and its partners developed design concepts to construct a shared-use path connecting Masonville Cove to the adjacent communities. In April, after thorough consideration of multiple concepts and consultations with stakeholders, a final concept was selected and is progressing to 30% design. The Masonville Cove Connector will increase safe and equitable access to the site and serve as an important link to over 20 miles of regional trails, providing walking and biking connectivity to dozens of neighborhoods, a regional hospital, and wellness facilities. To date, \$2.8 million of funding has been secured from the Federal Highway Administration Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. MPA has submitted additional proposals for construction funding.

» Hart-Miller Island

- **A Treasured State Park:** For management purposes, HMI is divided into two sections known as the north cell and south cell. The south cell is managed by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) as Hart-Miller Island State Park. The park reopened to visitors for recreational use on May 1, marking the 10th anniversary of the south cell of the island opening to the public. The Friends of HMI received funding from the Chesapeake Bay Trust and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to support two seasons of summer programming. This includes partnerships with the National Aquarium, the Baltimore County Sailing Center, the Maryland Waterways Foundation, and other community organizations to promote outreach initiatives, camping activities, educational programs, and trash cleanup events.
- **Planning for North Cell Closure:** Working in partnership with the DNR and the HMI Citizens Oversight Committee, MPA is developing a plan for the HMI north cell habitat development to select and document the path forward from one of the proposed closure options by September 30, 2026. MPA will facilitate at least three engagement sessions with relevant stakeholders, collecting input and successfully advancing the proposed path forward through the DMMP framework for review and approval.

» Paul S. Sarbanes Ecosystem Restoration Project at Poplar Island

- **International Model for Habitat Restoration in Action:** Providing essential, long-term capacity for dredged material, Poplar Island is known globally for the beneficial use of dredged material to restore habitat. The science and engineering pioneered at the 1,715-acre Poplar Island now informs the development of the Mid-Bay Project. Poplar Island provides 71.1 mcy of capacity, and the most recent inflow of dredged material began in April.
- **A Hub for Research:** Research continues at Poplar Island, and recent data show that the restored marshes are demonstrating resilience to sea level rise, reinforcing recommendations to prioritize nature-based, climate-resilient solutions for coastal restoration. Other scientific studies currently underway at Poplar Island include examinations of best practices for wetland restoration, carbon sequestration, nutrient cycling, oyster spat viability, native fish utilization, and long-term ecological resilience.

» Virginia Bay Enhancement Working Group

- **Exploring Capacity Options:** MPA is re-engaging the VA BEWG to refine the list of suitable, cost-effective dredged material placement options for the Virginia Channels leading to the Port of Baltimore, including BU. As part of this effort, USACE initiated a “Planning Assistance to the State” study to address data gaps related to BU and dredged material management in Virginia, which will help the VA BEWG evaluate promising options. The VA BEWG remains active with a full committee meeting anticipated in August. By December, the results of meeting deliberations and input from USACE will inform the refined list of suitable, cost-effective dredged material placement options for material from the York Spit Channel.

» Sustainable Operations

- **Reducing Hydrocarbon Reliance:** As part of its commitment to environmental stewardship by reducing air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), NIS is investigating opportunities to expand its use of electronic vehicles and machines with small engines like weed whackers, mowers, and other outdoor power equipment.





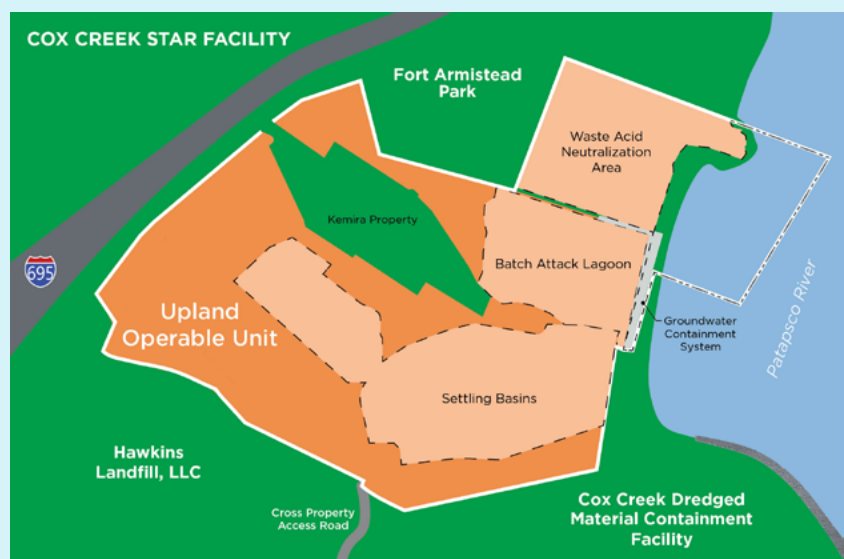
Innovation: Innovative Reuse and Beneficial Use

MPA's longstanding commitment to science-based, environmentally sound, and innovative approaches to dredged material management underpins the economic vitality of the region. A decade of strategic consideration has positioned NIS at the forefront of the research, development, and implementation of transformational IR and BU solutions.

» A New Center for Innovation: Cox Creek Sediment Technology and Reuse Facility

IR transforms dredged material into a valuable resource for environmental restoration and commercial applications. The Cox Creek STAR Facility has become the dedicated processing site for dredged material and will serve as the hub for future large-scale IR operations. MPA is making significant progress on site remediation and development.

- Phased Scale-Up:** MPA has developed a comprehensive master plan outlining both short-term and long-term strategies for the operation and utilization of the Cox Creek STAR Facility while remediating the site from the impacts of past industrial activities. A phased remediation plan will allow completed areas to be used while advancing the site towards full development. The first remediated 26-acre parcel is expected to begin supporting IR activities this year. Once fully remediated in 2032, up to 90% of the entire property may be dedicated to advancing the IR and BU program.



- Planning for Full-Scale IR:** Through the issuance of a Request for Information, MPA has sought to gauge market interest and capability to perform large-scale IR of dredged material at the Cox Creek STAR Facility and has received six responses. Respondents provided detailed proposals outlining operational methods, implementation strategies, production rates, development timelines, cost estimates, and any anticipated environmental impacts or mitigation strategies. MPA is currently reviewing the responses to inform full-scale IR operations. The initial assessment of the technical and operational feasibility will allow later evaluation phases to examine broader considerations and inform projected timelines for design, construction, and full-scale deployment.

» Strategic Capacity Recovery

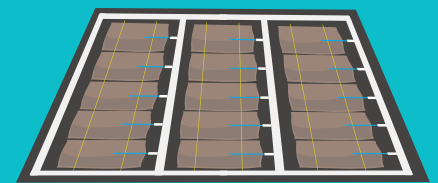
- Creating New Capacity:** The Cox Creek DMCF now serves as more than a storage location for dredged material. With the development of the adjacent Cox Creek STAR Facility, the DMCF also functions as a source of dredged material that can be dried and reused in IR and BU projects. Increasing volumes of dredged material will be reclaimed from the DMCF, dried, and become available for IR and BU projects, creating additional capacity for incoming material dredged from Harbor channels.

- **Reclaimed Capacity:** In SFY 2026, the first year of this ramp up, approximately 4,000 cy of dredged material has been reclaimed. A request for proposals (RFP) was advertised in February seeking a contractor to recover up to 50,000 cy of material from the Cox Creek DMCF. A contract has been awarded with work anticipated to begin by mid-July 2026.

» Drying at Scale

- **Current Geotube Use:** Geotubes located within the upland cell of the Cox Creek DMCF are being used to dry approximately 145,000 cy of material dredged from Colgate Creek, a tributary located between the Seagirt and Dundalk Marine Terminals. Once dried, the dredged material will be reused at MPA facilities, supporting sustainable material management practices and reducing overall project costs. The material may also be made available for reuse in other projects.
- **Optimizing Geotube Effectiveness:** MPA has recently completed Phase II testing of geotube fabrics and sediment-clumping additives to determine the most effective combination for accelerating the drying of dredged material. MPA is reviewing the results and recommendations to be used in a potential full-scale pilot study, which would inform the design and best practices for a full-scale drying program.
- **New Geotube Field:** The results of these pilot projects are informing planning and best practices for a 7-acre geotube drying field at the Cox Creek STAR Facility. This location offers a strategic advantage: allowing dredged material to be hydraulically pumped directly from the DMCF cell into geotubes, eliminating the need for hauling and expediting the availability of material for IR and BU end-use. Once operational, the geotube field is expected to facilitate the drying of 15,000 cy of material from the DMCF by mid-2027, integral to MPA's planned scale-up schedule for reclaiming capacity from the Cox Creek DMCF.

Geotubes are durable, high-strength tubes made of heavy duty fabric commonly used to dry sediment, like dredged material. Acting like strainers, they hold dredged sediment inside while allowing excess water to drain through tiny pores.



» IR Research and Development Projects

- **Final Project Results Deliver:** The first half of 2026 delivered the results from the final two IR research and development projects, bringing the total number of project results to nine. These projects explored products like manufactured bricks, soil reengineered for sod growth, dredged material incorporated into concrete mixtures, and the use of dredged material as a lightweight aggregate (LWA), demonstrating potential for large-scale implementation. The results from the final two projects include:
 - HarborRock presented findings about the feasibility of using dredged material in the production of LWA and supplementary cementitious material and demonstrated the high potential for using Baltimore Harbor dredged material in these two promising applications for sustainable construction materials.
 - The University of Maryland presented findings of their investigation using dredged material combined with other materials (including recycled glass aggregates, sand, and wheat straw) in the construction of vegetated earthen berms. These berms act as living engineered systems that naturally manage and treat stormwater runoff.
- **Leading Innovation in IR:** The nine research studies have informed the field of possibilities for a full-scale IR program and are key assets that have established MPA as a national leader in exploring innovative dredged material management solutions. This research and development program is at the center of sustainable, science-based, best practice development and is commonly highlighted in industry and university level education programs about dredging as an example of cutting edge research.

9 IR R&D
projects
completed

» BU Fueling Action

- **New Partnership to Develop BU Guidance:** MPA has formed a BU Subcommittee under the BEWG to develop a set of recommendations for more transparent and predictable guidance to implement BU of dredged material in Baltimore Harbor. The Subcommittee brings together a diverse group of stakeholders, including regulatory and resource agencies, environmental nonprofits, local public agencies, private engineering firms, academic experts, and beneficial use practitioners. The Subcommittee's report of findings will be issued before the end of the year. By actively engaging stakeholders to revisit and refine the MDE Innovative Reuse and Beneficial Use Guidance Document, with a particular focus on the BU sections, MPA seeks to provide recommendations that clarify and streamline the permitting process, ultimately facilitating more widespread BU of Harbor dredged material.



Stewardship: Engagement and Education

» Engagement

MPA outreach efforts continue to prioritize environmental justice, diverse representation reflecting the communities it serves, and raising awareness about the Port. MPA fosters meaningful dialogue with a wide range of constituents, including elected officials, public interest organizations, and local communities, to build a better understanding of the complexities of dredged material management and the need for long-term planning.

- **Outreach and Education Events This Year:** So far in 2026, NIS education and outreach efforts have resulted in nearly 9,000 engagements, including interactions with over 7,700 students from 258 class groups.
- **Strategic Stakeholder Engagement:** NIS staff are implementing the Environmental Protection Agency's Good Neighbor Roadmap, part of the Ports Initiative Community-Port Collaboration Toolkit. This framework is designed to help port operators and near-port communities build productive relationships, reduce pollution, and collaboratively address environmental justice concerns. MPA is using the results of this to fine-tune messaging, update materials, and prioritize stakeholder engagement efforts.
- **Get the Scoop on Dredging:** MPA is continuing its "Get the Scoop on Dredging" outreach events, proactively providing communities with background information about dredging, MPA's science-based approach to dredged material management, and specific project updates. Alongside technical partners, MPA has hosted two of these hands-on events in 2026: one in March in Essex, and another in Anne Arundel County in June. Attendees received behind-the-scenes looks into the science and strategy behind dredging in Maryland and engaged in discussions with dredging experts exploring how dredged material is managed, tested, and reused sustainably.

Mid-Chesapeake Bay Island Ecosystem Restoration Project

- **Engagement Yields Community-Led Initiatives:** MPA continues its active public outreach and stakeholder engagement in communities near the Mid-Bay Project as the construction and design of Barren and James Islands advance. Throughout the first half of 2026, targeted efforts have led to active coordination with local water users and watermen regarding construction safety zones at both Barren and James Islands.
- **Working with Community Leaders:** Now in its third year, the Mid-Bay Community Stakeholder Group, a consortium of individuals representing the Dorchester County community, is generating new ideas and contributing meaningfully to local engagement strategies. MPA is working closely with community leaders to develop outreach approaches tailored to the region's unique perspectives.



Masonville Cove

- **Engaging Community Members:** In the first half of 2026, the Masonville Cove Environmental Education Center operated in partnership with Living Classrooms Foundation, National Aquarium, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Friends of Masonville Cove, drew nearly 5,000 visitors. The partnership has made notable progress in enhancing the inclusivity of its programs, strengthening volunteer opportunities, and greening the campus.
- **Sharing Community Engagement Best Practices:** Fresh off its recent designation as a Chesapeake Gateways site, Masonville Cove took the stage at the 2026 Chesapeake Gateways Annual Partner Meeting in Charlottesville, Virginia. At this National Park Service (NPS) gathering, the Masonville Cove team was invited to present as subject matter experts in co-design to partners from across the region showcasing successes in strengthening connections and exploring new ways to link communities with the Chesapeake's history, landscapes, and waterways. Beyond presenting, MPA staff built relationships with fellow Gateways partners, engaged with NPS resources, and contributed to conversations about reimagining the traditional park model as a watershed-wide network of interconnected sites.
- **Planning for Equitable Engagement:** The Masonville Cove Partners completed a new 2026-2030 strategic plan, incorporating community feedback to ensure equitable participation. Volunteer engagement and community investment have grown significantly thanks to enhanced programming led by the Friends of Masonville Cove and increased involvement from residents.

Volunteer Friends Groups Strengthen Engagement Opportunities

- **Formalizing the Friends of Masonville Cove:** The Friends of Masonville Cove group recently obtained its Articles of Incorporation from the State of Maryland, establishing it as a legal entity, and is seeking non-profit status from the IRS. The group has also elected its inaugural Board of Directors, demonstrating a strong and growing commitment to the Masonville Cove mission.
- **Friends Groups Secure Support:** Working in partnership with the Friends of HMI, the Friends of Masonville Cove continue to deliver meaningful results. The two groups have been awarded a \$200,000 grant through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Chesapeake Watershed Investments for Landscape Defense (WILD) program to expand stewardship efforts, strengthen environmental education, and advance conservation of critical habitat at both Masonville Cove and HMI. The grant will also fund a new coordinator position for each site's Friends group. These coordinators will play key roles in organizing programs, supporting volunteers, strengthening partnerships, and increasing the organizational capacity of both Friends groups.

» Education

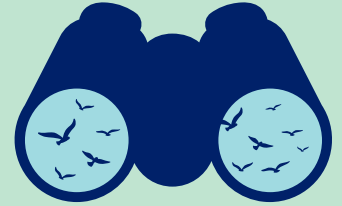
MPA continues to champion environmental education through impactful programs that inspire future stewards and industry leaders.

- **Terrapin Program Update:** For over 20 years, the Terrapin Education and Research Partnership (TERP) program at Poplar Island has been connecting students to conservation through hands-on, cross-curricular learning. Throughout the 2025-26 school year, 182 hatchlings were given a head start by being placed in classrooms and education centers, where students cared for them and prepared them for release into the wild. In May and June, nearly 750 students participated in release field trips to Poplar Island.

This year, the TERP program introduced Dr. Tallulah Terrapin, a lively new avatar bringing a sense of fun to student, educator, and community engagement. Look for Dr. Terrapin on social media @terrapiatales1706.



- **Summer Internship Program Returns:** MPA is again partnering with the National Links Foundation to host the Masonville Cove Links WildSTEM Summer Internship, supported by a \$30,000 grant from the Keith Campbell Foundation. Recruitment and planning are underway, with hands-on support from the Links. The program invites four college interns to explore conservation careers from any major, including non-traditional college majors, providing exposure to conservation career paths, practical experience, and a pathway for future conservation careers and leadership opportunities.
- **Youth Birding Camp Expands:** Youth Birding Camp will return for two weeks this summer. This successful annual tradition is adding educational units about how habitat restoration benefits bird populations to supplement the existing program's focus on birding and visits to DMMP sites. While based out of Masonville Cove, participants will enjoy trips and learn from expert birders at various DMMP sites like HMI and Poplar Island.



» Workforce Development

MPA prioritizes workforce development to expand opportunity and ensure a skilled, resilient maritime workforce for the future.

- **Supporting Hiring in the Maritime Industry:** Presenting its largest event to date, the Baltimore Port Alliance hosted its eighth Hiring & Career Expo with support from MPA and industry professionals. This event brought together 39 employers who shared job openings at all levels and conducted interviews for positions requiring a range of education and professional experience. Together, they met over 380 job-seekers who learned about job openings, submitted resumes, and were pre-screened/interviewed.
 - Exit survey responses revealed that 92% of employers met candidates they are likely to follow up with for interviews and/or offers.
 - 96% of job seekers would recommend the event to others.
- **New Partnership:** MPA is hosting a Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps member who will support the Friends Groups at HMI and Masonville Cove. The Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps, now in partnership with Maryland Corps/Service Year Option, is a workforce development program that increases access and opportunities to green careers across the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Participants are provided with hands-on environmental and leadership experience, training, and a support network, and are placed with nonprofit or government agencies throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed for a one-year term of service.



Masonville CAC meeting



Youth Birding Camp