

**SUMMARY OF THE
MASONVILLE CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING (MCAC)
August 5, 2025, 5:30 PM - Hybrid Meeting**

Attendees:

Baltimore City Department of Public Works (DPW): Darryn Mobley
Baltimore Office of Sustainability: Natalie Cohen
Canton Kayak Club: Carissa Nichols, Ray Scurr
Curtis Bay Community: Rodette Jones
Friends of Masonville Cove: Jason Brannock
Living Classrooms Foundation (LCF): Grace DeLuca
Masonville Cove-Links WildSTEM and Mentor: Mofiyinfoluwa Ajao, LaTanyah Baptiste, Jermaine Simmons, Kadija Ndiaye
Maryland Geological Survey (MGS): Anna Gillmor
Maryland Port Administration (MPA): Rachael Gilde, Danielle Fisher, Kelvin Moulden, Darren Swift
Maryland Environmental Service (MES): Dallas Henson
MCAC Chair: Anita Kestel
MCAC Facilitator: Dr. Mamie Parker
National Aquarium (NA): Greg Atkin
Riviera Beach Community: Karen Wanner
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service(USFWS): Dr. Ela-Sita Carpenter
Waterfront Partnership of Baltimore, Inc.: Adam Lindquist

Action Items:

- MPA will add the Waterfront Partnership of Baltimore (WPOB) and the Baltimore by Baltimore September event to the LCF Masonville Cove monthly newsletter.

1.0 Welcome & Review of Previous Action Items

**Dr. Mamie Parker, Facilitator
Anita Kestel, MCAC Chair**

All meeting materials can be found here: [MCAC Share Drive](#). Dr. Parker convened the meeting on behalf of Chairman Kestel, followed by introductions. Ms. Kestel later requested feedback on a motion to approve the May 6, 2025, MCAC meeting summary. The Committee accepted the summary as final. Action items from the May 2025 meeting were all ongoing or otherwise completed.

2.0 Office of Navigation, Innovation and Stewardship Updates

**Darren Swift, MPA
Kelvin Moulden, MPA**

Mr. Swift provided MPA updates on construction activities around the Masonville Cove Dredged Material Containment Facility (DMCF). Construction work to raise the height of the dike to +30 feet is ahead of schedule despite delays from high volumes of rain and is anticipated to be completed by early Fall 2025. The +42 feet dike design work has been completed, and MPA is assembling the contract for the project. The anticipated date for the project advertisement is February/March 2026, with the goal of construction starting in July/August 2026. The +42 feet dike height will be the final elevation of the DMCF.

Mr. Swift also noted that Masonville will receive an inflow of about 350,000 cubic yards (cy) of dredged material from the Tradepoint Atlantic Sparrows Point project.

As a follow-up to a previous request from the MCAC, MPA reached out to the State Highway Administration (SHA), the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), and Baltimore City DOT,

about adding brown cultural signs to advertise Masonville Cove on Interstate-895 (I-895). The team is considering options for the signs, one of which is to incorporate the logo.

In a previous meeting, members requested to hear more about the ongoing Innovative Reuse and Beneficial Use (IRBU) program. Therefore, Mr. Moulden discussed the importance of developing innovative ways to reuse dredged material due to limited land capacity around the harbor and addressed ongoing IRBU projects. Cox Creek is the main hub for the IRBU program. Innovative Reuse (IR) takes suitable and tested dredged material to create commercial products. Some previously conducted IR projects include cement and bricks derived from dredged material. Beneficial Use (BU) is taking dredged material and using it in applications such as marsh replenishment and shoreline stabilization. The IR/BU strategy document guides the IRBU program and is updated by the Innovative Reuse Committee (IRC).

A new method of IR is currently being used as a part of the Colgate Creek dredging project located between Seagirt and Dundalk Marine Terminals and involves dredging approximately 170,000 cy of material. This material will then be placed into geotextile tubes, which accelerates the dewatering process of the material and allows for faster reuse. This is the first time this method of direct into geotubes (DIG) is being used on a larger scale. Ms. Kestel asked if the geotubes would be cut open to use the material or if they could be transported and used as is. Mr. Moulden noted a similar project with the BGE Spring Gardens facility, where geotubes were used directly to stabilize a shoreline and were vegetated with native plants. Mr. Swift clarified that the DIG process will be used because of limited capacity at the DMCFs around the harbor for the material. All the work with the geotubes will take place in the upland cell at Cox Creek, and there will be an opportunity to tour the area at the Cox Creek open house. Mr. Moulden clarified Mr. Scurr's question concerning the size of the geotubes, which can range from 75-100 ft long and are 10 ft in diameter. The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has utilized geotubes along the eastern seaboard to stabilize shorelines along beaches that have eroded.

Once the dredged material is dried, MPA is looking to remove it from Cox Creek to be utilized in IRBU projects in other locations due to capacity constraints. One potential IRBU project is at the Baltimore Peninsula, which needs about 700,000 cy of material to be used as fill material at the old Baltimore Sun printing facility. Another potential location is the BGE Riverside Station, which is seeking backfill to replace contaminated soil that the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) requires BGE to remove. This would require approximately 20,000 cubic yards of dredged material. Ms. Kestel inquired about using dredged material for the new Key Bridge construction, to which Mr. Moulden confirmed that MPA has not been approached about using material for the project. A third location that could be used for dredged material reuse is a wetland restoration project outside of the MedStar Harbor Hospital. The project was delayed due to the loss of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant funding. However, when it enters phase II, there may be a need for dredged material. Other MPA-owned facilities could receive dredged material as well. The Kurt Iron Slip at Masonville Cove could accept up to 60,000 cy of material. The Hawkins Point DMCF can accept about 44,000 cy of material, which would close out that location. MPA is also looking to create a dewatering field at the Cox Creek STAR Facility, which would involve pumping dredged material from the Cox Creek DMCF directly into geotubes (DIG) at STAR. The dried material would be stored there and available on demand for users.

Additionally, an ongoing pilot project is investigating combinations of geotextile fabrics and polymers for improved dewatering efficacy. Ms. Cohen asked if there are standards MPA dredged material must meet for project use. Mr. Moulden stated that the material must meet the standards that are outlined in MDE's IRBU Guidance Document. The material is categorized on a scale of one to four, with one being unrestricted use and four being not eligible for reuse or hazardous. MPA does not accept any hazardous

material at any of the DMCF's. For the IRBU program, the majority of the material is categorized as a one or a two.

There are multiple IR projects taking place currently as a part of the MPA request for proposals (RFP).

- HarborRock is looking at creating lightweight aggregates that can be used for construction projects.
- Northgate Environmental Management is looking at supplementary cementitious materials, or substitutes for cement that require less energy.
- The University of Maryland is looking at creating vegetated earth berms, which can be used to control drainage and stabilize land along roadways.

The Stoney Beach living shoreline project was a community-led project where MPA provided dredged material, which was placed along the community's shoreline and planted with native grasses. Another project using dredged material involved the filling of degraded spots on roads at Masonville Cove along the "claw" road. Similarly, material was used to resurface a road, which will eventually be used as a part of the Swan Creek nature trail at Cox Creek.

Mr. Moulden also shared an updated project schedule for the Masonville Cove Connector (MCC). The MCC team is communicating with various State and City offices to ensure coordination of efforts due to multiple planned projects within the same space. Updates on this schedule and coordination have also been shared with the Federal Highway Administration (FHA), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the National Park Service (NPS). The MCC project may qualify for the Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments, and Households Act (ENOUGH) Grant Program. If awarded, this could assist with navigating barriers to implementation, coordinating amongst agencies, and accelerating the overall process.

3.0 Masonville Cove-Links WildSTEM Internship Program

Rachael Gilde, MPA

Ms. Gilde described that the Masonville Cove Links WildSTEM internship program brings together students from a wide range of college majors to learn about careers in conservation. The 2025 interns were introduced to the committee and were encouraged to share information about themselves and their experience. Mr. Simmons is a rising senior studying data science at Coppin State University. Ms. Baptiste is a rising senior majoring in biology at Bowie State University. Ms. Ajao is a rising junior majoring in biological science with a minor in environmental science at the University of Maryland of Baltimore County (UMBC). Ms. Adija is a rising junior at Coppin State University, majoring in management information systems.

In past years, students with educational focuses, including law enforcement and business, have participated in the program. The program focuses on helping interns develop essential soft skills, personal branding, and projects tailored to Masonville Cove. Networking and mentorship opportunities were also provided to the interns, and they had the opportunity to meet with the acting director of the USFWS, David Miko, and discussed how conservation supports the economy. The interns explored other conservation spaces in the area as well, including the National Aquarium Harbor Wetland, Patuxent Research Refuge, and The Environment at Kings Eye (TEKE). The interns also provided support for programs at Masonville Cove, including the pollinator garden workshop, family fishing nights, and the Living Classrooms Foundation's (LCF) Baltimore Environmental Education Superhero (BEES) program. The 2025 cohort led an "intern-takeover" of the August Masonville Cove Newsletter contributing all of the articles and photos. Ms. Gilde announced that interns are supporting enhancements that will result from Masonville Cove's recent designation as a Chesapeake Gateway Network Site by the National Park Service, which will open up more opportunities for people to utilize the space.

An upcoming project supported and designed by the interns at Masonville Cove is the installation of a nature play area, funded by the Brown Advisory. Camp Small will install the play area on August 6th and is known for their installations of Baltimore City school nature play spaces and exhibits at the Maryland Zoo using sustainably sourced trees. Another project completed by the interns was the portable Friends of Masonville exhibit “to-go”, which can be used in a variety of locations to help with the recruitment of new Friends group members. The interns also got to work with Ultimate Water Sports to explore the Baltimore Blue Way Masonville Cove trail and worked toward implementing kayak amenity enhancements that were recommended by the MCAC. Finally, the interns were able to support the USFWS mammal monitoring efforts on campus by installing game cameras to capture which mammal species are utilizing the space and analyzing data in the context of previous monitoring events.

4.0 DPW Construction Updates

Darryn Mobley, DPW

Mr. Mobley is the current project manager of the Replacement of the Southwest Diversion Pressure Sewer project. This project was identified in 2009 when a report by Baltimore City evaluated the condition of the sewer design. The current sewer runs under the CSX's Curtis Bay Rail Yard and was built in the early 1970's. Sections of the sewer that are gravity fit are experiencing significant strain, including corrosion, loss of internal pipe diameter, and potential failure points. Evaluation and maintenance of the current sewer system is difficult and could be catastrophic during an emergency due to the level of coordination that would be required between the city of Baltimore and CSX for access.

The current alignment for the new sewer includes it running along Frankfurst Avenue. Stakeholders involved in this project have changed over time, which requires updated contact information and right-of-entry agreements with current property owners. The original alignment for the sewer came through Potee Street to 2nd Street. It was not feasible to move the project forward with this alignment without disturbing the residents in that area significantly, and obtaining the right-of-entry was difficult. This led to the project being broken into two phases.

Phase I will only have impacts along Frankfurst Avenue and continues to be modified. A modification was made to limit the extent of the project eastward on Shell Road to avoid impacting stakeholders and MDTA access concerns. Phase I of the project now involves installing 7,000 linear feet of 102-inch sewer pipe along Frankfurst Avenue on the westbound lane. Some of the work outlined for Phase I was eliminated due to the inability to obtain a right-of-entry agreement for two properties. Access manholes will be installed roughly every 1500 feet on Shell Road as a part of the project. The advertisement for this work is forecasted to start by September 2025 but may start later in the fall. The project will be awarded during the winter of 2026, allowing for the notice to proceed (NTP) to occur in spring 2026. Construction is anticipated to take 2.5 years, and all traffic will be shifted to the southbound lane on Frankfurst Avenue. DPW is eager to initiate the project, as funding has been secured. Phase II is expected to be advertised in the spring of 2026. Phase II involves reconnecting to the existing sewer on Chesapeake Avenue on the east and on Potee Street on the west. The alignment within Phase II is still being determined due to utility conflicts.

DPW's goal is to minimize impacts to Masonville Cove and the construction going on there. The priority will be for the project to start under the I-895 interchange. The westbound side of the road will be resurfaced and repaired as part of DPW's project. Ms. Kestel inquired about only the westbound side of the road being resurfaced. Mr. Mobley explained that the southside has been resurfaced more recently, so only the westbound side will be resurfaced during this project.

5.0 Friends and Partnership Updates

MPA Updates, Friends Updates & Urban Wildlife Conservation Day

Danielle Fisher, MPA

Ms. Fisher highlighted the designation of Masonville Cove as a Chesapeake Gateways Network Site and noted that more information would follow about celebrating this award. Chesapeake Gateways is a program by the NPS that provides opportunities to raise awareness about Masonville Cove and other sites to communities throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed, also fostering connections between these sites.

MPA hosted an event at Masonville Cove with the South Baltimore Community Land Trust. This organization utilized the meeting room for a team-building session centered around pollinator gardens. MPA reminded partners and committee members that the campus could be used for community events. Urban Wildlife Conservation Day (UWCD) is scheduled for Saturday, September 20, 2025, from 9AM-2PM. This event showcases everything Masonville Cove has to offer and will host many activities including kayaking, arts and crafts, tables set up by community partners, and food. NA will be hosting a bio blitz, and there will also be animal presentations.

Friends of Masonville Cove submitted a \$200,000 grant to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) in partnership with the Friends group of Hart-Miller Island (HMI). If awarded, the grant will fund a Friends coordinator position for Masonville Cove and HMI. The summer Friends meeting is scheduled for August 20, 2025, and will be an opportunity to share ideas and give updates. The Friends group of Gwynn's Falls/Leakin Park were invited to attend the summer meeting. It is a continuation of learning about other Friends groups and how they approach organization, along with funding opportunities and mechanisms.

National Aquarium (NA)

Greg Atkin, NA

Mr. Atkin gave updates on the recent work NA has done with Masonville Cove. NA hosted the Climate Crew Network (CCN), which is composed of multiple local workforce development programs such as Grow Home, 6th Meadow, and more. These groups had 15-30 youth come to Masonville for a trash cleanup, which collected 400 pounds of debris in about 2 hours. The experience went so well that the CCN will be back to do another clean up and the organization will be leading it themselves. The NA also did a tour of Masonville Cove with Leaders for Environmental Action Fellowship (LEAF), which is their internship program. They brought about 25 kids to tour the campus, learn about Captain Trash wheel, and spent some time outside.

Upcoming NA projects and events include Latino Conservation Day (LCD), BioBlitz at UWCD, and outdoor theatre with Chesapeake Shakespeare Company at Masonville Cove. NA partners with Templo de Alabanza y Restauracion (TAYR) which hosts many cleanups in the neighborhood. The NA will host LCD events with TAYR this year on two separate days, where around 300 people will be given free tours, free admission to the aquarium, and a culturally competent lunch. The NA will also be hosting a BioBlitz event at the Urban Wildlife Conservation Day. NA field staff are planning to set traps for turtles the night before the event to have animals to show visitors. The Chesapeake Shakespeare Company (CSC) will also take six scenes from Shakespeare and set them in nature at Masonville Cove. This event will take place on October 25, 2025. Additional information about these NA events can be found in the upcoming newsletter.

Living Classrooms Foundation (LCF)

Grace Deluca, LCF

Ms. Deluca provided updates on LCF's Baltimore Environmental Education Superheroes (BEES) summer program, which focuses on children in first through fifth grade. This five week program offers both science

themes and social-emotional learning qualities that change on a weekly basis. Activities for the program include science experiments, crafts, nature exploration, reading, and journaling. Partners such as Nature Worx, the Masonville Cove Links WildSTEM interns, and the NOVA Institute supported various activities for the BEES program this summer. Recently, LCF was awarded a BC.CAMP Grant, which supports outreach efforts at local rec centers. These events will be happening over the next few weeks and will include science activities related to our Chesapeake Bay watershed.

U.S Fish and Wildlife Service

Dr. Ela-Sita Carpenter, USFWS

Dr. Carpenter provided updates on recent wildlife monitoring efforts. Spring bird banding has wrapped up since the last meeting, and the data from the Masonville Cove bird banding station can be found at <https://www.trektellen.org/>. 532 individual birds were banded, comprising 53 different species. A new component of the wildlife management plan at Masonville Cove will be conducting milkweed surveys. MPA is interested in assessing the current amount of monarch habitat at Masonville. Dr. Carpenter has been evaluating milkweed plants around campus to determine the locations where monarchs are utilizing them on campus.

The Masonville Cove Links WildSTEM interns supported USFWS wildlife monitoring efforts, including milkweed surveys, trail camera surveys, and learning about bat monitoring. Dr. Carpenter also collaborated with the interns on the development of a future wildlife kayaking event. The USFWS collaborated with Baltimore Greenspace and the WildSTEM interns to host a container pollinator garden workshop, and the First Friday fishing events have been a success this year. Upcoming wildlife events at MC include fall bird banding, Urban Wildlife Conservation Day, Bat Week walks in October, and Mammals of Masonville Cove surveys. A piping plover, which is a federally listed endangered species, was also spotted at Masonville Cove recently.

6.0 Waterfront Partnership of Baltimore Vision for 2025

Adam Lindquist, WPOB

Mr. Lindquist is the Vice President of the Waterfront Partnership of Baltimore (WPOB), a non-profit group focused on activating and elevating the Inner Harbor of Baltimore as a recreational space. The target area includes the Inner Harbor to Fells Point, Harbor East, and Harbor Point. WPOB's mission is to create a beautiful waterfront in the city of Baltimore through community. One of the primary objectives of WPOB is the Healthy Harbor Initiative, which seeks to clean up the Inner Harbor and make it safe for swimming and fishing. In 2024, 150 people jumped into the harbor to spread awareness of this initiative. Mr. Lindquist is also one of the co-creators of Mr. Trash Wheel and contributed to the aesthetic design and social media mission of this project. The goal of the Mr. Trash Wheel project was to raise awareness about the impact trash and litter have on local waterways.

WPOB also operates the Baltimore Oyster Partnership, which cultivates oysters in the Baltimore Harbor. Around 500,000 oysters are grown in cages throughout the Harbor annually. After the oysters grow in the harbor for 9 months, they are transplanted to an oyster reef sanctuary on Fort Carroll. This project is expanding with the goal of increasing the number of oysters by one million per year for five years. Volunteers are essential for this program, from engaging the public to maintaining the oyster cages. There are volunteer events every Saturday at Port Covington Marina to perform maintenance on the oyster cages.

WPOB also hosts the Baltimore by Baltimore event series, where on the first Saturday of each month during the good weather season, a community event is held at the Inner Harbor amphitheater. The next

event will be on September 6, 2025, from 2PM-8PM and will be Mr. Trash Wheel themed. The event will focus on environmental sustainability in Baltimore and offer kayaking.

Mr. Lindquist and the meeting attendees took a walk to the shoreline area.. As a part of the walk and visit to the shoreline, kayak access and increased visibility were discussed. Topics of discussion included increased structure at the Masonville kayak landing, the feasibility of kayak rental kiosks, and updates to signage.

7.0 Adjournment

The meeting concluded with an ice cream social and an opportunity for committee members to connect. This is the final MCAC meeting of 2025, and the 2026 DMMP committee meeting schedule is currently under development.