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News from Masonville Cove Environmental Education Campus

An Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership

Open Hours: Mon-Sat 9am-4pm

Closed on Sundays



Subscribe to Newsletter

August

FREE Programming & Opportunities to Connect with Nature

Email events@masonvillecove.org for more information or visit

[Masonvillecove.org/events](https://masonvillecove.org/events) to pre-register.



MASONVILLE COVE PARTNERSHIP COMMUNITY EVENTS AUGUST 2026 FREE AND OPEN TO GENERAL PUBLIC

8/1
GUIDED NATURE WALK 10-11:30AM

Join for a guided walk around campus! There is always something new to see and learn about as seasons change. Registration required.

8/7
**FIRST FRIDAY:
FAMILY FISHING EVENING
5-7:30PM**

Have you ever wondered who is swimming in the Cove? Spend an evening with us on the pier and enjoy guided fishing lessons for those wanting to learn how to fish! All fishing supplies are available to lend. Registration required.

8/8
SHORELINE CLEAN UP 1:30-2:30PM

Community Shoreline Clean-Up Make Captain Trash Wheel proud and help clean up the shoreline at Masonville

8/15
NATURE FOR KIDS 10AM-11AM

Join us for a fun program with a craft inspired by nature! Registration required.

8/22
**WATER QUALITY/CLIMATE CHANGE
SCIENCE 1:30-3PM**

Join us in becoming a water scientist for a day! Learn what it takes to be a water scientist and help with climate change impact data collection! Registration required.

VISIT [MASONVILLECOVE.ORG/EVENTS](https://masonvillecove.org/events)
FOR MORE INFO AND FREE REGISTRATION



SCAN ME

Para Español



YOGA @ THE COVE

MASONVILLE COVE



PARTNERSHIP

FIRST FRIDAY SPECIALS
6:00PM TO 7:30PM

1000 FRANKFURST AVE
BALTIMORE, MD 21226

TAKE A MOMENT TO RELAX, UNWIND, AND REJUVENATE WITH A FREE YOGA OR SOUND MEDITATION SESSION AT MASONVILLE COVE. ALL LEVELS ARE WELCOME—WHETHER YOU'RE A BEGINNER OR EXPERIENCED YOGI. LED BY KATIE DETRICH, YOU'LL ENJOY SOUND HEALING AND CALMING ATMOSPHERE TO COMPLETE YOUR EXPERIENCE.





UPCOMING DATES

FRIDAY, 7/10
FRIDAY, 8/7

FREE REGISTRATION REQUIRED
WWW.MASONVILLECOVE.COM/EVENTS



Para Español



First Fridays At Masonville Cove

Date: 7/10 and 8/7
Time: 5:00PM - 7:30PM
Location: Masonville Cove
Environmental Education Center
1000 Frankfurst Ave
Baltimore, MD 21226



Family Fishing Evenings

Have you ever wondered who is swimming in the Cove? Spend an evening on the pier and enjoy guided fishing lessons for those wanting to learn how to fish! All fishing supplies will be available for free. Registration is encouraged for these free events, but walk ins are welcome.



For free registration, visit:
<https://www.masonvillecove.org/events>



Para Español



BLACK BUTTERFLY URBAN FARMER ACADEMY FIELD SCHOOL

REGISTER ON EVENTBRITE

Join the Farm Alliance of Baltimore
for hands-on, seasonally guided
urban agriculture classes at the
Black Butterfly Teaching Farm.



LEARN THE
FUNDAMENTALS OF
URBAN FARMING —
NO PRIOR EXPERIENCE
REQUIRED.

2 HOUR
CLASSES
2X A MONTH

MARCH -
NOVEMBER

FARM ALLIANCE OF BALTIMORE

BBUFA FIELD SCHOOL

Interns Takeover Again!



Welcome to the August Masonville Cove newsletter INTERN TAKEOVER EDITION!

My name is Rachael Dickey Gilde, and I coordinate the internship on behalf of the Masonville Cove Partnership. Every internship tells a story. Before you experience this year's program through the eyes of our interns in their articles, I'd like to share the story behind the Masonville Cove Links WildSTEM Internship—and why it has become so much more than a summer job.

Although Masonville Cove has offered conservation internships in various forms for years, I have had the privilege of helping lead a major evolution of the program through a multi-year partnership with The Links, Incorporated. Together, we reimagined the internship to welcome students from all academic backgrounds, reflecting the reality that conservation careers extend far beyond science alone.

The Masonville Cove Links WildSTEM Internship has grown into far more than a summer internship. It is a workforce pipeline, leadership incubator, and community impact model that combines hands-on conservation, leadership development, mentorship, community engagement, and workforce preparation.

You may be wondering—what is WildSTEM? WildSTEM is an innovative national initiative led by Dr. Mamie Parker that was launched by The Links, Incorporated and the National Wildlife Federation to increase support for

healthy environments through gardening and participation in nontraditional STEM careers, particularly among students of color. At Masonville Cove, our partnership with the Harbor City and Columbia (MD) Chapters has transformed that national vision into an extraordinary local experience.

As one of the nation's oldest and largest volunteer service organizations, The Links, Incorporated brings an unparalleled network of accomplished leaders committed to expanding opportunity. Their involvement elevates the internship through signature experiences rarely available to college students. Interns participate in meaningful conversations with conservation professionals, explore how science, partnerships, and civic engagement shape environmental policy, and take part in experiences such as Federal Executive Briefings, state leadership visits, and a capstone Internship Showcase.

By the program's conclusion, interns leave with far more than technical experience. They gain confidence, leadership skills, professional networks, and the ability to contribute meaningfully from day one. I watch interns leave inspired by the remarkable role models they meet, and just as often, I see those professionals leave inspired by the passion and potential of the interns. Witnessing that cycle of inspiration is one of the greatest privileges of my career. My hope has always been simple: to open the door to meaningful conservation careers—and then cheer them on as they create paths of their own.

- Rachael G., Maryland Port Administration



Welcoming Visitors by Land and Water: My WildSTEM Legacy



My name is Jacob Thompson and I am a junior studying environmental science and engineering at University of Delaware. As an MCL WildSTEM intern, I worked on a project for Masonville Cove to activate it as a new Chesapeake Gateways Network Place. Along the way I learned the significance of this network and I am leaving behind some site improvements that will help enhance it as a part of this wider National Park Service network.

When most people picture the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, they imagine open waters or quiet wetlands, and rarely think of the restored Masonville Cove nestled between the shipping terminals in South Baltimore. This unique identity is exactly its core value within the Chesapeake Gateways Network. The Chesapeake Gateways Network is operated by the U.S. National Park Service (NPS). It brings together a range of locations including parks, protected areas, museums, and trails to help people explore and support the watershed.

In this network of more than 200 sites, Masonville Cove has gained nation-wide visibility as a NPS-certified destination, access to NPS technical support, and become eligible to apply for competitive grants for more funding to keep investing in Masonville Cove. My project was to advance installation of signs

and visitor amenities that come along with membership in the network. It will help turn a location previously known only to industry insiders and MPA's partners into a publicly identifiable place, leaving a clear, consistent mark for casual visitors, kayakers, and school groups; indicating that this is a gateway site open to all. All gateway sites use this unified signage system, and these signs truly integrate Masonville Cove into the shared visual identity network spanning the entire watershed.

I also noticed an unintended outcome that benefits environmental justice. Masonville Cove sits on an industrial waterfront, and the surrounding communities have historically lacked consistent access to convenient green and blue space. Clear, legible signage is far more than a wayfinding tool; it is an invitation, telling neighboring residents that this restored habitat belongs to them too.

In addition to installing Chesapeake Gateways Network markers, I had the opportunity to follow through on a community-driven recommendation from the Masonville Citizens Advisory Committee: an inviting kayak flag near Captain Trashwheel. This welcomes kayakers from the water showing them where to land and begin their Masonville Cove experience.

I see the future success of Masonville Cove to be demonstrated not only by the multitude of species it supports, but also the multitude and variety of groups that are able to comfortably enter and use this space.

- Jacob T., WildSTEM

**Thanks to WildSTEM, I'm
"Hooked" on Masonville Cove**



My name is Courtney Scott, and I'm a junior studying Ecology Technology Design at the University of Maryland. If you've ever thought fishing wasn't for you, I'd like to share why my first fishing experience at Masonville Cove changed my mind.

Have you ever been fishing? No? That's okay! Here at Masonville Cove, we offer a free fishing event on first Fridays in July and August. I attended my first fishing event here at Masonville Cove on July 10th. Not only was it my first time fishing, but it was for many of our participants as well. This event and Masonville Cove itself are free of cost and you don't need any prior experience in order to succeed. During this event, our fishers caught 4 spot fish, 4 white perch, 2 pipefish, and 1 jellyfish! Our resident Urban Biologist, Dr. Ela Carpenter was able to properly identify and safely release each fish that was caught by our attendees. All of the fish caught were native to the Chesapeake Bay and are a lovely way to get up close to and learn about some of the less accessible parts of nature.

In assisting with this event, I was able to see many families relaxing and enjoying their evening together. It was also very interesting to learn about and get hands-on interactions with our native aquatic life. The fish at this event were caught using fishing rods, hooks, lines, and bait provided by Masonville Cove itself, so you don't need to own any materials in order to participate, although you are welcome to bring your own. We are fully prepared to teach you how to fish properly and safely, so long as you come ready to learn. We also provide snacks and water to keep our participants energized and hydrated. People of all ages are encouraged to participate. This event was extremely fun, but it is not all that Masonville has to offer, so be sure to check out all of our events and activities, this certainly won't be the last time I engage with Masonville Cove!

- Courtney S., WildSTEM

Career Changer: Charting a New Path at Masonville Cove



What if the career you were meant for wasn't the career you started with?

For years, I worked in the restaurant industry and never imagined I would one day be studying wildlife conservation or completing an internship at Masonville Cove. Changing careers can be scary, especially when you feel like you're starting over, but I have learned that starting something new does not mean starting from nothing. My name is Sarah Johnson, and I am a student at Unity Environmental University, working my way to a new career.

Many of the skills I gained working in restaurants have followed me into conservation. Communicating with different people, solving problems quickly, working as part of a team, and taking on leadership roles are all skills I still use today. I began studying Wildlife Conservation at Unity Environmental University and discovered that conservation careers go far beyond working directly with wildlife.

Through my WildSTEM internship at Masonville Cove, I have learned more about environmental education, community outreach, environmental justice, and the many organizations that work together to protect natural spaces. This experience has helped me realize that I want to build a career connecting communities with nature and helping people understand why green spaces matter in their everyday lives.

There is no single path into conservation. You do not have to have your entire career figured out right after high school. Sometimes changing direction can lead you to work that feels more meaningful and connected to who you are. The skills and experiences you already have may be exactly what helps you find your place.

- Sarah J., WildSTEM



Urban Wildlife, Extraordinary Discoveries



My name is Bryan Mendoza-Turcios, and I'm a junior studying Biodiversity and Conservation at the University of Maryland, College Park. When I first started this internship, I didn't believe that green spaces in cities could support rich biodiversity, but through working with the refuge's wildlife biologists and Maryland Environmental Service, I was proven wrong. Here are just a few of the incredible species you can find at Masonville Cove.

Masonville Cove is one of the best birding locations in Baltimore. During your next visit, take a moment and look to the skies: you might spot incredible raptors! Bald eagles and ospreys hunt from the sky, plucking fish from the cove to bring back to their nests. We also occasionally see rare birds like the black-necked stilt, yellow-breasted chat, and mourning warbler as they stop to rest during migration.

This summer, I was able to help Dr. Ela-Sita Carpenter with fieldwork, and one of the things we did was place trail cameras around campus. We've known that

wild turkeys roam the property, but this is the first year we've spotted baby turkeys! Our trail cameras have also captured foxes and coyotes wandering around the property!

I was also able to help Maryland Environmental Service conduct a revegetation survey, where we spotted beautiful hibiscus flowers and fragrant Japanese shiso, also known as beefsteak, which is commonly used as a cooking herb. We also came across monarch butterflies feeding on the native milkweed growing throughout the campus!

I'm so happy to have been given the opportunity to explore Masonville's biodiversity through the fieldwork I conducted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and MES. I hope some of these species surprised you as much as they surprised me!

- Bryan M., WildSTEM



**Help Shape the Port of
Baltimore's Clean Air Future**

Please take a brief survey & share your feedback to improve air quality by decarbonizing the Port of Baltimore.



<https://bit.ly/MPAengage>



CLEAN PORTS PROGRAM



The Maryland Port Administration (MPA) is working to reduce air emissions, strengthen energy resiliency, and lessen impacts on nearby communities.

Maryland has set ambitious climate goals: a 60% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2031 and net-zero emissions by 2045. To help meet these targets, MPA is partnering with a wide range of organizations to improve air quality, expand electrification, and build climate resilience across the Port of Baltimore.

In 2024, MPA received **\$147 million** through the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Ports Program. Combined with more than **\$36 million** in State and partner contributions, this **\$182 million** investment will drive major progress in climate planning and the electrification of port infrastructure and equipment. Funding also supports a workforce impact analysis and new career development opportunities to promote job equity as the Port transitions to cleaner technologies.

These efforts will help ensure that the Port—and the communities and region it supports—continue to grow and thrive. MPA remains committed to advancing sustainable, forward-looking initiatives that benefit all Marylanders, and **we want your voice in this process.**

Share Your Input: Take a few minutes to complete our **confidential survey**. [<https://bit.ly/MPAengage>].

Thank you for helping make the Port of Baltimore a cleaner, healthier place to

live and work.

If you have questions or additional feedback, please contact us at
mpacleanports@mdotgov.onmicrosoft.com

About Masonville Cove and the Campus...

Masonville Cove is located on 70 acres of water and 54 acres of cleaned-up land including wetlands, nature trails, and a bird sanctuary. The Masonville project developed from mitigation tied to the creation of a Dredged Material Containment Facility (DMCF) by the MDOT Maryland Port Administration (MPA). This created an opportunity for the local residents and schoolchildren (from Brooklyn, Curtis Bay, and Cherry Hill) to connect with their natural environment and participate in meaningful stewardship projects related to Masonville Cove and their communities.



MDOT MPA worked with the community associations from Brooklyn and Curtis Bay, the Living Classrooms Foundation, and the National Aquarium to create the Masonville Cove Environmental Education Campus (MCEEC). Maryland Environmental Service coordinates the mitigation project. The MCEEC has been a model for community involvement and environmental awareness from its inception to its opening as a landmark urban environmental education center. The sustainable growth of this urban wilderness conservation area and its wetlands will remind the community that they are a part of something positive for generations to come.



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A Partnership among:

MDOT Maryland Port Administration

Living Classrooms Foundation

National Aquarium

Maryland Environmental Service

US Fish & Wildlife Service

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