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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

Closed Saturday, Sep. 5th - Monday, Sep. 7th for Labor Day Weekend



Subscribe to Newsletter

September

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 SEPTEMBER 2026 FREE AND OPEN TO GENERAL PUBLIC

9/4**FIRST FRIDAY:
SELF LED NATURE EXPLORATION
5-7:30PM**

Come out and take a walk around the campus until sunset! Stop by and take a picture with Captain Trash Wheel or come and see the wildlife on campus. Be sure to share any pictures on social media @CaptTrashWheel on Instagram!

9/12**SHORELINE CLEAN UP 1:30-2:30PM**

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

9/19**URBAN WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
DAY 9AM-2PM**

Join us for free family friendly activities in recognition of Urban Wildlife Conservation Day at Masonville Cove! Explore nature with outdoor games, a Bioblitz, birding, water quality testing, and free activities all day! Registration is required for the guided nature walks and kayaking trips.

9/26**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.

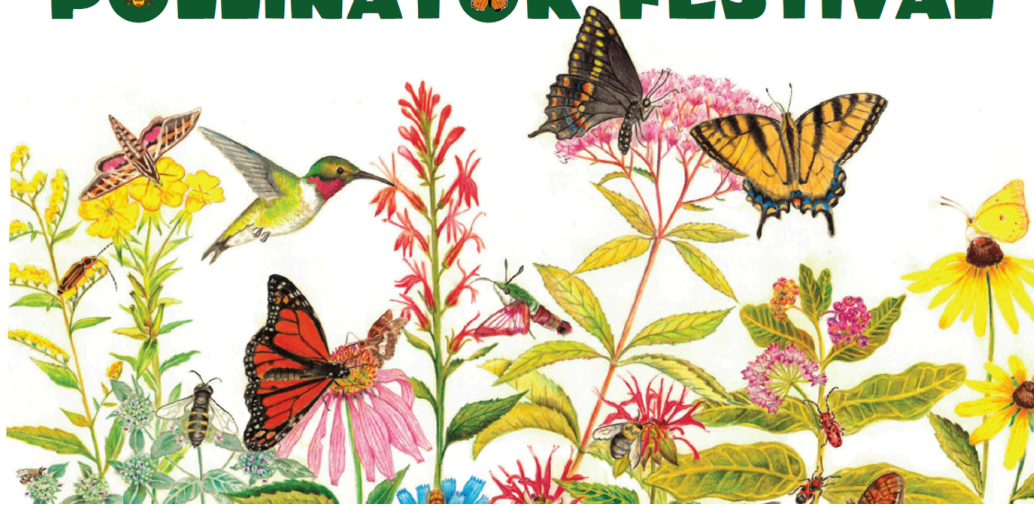
VISIT [MASONVILLECOVE.ORG/EVENTS](https://masonvillecove.org/events)
FOR MORE INFO AND FREE REGISTRATION



SCAN ME

Para Español

FRIENDS OF PATUXENT POLLINATOR FESTIVAL



Join the Friends of Patuxent for an educational and fun day of pollinator festivities!

When:

26 Sep 2026

10:00 AM - 2:30 PM

Location:

National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center, 10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop, Laurel, MD 20708



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

Urban Wildlife Conservation Day








MASONVILLE COVE
PARTNERSHIP

URBAN WILDLIFE CONSERVATION DAY

SATURDAY
9.19.2026

9 AM – 2 PM

 **Masonville Cove**
1000 Frankfur Avenue,
Baltimore, MD 21226

 **FREE SHUTTLES**

300 E Patapsco Avenue
Pickup: 9 AM, 10:30 AM & 12 PM
Drop Off: 12 PM, 1 PM & 2 PM

1620 Filbert Street
Pickup: 9 AM, 10:30 AM & 12 PM
Drop Off: 12 PM, 1 PM & 2 PM

 **FREE FOOD**

Join us for a fun-filled day of free activities in recognition of Urban Wildlife Conservation Day at Masonville Cove!

- ✓ Boat Rides
- ✓ BioBlitz
- ✓ Yoga
- ✓ Guided Nature Walks
- ✓ Nature Crafts
- ✓ Fishing
- ✓ Birding
- ✓ Live Animals

Space is limited for boat rides, guided nature walks, and yoga. Secure your spot today!

Scan the QR code or visit our website to register and stay in the loop on event updates.

www.masonvillecove.org



SCAN ME!

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR FOR QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT:

ECOPORT@MARYLANDPORTS.COM

Para Español

Saturday, September 19 | 9:00 AM–2:00 PM | Masonville Cove

Masonville Cove is celebrating Urban Wildlife Conservation Day with a free, family-friendly event highlighting the wildlife, habitats, and natural spaces found right here in Baltimore. Join us for a day of exploration, learning, and outdoor fun at Masonville Cove!

Throughout the day, visitors can participate in a variety of activities, including boat rides, guided nature walks, yoga, birding, fishing, nature crafts, a BioBlitz, and live animal demonstrations. Free food and shuttle transportation will also be available, making it easy to spend the day exploring the Cove.

Planning to join us? Some activities have limited capacity, so advance registration is encouraged:

- **Register for a Boat Ride**
- **Register for Yoga**
- **Register for a Guided Nature Walk**

Visit the [Urban Wildlife Conservation Day event page](#) for additional information, registration details, and event updates.

We hope you'll join us at Masonville Cove to celebrate Urban Wildlife Conservation Day and discover the incredible nature that thrives in our urban environment!

- Mackenzie B., MES

Fall 2026 Bird Banding

Migration bird banding at Masonville Cove is back for the fall season! Fall is an exciting season for birdlife at Masonville Cove and the banding crew, led by staff from Birds of Urban Baltimore, are eager to share our work with visitors over the course of the upcoming season. The season began on August 7th and will continue through December 12th.

Our first month of banding has already been an unusual and record-setting one—on several mornings we banded more birds in a few hours than have in the whole month of August in some past years. This has included many of our common and expected species, but also many unusual and rare encounters. We captured our earliest-ever Mourning and Connecticut warblers; the latter was more than 2.5 weeks earlier than the prior record at our site and among the earliest fall records for the species anywhere in central Maryland. We also

captured our 98th species, and our station's first-ever bird-of-prey—a Cooper's Hawk—at the end of the month. On our first day of the season we crossed another milestone, banding our 4000th bird—a Northern Yellow Warbler, one of the most common species of migrant warbler at Masonville Cove.

Over the course of the fall season, we could band at least 900 additional birds and may see as many as 60 species. We will also expect to recapture many birds that have been previously banded by our team—encounters that are especially valuable, offering our team insights into the longevity and health of local bird populations. We hope you will join the team this season to experience the birdlife of Baltimore City, up close! We band every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday for the duration of the season and are typically on campus until noon, weather permitting.

As always, an immense thank you to everyone at the Maryland Port Administration and Maryland Environmental Service for all the work and time that goes into supporting the banding project; a particular thank you to Cal Liddell, Tim Carney, and Laura Baker for the continued dedication they have shown. We also thank the US Fish & Wildlife Service, in particular Ela-Sita Carpenter, PhD, of the Chesapeake Bay Field Office, for their continued support. And, of course our volunteers deserve special recognition and appreciation; without them there would be no banding station!

- Mike H., Birds of Urban Baltimore

LCF Education Update



(Left) Students investigating real brains with NOVA. (Right) Students going on a nature walk.

Living Classrooms Foundation's Education Team at Masonville Cove just wrapped up BEES (Baltimore Environmental Education Superheroes), a 5-week summer program for students at Maree G. Farring Elementary Middle School. BEES uses E-STEM to help 1st-5th graders make academic gains in a fun, supportive learning environment.

At Masonville, students spent the morning in activities focused on science, social emotional learning (SEL), literacy, and enrichment. This summer, our students were biologists, geologists, astronomers, hydrologists, and engineers as they studied the world around them through hands-on and experiential science and enrichment lessons. Through lessons in SEL, students practiced compassion, perseverance, respect, responsibility, and unity. Students also got to go fishing, go to Sail250 Baltimore, and have a neuroscience-focused day with University of Maryland's NOVA (Neuroscience Outreach Volunteer Association) group!

As we wind down from summer, we are looking forward to a busy fall season of continuing to help young minds in learning by doing!

- Nathanael H., Living Classrooms Foundation



Students visiting one of the ships at Sail250 Baltimore.

Awesome Anglers! Community Fishing Evening at Masonville Cove



More than 23 community members joined us for the rescheduled Community Fishing Evening on August 14th after the original date was canceled due to storms on August 7th. Participants enjoyed connecting with each other and nature at the Cove during the evening's pleasant weather. Families, groups, and individual anglers gathered along the piers to spend time outdoors and try their luck fishing. Many participants remarked that it was their first time fishing, and the individual lessons and fishing supplies available helped make it easier for visitors of all experience levels to join in on the fun.

Participants also lucked out with the fishing that evening! Nearly every participant reeled in multiple catches, including spot, white perch, and even juvenile striped bass. Dr. Ela-Sita Carpenter of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Mr. Matias Orrego with Maryland Environmental Service were both impressed by the number of fish and quickly lost track of how many fish were being caught. Each catch offered participants an opportunity to learn more about the fish that rely on the restored urban habitat at Masonville Cove.

The evening brought neighbors and families of all ages together to relax, learn new skills, and enjoy the waterfront. Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make the rescheduled event such a wonderful success. We look forward to welcoming you all back for more opportunities to explore and connect with nature at Masonville Cove!

- Matias O., Maryland Environmental Service

Nightjars Visit Masonville Cove

Earlier this year, Masonville Cove added two new species of birds to the site list: the Eastern Whip-poor-will and the Chuck-will's-widow. Both are named for the mnemonic representation of their songs, and both belong to a fascinating group of birds known as nightjars. Nightjars are secretive, nocturnal insect-eaters that are heard more often than seen.

Nightjars are members of the family Caprimulgidae, a name that translates to “milker of goats.” This unusual title originated from the incorrect belief that these birds drank milk from livestock under the cover of darkness. Their large mouths are, however, perfectly adapted for catching moths, beetles, and other flying insects during flight. They also have specialized rictal bristles around the base of their bills that help shield their eyes as they hunt in low-light conditions.

Because they are active at night, nightjars are sometimes mistaken for small owls. However, they are not closely related to owls or other birds of prey. Surprisingly, scientists have found that nightjars share a closer evolutionary relationship with swifts and hummingbirds.

Unfortunately, both species have experienced population decline in recent decades and are considered species of conservation concern.

For anyone hoping to encounter these birds, listening is often the best approach. Both species are masters of camouflage - their mottled patterns of brown, gray, black, and buff blend seamlessly with leaf litter, fallen branches, and tree bark, making them incredibly difficult to spot during the day. They typically begin calling about 30 minutes after sunset and may also vocalize before sunrise. Windy or rainy conditions can reduce their activity. Seeing nightjars is much more challenging. In the Baltimore area, both species have been recorded at well-known migrant hot spots such as Patterson Park and Fort McHenry. With this spring's discoveries across the water, Masonville Cove can be added to the growing list of urban habitats that provide important stopover sites for nightjars!

- Brogan S., MES

Green Tips from Your Green Center



Japanese beetles. Photo credit: [NC State Extension](#)

It has been a fun and busy summer for us at Masonville Cove! As fall approaches and the heat of summer winds down, here are a few tips to make the most of the last few weeks in the hot sun in an environmentally friendly way:

- Try setting up a rain barrel to catch some water from the last few summer showers to use for your plants as rainfall starts to slow down ([Metro Greenscape](#)).
- Many pests, such as Japanese beetles, damage ornamental and edible garden plants during the summer. Their grubs become dormant in the soil towards the end of summer and wait patiently to emerge in the spring. Try looking for organic and safe pesticides to take care of these pests now

and prevent a few headaches for next year (**Metro Greenscape**, **University of Maryland Extension**)!

- Celebrate the end of summer with a sustainable Labor Day party! Look for produce from local farmers markets and start the celebration early to take advantage of the natural sunlight. You can even use candles for light and ambiance if your get-together runs a little later (**Apex Solar**)!
- If you have any extra stuff lying around the house that you need to get rid of, try having a yard sale! As school is starting back, many families and college students may be looking for school supplies and housewarming items that you might have a surplus of (**Rockin' Green**)!
- As the seasons transition, consider giving your living space a good clean using safe and cheap products such as vinegar and baking soda (**Just Energy**)!

- Nathanael H., Living Classrooms Foundation

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). [<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

Our mailing address is:

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