



# The Maryland Port Administration **PRESS RELEASE**

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## **PORT ADMINISTRATION WINS MAYOR'S BUSINESS RECOGNITION AWARD FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CLEAN UP PROJECT**

### *Restored Masonville Site to Include Wildlife Habitat, Park and Community Center*

BALTIMORE, MD --- Governor Martin O'Malley announced today that the Maryland Port Administration (MPA) has been awarded a 2007 Mayor's Business Recognition Award by the Greater Baltimore Committee. The award is given annually to organizations that have demonstrated outstanding community service and have significantly improved the city of Baltimore. The MPA is being honored for its Masonville restoration project. This project will clean up and develop one of the most contaminated areas of Baltimore Harbor and convert that area to benefit wildlife, the local citizenry and the port industry.

"With this project, we are taking a contaminated area of Baltimore Harbor and creating an environmentally friendly waterfront that will include wetlands, recreation areas and a slice of Maryland that the local communities can use and be proud of," said Governor O'Malley. "It is an example of government at its best. We are using our resources to do the right thing to make our city and our state a better place to live, work and raise a family."

The Masonville project is located near the Brooklyn and Curtis Bay communities along the Middle Branch of the Patapsco River. It is a site formerly occupied by the Kurt Iron and Metal and the Maryland Shipbuilding and Drydock Company. The first step in this project is to clear debris from about 22 acres of shoreline along the Middle Branch. Ten of these acres have already been cleaned by the MPA. To date, roughly 8,000 tons of trash and debris, 3,000 tons of hazardous waste, and more than 11,000 tons of timber from 27 abandoned vessels have been collected from the area.

When completed, the cleared and restored acreage will be home to wildlife and waterfowl. A park will also be developed, with access to water recreation like kayaking and canoeing. The project will provide the residents of Brooklyn and Curtis Bay with direct water access to the Patapsco River. A community center is planned for the site.

Another benefit of the Masonville project is that the project will use material dredged from the shipping channels leading to the Port of Baltimore. Annual dredging required to maintain the depth of these channels produces silt and sand that must be placed elsewhere. Identifying a use that benefits the environment is one of the hallmarks of the state's dredged material placement program. Once completed, over 16 million cubic yards of dredged material will have been placed.

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Governor Martin O'Malley MDOT Secretary John D. Porcari MPA Executive Director James J. White  
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***Port Wins Mayor's Award***

The MPA has been actively assisted in this project by the Members of the Concerned Citizens for a Better Brooklyn and the Brooklyn-Curtis Bay Coalition. They were directly involved in the site selection, creation and development of this project. The project has also enjoyed support from Baltimore Mayor Sheila Dixon and representatives from the 46<sup>th</sup> District: Senator George Della and Delegates Brian McHale, Carolyn Krysiak, and Peter Hammen.

The MPA will receive its award during the Mayor's Business Recognition Awards Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, December 7, 2007 at the Hyatt Regency Baltimore.

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