



Cox Creek

DREDGED MATERIAL PLACEMENT SITE

Quick Facts

- Located on the south side of the Patapsco River in Anne Arundel County, Md.
- Working area of 102 acres
- Maryland Port Administration owns 100 upland acres
- Includes 11 acres of Swan Creek wetlands
- Began receiving dredged material from the Baltimore Harbor in 2010
- Has total capacity for 10 million cubic yards of dredged material, half of which has been filled
- Expansion plans are underway

The Cox Creek facility, located on the south side of the Patapsco River downstream of the Francis Scott Key Bridge, is a placement sites for sediment that has been cleared from shipping channels in the Baltimore Harbor.

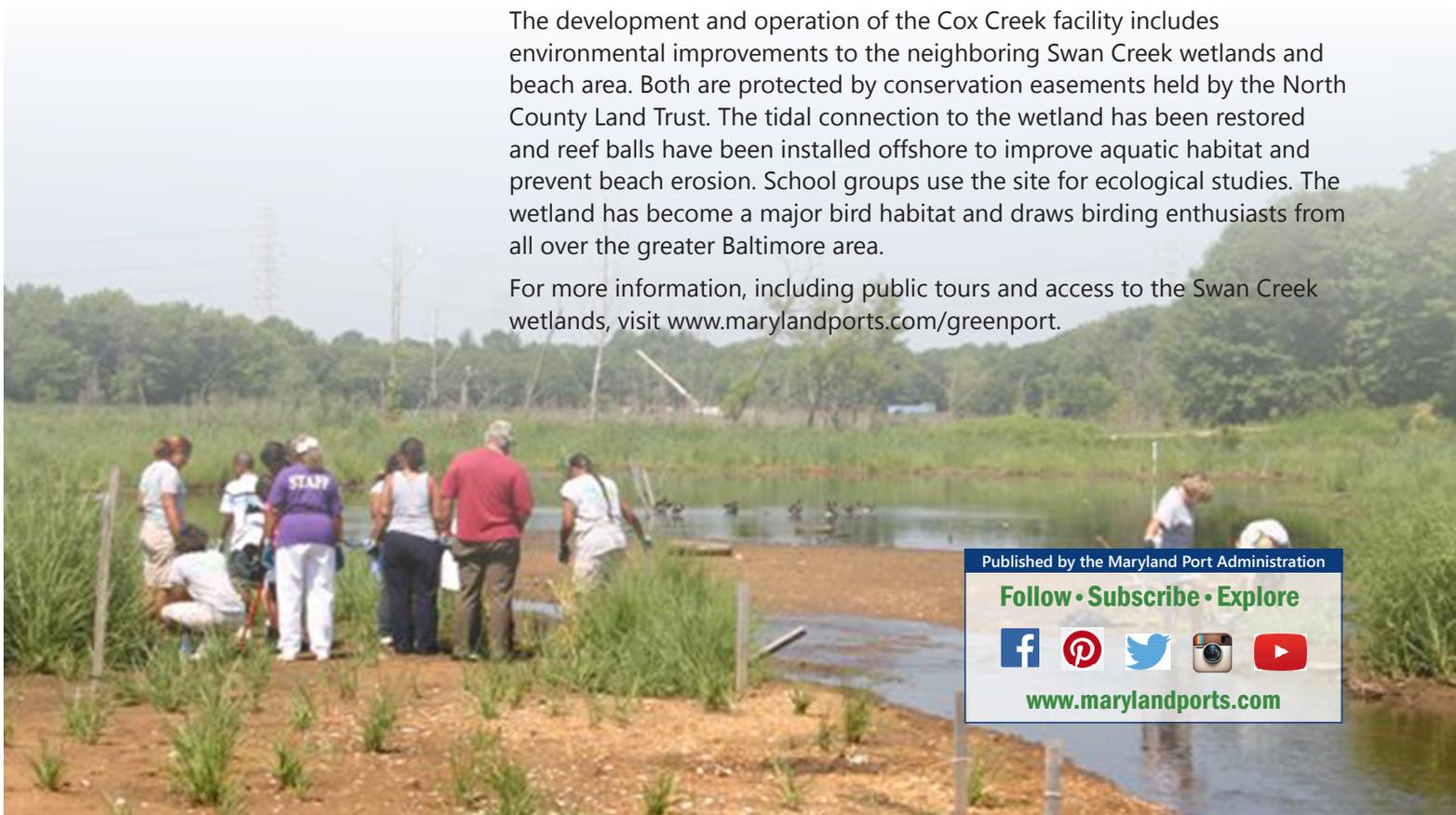
Cox Creek was constructed by the US Army Corps of Engineers in the 1960s and used as a disposal site by private industry until 1984. The Maryland Port Administration (MPA) purchased the site in the 1990s. The MPA then strengthened the dike and raised its elevation to 36 feet, which matches the surrounding land area.

Cox Creek began receiving material dredged from the Baltimore Harbor in 2010. After the placement site at Hart-Miller Island closed in 2009, the capacity available at Cox Creek became critical for dredging operations in the harbor. Cox Creek is now one of just two sites that can safely contain dredged material from the harbor; the other is at Masonville.

Cox Creek has a total placement capacity of 10 million cubic yards, half of which has already been filled. This is a relatively small amount of placement capacity compared to other sites and considering the need to dredge 1.5 million cubic yards from the harbor each year. The MPA is therefore in the process of expanding Cox Creek by using some of the upland acreage to create additional diked capacity. The expansion entails demolishing old industrial buildings on the upland area. Some acreage is being preserved for the future recycling of dredged material into useful industrial products (a process referred to as innovative reuse). The expansion is expected to be completed by mid-2018.

The development and operation of the Cox Creek facility includes environmental improvements to the neighboring Swan Creek wetlands and beach area. Both are protected by conservation easements held by the North County Land Trust. The tidal connection to the wetland has been restored and reef balls have been installed offshore to improve aquatic habitat and prevent beach erosion. School groups use the site for ecological studies. The wetland has become a major bird habitat and draws birding enthusiasts from all over the greater Baltimore area.

For more information, including public tours and access to the Swan Creek wetlands, visit www.marylandports.com/greenport.



Published by the Maryland Port Administration

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