

# Masonville Cove

## Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership



### LOCATION

Middle Branch  
of the Patapsco  
River in  
Baltimore City

Open to the public, this popular birding and fishing spot is the nation's first Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership.



Masonville Cove is a green oasis in Baltimore for wildlife and people to enjoy. The campus features over 50 acres of environmentally remediated land, walking trails for bird watching, and a pier for fishing or launching kayaks, all protected under a conservation easement. The campus also includes an Environmental Education Center that serves as a hub for educational programs for area schools and community members. The Port partnered with Living Classrooms Foundation and the National Aquarium to operate the facility and engage surrounding communities. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service joined the partnership in 2013 when Masonville Cove was designated the nation's first Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership.



Masonville is home to over 300 species of birds and animals. Educators provide an abundance of programs that allow people to interact with wildlife, inspiring the next generation of environmental stewards.

Masonville serves an important role in education, community engagement, and outdoor recreation, but access is limited.



Tied to the construction of a dredged material containment facility by Maryland Port Administration (MPA), Masonville Cove is a refuge and gateway, reconnecting adjacent communities to the water by providing public access to the shoreline, piers, and trails. However, physical access to the site remains limited. MPA is working to address this via creation of a shared use path.



# Masonville Cove Connector

As the first Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership, Masonville Cove is well established as an educational and recreational community treasure, but accessing the site is challenging. Restoring access to the waterfront for the communities surrounding the Masonville Dredged Material Containment Facility is a long-standing commitment and component of MPA's overall Dredged Material Management Program. MPA has partnered with the Federal Highway Administration, National Park Service, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to design and build the Masonville Cove Connector, a safe and convenient way for local communities to access Masonville Cove.



## Part of the Larger Community

Once complete, the Masonville Cove Connector will link with the existing Gwynns Falls Trail and the proposed Baybrook Connector for a total of over 20 miles of trails, providing walking and biking connectivity with:

- Dozens of neighborhoods
- A scenic and historic greenway
- Regional hospital and wellness facilities
- Light Rail station

## Why Build the Connector to Masonville Cove?

- Establish safe, convenient, and equitable access
- Connect local communities to a unique recreational asset
- Integrate Masonville Cove into the larger outdoor recreational landscape in Baltimore

## Who Benefits from the Connector?

- Walkers & joggers
- Bicyclists
- Scooters
- Wheelchair users
- Families with strollers



## Next Steps

- Introduce this project to the public
- Identify and engage partners
- Seek input and feedback
- Continue planning and design



DREDGED  
MATERIAL  
MANAGEMENT  
PROGRAM

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