



News from Masonville Cove Environmental Education Campus

An urban refuge partnership

A Monthly Newsletter

AUGUST 2014

Volume 2 Issue 8

August Open Hours Free Programming for Young Children & Families

The Conservation Area is open

Mon-Fri 11am-4pm

Sat 9am-1pm

Closed Sunday

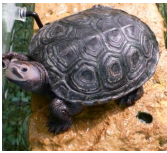
To reserve your spot, go to www.masonvillecove.org.

Sat, 8/9 9:30-10:30am & 11-Noon Science Alive Kids <5-Crabs!

Sat 8/16 9:30-10:30am & 11-Noon Science Alive Kids <5-Fish Printing Fun!

Wed 8/20 10-11am Budding Biologists[ages 5-7]-Terrific Turtles

Sat 8/23 10-11am Habitat Heroes [ages 8-13]-Feed the Need



Other Opportunities to Connect with Nature at the Cove

Sat, 8/30 10-11am Nature Walk

During Open Hours, Come Fishing! Adults need a valid MD State fishing license.



fishing is fabulous!

MCEEC Contact Information

1000 Frankfort Avenue, Baltimore MD 21226

Phone: 410-246-0669, ext.105

Website:

www.masonvillecove.org

Email:

For inquiries related to educational programs, info@masonvillecove.org

For inquiries related to volunteering, friends@masonvillecove.org

VOLUNTEER at MASONVILLE COVE!

There are several ways you can have fun and contribute positively to the Masonville Cove Campus.

We love volunteers! They help to maintain gardens, monitor plants in wetlands and the conservation area, clean up the shoreline and assist with programming.

Thank you to [Social Solutions Global, Inc](http://SocialSolutionsGlobal.com) which supported a group of adults and children who came to Masonville Cove on 7/18. The group spruced up the shoreline collecting and bagging countless debris.

On the last day of July a group from [Navy Operational Support Center\(NOSC\)](http://NavyOperationalSupportCenter.com) arrived by boat. They planted 100 native shrubs on a hillside



creating a 'no mow' zone, and then worked along the shoreline planting sea grass and removing debris. Thanks to all!

MD Master Naturalist Training Program hosted by Irvine Nature Center, Masonville Cove and the National Aquarium: Starting Tuesday September 9th, a seven-week course taught by local environmental specialists. For details, go to www.MasterNaturalist.umd.edu or contact Program Facilitator at CourtneySagal@ExploreNature.org or 443-738-9224.

Busy Summer of Environmental Education

On campus environmental educators offered weekly programming to youth from from Curtis Bay Recreation Center and from Dundalk Youth Services. Other programs included kids from Lakeland Elementary-Middle school summer camp and Turner Station.

Three Fabulous INTERNS: Imani Kersey, Julian Whitley and Rian Fleming explored what's happening in conservation and environmental education among the Masonville Cove partner organizations. Masonville's Beth Lenker kept them moving through activities such as clearing invasive plants, tagging sharks, exploring Patuxent Wildlife Refuge and assisting at MCEEC programming for kids.



Summer Scenes from the Cove: Volunteers from NOSC disembarking from MC pier, Former Masonville resident sharing stories with youth from Curtis Bay Rec Center, Fishing fun with Christina, Lakeland Elementary School day campers exploring feeding mechanisms among insects.

Masonville Cove Feature Series: Nation's First Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership [Part 4 of 4-part series] by Jake Comer

Masonville Cove received little attention for decades until the Maryland Port Administration took notice. The Port is responsible for keeping the shipping channels leading up the Patapsco River to Baltimore's harbor deep enough for ships to navigate, and it does this by periodically dredging the river. The dredged material from the bottom of the river goes into Dredged Material Containment Facilities, or DMCFs. In the late 2000s, space in existing DMCFs was running low, and the Port began scouting for a new location. With consultation and help from south Baltimore communities, the Port Administration chose an area northeast of Masonville Cove for the new DMCF and began to undertake appropriate environmental mitigation and community enhancement projects. Masonville Cove Environmental Education Campus is a central component of those efforts.



Jones, the Port Administration's Outreach Coordinator for Harbor Development.

Among the Port's first priorities was cleaning up the Cove, which, after decades of dumping, was a formidable task. Maryland Environmental Service, the Port's primary contractor, removed tens of thousands of tons of debris, including the remains of 27 ships, and cleared out invasive plants. The area immediately surrounding the education center is already open to the public, and the remainder of the Masonville Cove campus is on schedule to be made accessible within the next few years. Mindy Strevig, Senior Engineer of the Masonville project for MES, says these areas are being revitalized specifically with an eye toward creating wildlife habitat.

Genevieve LaRouche, Field Supervisor at the Fish and Wildlife Service's Chesapeake Bay Field Office, says Masonville Cove could be a place of significant value to wildlife, particularly migrating birds. The campus already supports substantial populations of whitetail deer, red foxes, raccoons and a wide variety of birds, reptiles and amphibians.

"(The Masonville project) was one of our greatest successes, and I think it was because we were working with the communities before we started the project," said Katrina

"Nature-wise, it's kind of a blank slate," LaRouche said. "We see it as an opportunity to establish high-quality wildlife habitat."

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 protected bird sanctuary. The Masonville project developed from mitigation tied to the creation of a Dredged Material Containment Facility (DMCF) by the 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.

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.



A Partnership among:

- Maryland Port Administration**
- Living Classrooms Foundation**
- National Aquarium**
- Maryland Environmental Service**
- US Fish & Wildlife Service**