

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Masonville Cove, a reclaimed waterfront within Baltimore City limits, is quickly becoming a model project for urban habitat reclamation and restoration. Initiated by the Maryland Port Administration (MPA), the restoration of the cove was meant to provide community-supported environmental enhancements and water access to local citizens in return for a locally-sited Dredged Material Containment Facility (DMCF).

In 2009, The Masonville Cove Environmental Education Center opened to the public, as a prototype net-zero energy efficient facility. In 2012, the first portion of Masonville Cove's restored nature area opened to the public and in October 2013, Masonville Cove was designated as the nation's first Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership.

As an extension of the restoration work occurring at the water's edge, Masonville Cove partners identified a need to expand the reach of restoration and environmental education efforts upstream into the target watershed and to bring together diverse partners and volunteers to improve the health of the Masonville Cove watershed and the quality of life in the Brooklyn/Curtis Bay communities. The goals of this effort would be to develop priorities that would augment the downstream restoration work at the Cove, engage and empower local citizens to become active stewards and champions of clean and healthy neighborhoods, and feed into upcoming mandated efforts to improve water quality.

The Masonville Cove Small Watershed Action Plan (SWAP) process was developed to accomplish these goals and to eventually prioritize projects and efforts that would both have strong support by the local community and a high potential for the greatest impact on local water quality. To do this, existing data was analyzed, the community was engaged and technical assessments were made.

FINAL PRIMARY RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Implement a Bioretention Project that has the capacity to treat 7.6 acres of stormwater runoff and remove 2.9 pounds of phosphorus per year and 42.2 pounds of nitrogen per year
- Implement a Regenerative Stormwater Conveyance Project that has the capacity to treat 9.5 acres and remove 2.4 pounds of phosphorus per year and 32.9 pounds of nitrogen per year
- Develop a comprehensive education/outreach/stewardship plan around reducing litter in the two affected communities of Brooklyn and Curtis Bay

SECONDARY RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Increase the tree canopy within the watershed
- Promote environmental stewardship
- Promote environmentally friendly development

It is the intention of the steering committee and Masonville Cove partners to use the SWAP to inform decisions around future projects (including stormwater retrofit and community enhancements) as additional resources and opportunities become available. Most predominantly, due to the timing of Baltimore City's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit and the upcoming Watershed Implementation plans, the steering committee is championing the inclusion of a number of priority retrofit projects identified in the SWAP to be added to the possible list of stormwater projects needed to meet permit requirements.