US Army Corps of Engineers
Baltimore District

Hart-Miller Island

Dredged Material Management Plan
Public Scoping Meeting Information Sheet

Hart-Miller Island

Hart-Miller Island is located off-shore of the Back River, immediately north of the Patapsco River, near Baltimore Harbor. In 1969, the study of dredged material placement alternatives and potential locations were investigated. This led to the construction of a unique facility, known as Hart-Miller Island. Construction began in 1981. The first year of dredged material placement was 1984.

Background

- The first dredged material containment/submerged land reclamation project ever undertaken in Maryland.
- Keystone in the State's long-range dredged material management plan.
- In operation for more than 18 years.
- Construction in two phases, described below.

Phase 1

- Construction of perimeter dike (connected the Hart and Miller islands) began in 1981 and ended in October 1983.
- Sand used for dike and beach was hydraulically dredged from the interior of Hart-Miller Island.
- Dike provides a settling area, and acts as perimeter barrier for containment of contaminated dredged material.

Phase 2

- Construction of unloading stations, interior partition, and spillway control structures began in January 1983 and ended in May 1984.

Why Use Dredged Material?

- Beneficial use of dredged materials proves to be a remarkable environmental and economic asset by addressing the issue of dredged material placement while enhancing wildlife and recreational opportunities on the island.
- Provides an environmentally sound disposal facility.
- Provides public recreational use.
- Provides nearly 1,000 acres of potential wildlife habitat.

Beneficial Use of Dredged Material

- Restoration of wildlife habitat.
- Habitat for more thank 200 bird species.
- Recreational benefits or use (fishing, bird watching, boating, and a food vendor business established on a pontoon).
- Educational value (shows good use of dredged material).

Conclusion

- Through careful planning and operation, dredged material placement and wildlife habitat and recreational activities can successfully coexist.