

The Mid-Chesapeake Bay Island Ecosystem Restoration Project is a federal and state partnership between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Baltimore District and the Maryland Port Administration (MPA). The project, also known commonly as Mid-Bay, will restore James Island and Barren Island near Dorchester County. Dredged material from the Chesapeake Bay's Maryland navigation channels will be used to restore Island and wetland habitat providing health and sustainability benefits to wildlife. The restoration will also benefit shoreline protection, navigational safety, and recreation activities.



Learn More

To learn more about the USACE and the Mid-Bay Project, please visit: nab.usace.army.mil/Mid-Bay/

To learn more about the MPA and the Mid-Bay Project, including a short informational video, please visit: maryland-dmmp.com

Questions? Comments?

If you have any questions, please contact Rachael Gilde at Rgilde@marylandports.com

Stay "In The Know"!

Sign up for project updates at the Maryland Dredged Material Management Program (DMMP) website: maryland-dmmp.com/placement-sites/mid-bay-island/

Upcoming Events

James Island Public Hearing

Date to be Determined

Project Newsletter

Spring 2025



Safety Contact Information
All work vessels will monitor VHF-FM Channel 13 and 16.

Barren Island Safety Announcement

All recreational and commercial water users: please use extreme caution, reduce speeds, and avoid entering the Construction Safety Zones in Figure 1. Vessels will be anchoring at the Barge Moorings (marked in orange) and moving between the navigation channel and Barren Island. Some construction will require sand which will be dredged from Borrow Area B. The sand will then be transported by barge or marked material pipes to Barren Island. This transportation zone will have physical buoys marking the boundaries and is indicated by the fishing gear exclusion zone. Please do not deploy any equipment within the fishing gear exclusion zone.

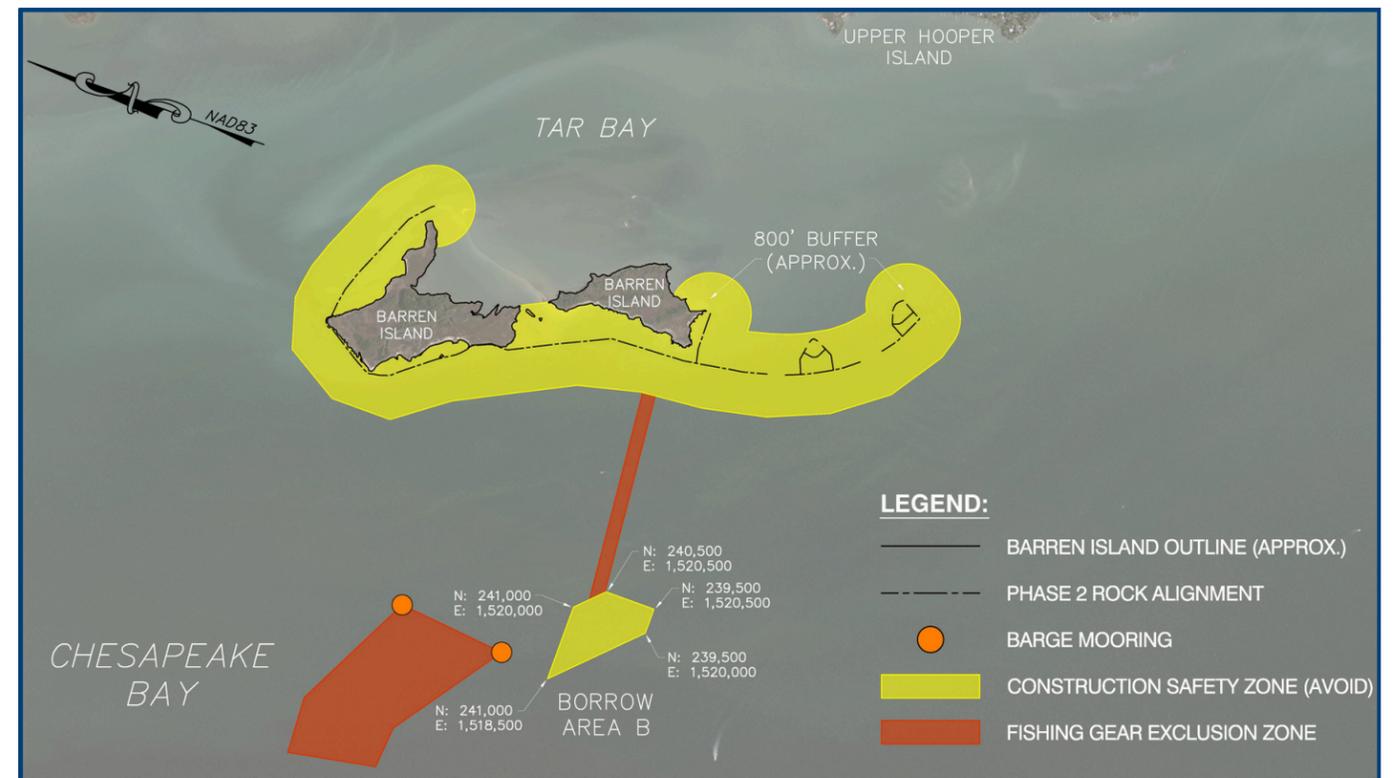


Figure 1. Barren Island Construction Safety Zone

Barren Island Construction Update

Barren Island phase 2 construction began in January 2025 and is expected to last approximately three years. Figure 2 indicates project components that will be constructed during phase 2. These components include:

- Building two islands along the southern breakwater that will create bird habitat.
- Building structures inside the southern sill for dredged material containment.
- Creation of the southern spillway, which controls water release during and after dredged material placement.
- Replacing the existing northeast sill foundation with stronger foundation material and installing the remaining northeast stone sill.
- Dredging of the Honga River Channel and placement of dredged material in the southwestern wetland for habitat restoration.

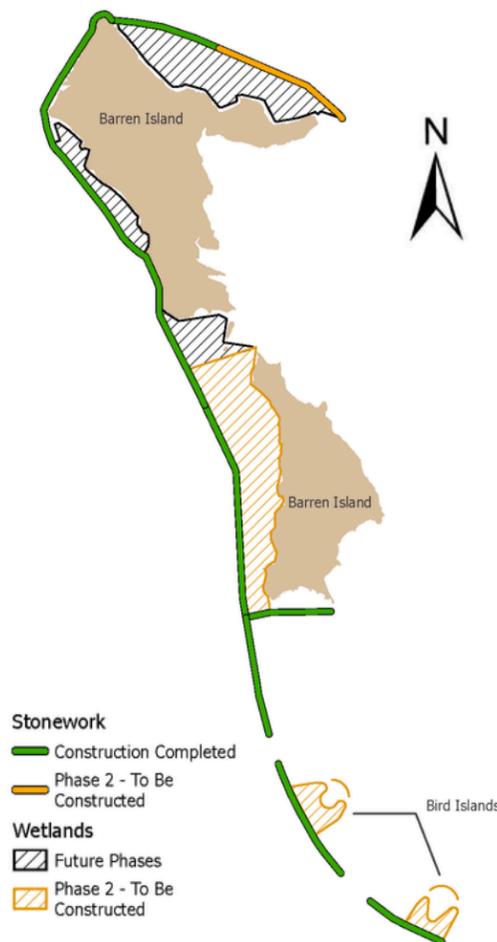


Figure 2. Phase 2 Construction

Barges with Construction Equipment



Dredging Navigation Channels



Placement of Armor Stone



Dredged Material Placement



Examples of Phase 2 Construction Activities



Community Outreach Update

Thank you to everyone who attended and participated in the annual Community Poster Session held on November 6, 2024, at the Madison Volunteer Fire Company! The team always appreciates the opportunity to engage with the community, provide project updates, answer questions, and receive feedback.

Is your community or special interest group interested in learning more about the Mid-Bay Project? Please reach out to Rob Etgen (Retgen@councilfire.org) of the Mid-Bay Outreach Team and let us know how we can connect with you!



Community Members meets with USACE Project Team Members

James Island Design & Permit Update

The James Island restoration is currently being designed. The next five to ten years will focus on constructing a sand stockpile and protective structures, known as dikes, around the perimeter and internally. These dikes will contain dredged material placed at the site.

The project partners must obtain two permits to proceed with construction at James Island. A Tidal Wetlands License (TWL) ensures reasonable use and resource protection. A Water Quality Certification (WQC) ensures the project does not jeopardize the quality of Maryland's public waters. The TWL application was submitted in the fall of 2024 and the WQC application will be submitted in the spring of 2025.

A public comment period and hearing for these permits will likely take place during the second quarter of 2025. To be added to the interested party list, contact Mary Phipps-Dickerson at Mary.phipps-dickerson@maryland.gov or (410) 713-3665. Technical details of the James Island sEIS are on the USACE website: <https://www.nab.usace.army.mil/Mid-Bay/>.



James Island has significantly eroded as of 2025 and was originally located northwest of Taylors Island. The restoration of James Island will restore up to 2,072 acres, including 45% upland habitat (above the tide elevation) and 55% wetland habitat (below mean high tide). All future James Island construction updates are contingent upon funding.