



NATIONAL AQUARIUM.

Farring-Baybrook Park Tree Planting

Baltimore City, MD

Saturday March 29th, 2014





THE NATIONAL AQUARIUM'S COMMITMENT TO THE CHESAPEAKE

Since 1998, the National Aquarium (Aquarium) has been active in engaging volunteers in the work of restoring various Chesapeake Bay habitats throughout the watershed. Wetlands, forests, and sand dune communities provide habitat and nursery areas for many species of sport and commercial fish, birds, and invertebrates, as well as the food they eat. The Aquarium has taken part in restoration activities at sites such as Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine, Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, Webster Field, Patuxent River Naval Air Station, Barren Island, and Poplar Island. In March 2014, the Aquarium will hold an event to involve community members in a tree planting restoration project at Farring-Baybrook Park in Baltimore City, MD.

FARRING-BAYBROOK PARK RESTORATION – PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Masonville Cove once served as a recreational area for local citizens, but has become an abandoned and neglected section of shoreline along the Middle Branch of the Patapsco River. Soon, with your help, it will again be restored to a thriving natural area in Baltimore City!

When the Maryland Port Administration (MPA) created a new Dredged Material Containment Facility (DMCF) at the Masonville Marine Terminal hold material dredged from the shipping channels of the Baltimore Harbor, it designed its mitigation efforts to focus on not only the natural environment, but also provide recreational opportunities for the residents of the surrounding communities to interact with their local environment.

The Masonville Cove Environmental Education Center was created to serve as a model for urban environmental education, as well as a catalyst for community involvement. The list of enhancements in the Masonville Cove area also includes a bird sanctuary, hiking trails, a fishing pier, and several tidal and non-tidal wetlands, in addition to other amenities.

Just upstream from Masonville Cove lies Farring-Baybrook Park, one of the largest open spaces in Baltimore City. Originally, it served as temporary housing for wartime industrial workers. In the 1970s, the land was redeveloped into a community, and the surrounding areas that remained became the park. Sadly, years of neglect have left it overgrown and vulnerable to dumping of debris items. As a cornerstone of the Brooklyn and Curtis Bay communities and a large part of the Masonville Cove watershed, it was a natural choice to involve stewardship of the park as part of the environmental restoration of Masonville Cove.

In 2006, the Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks began a revitalization effort to install multiple improvements in Farring-Baybrook Park, with ideas ranging from a stage and festival space to pedestrian and bike trails throughout the various pieces of the park. Starting in fall 2013, the Aquarium officially teamed up with Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks as part of a city-wide initiative to plant trees and improve natural spaces throughout Baltimore. During this phase in March, we will be removing invasive species and debris, and planting native species of trees.



In addition to these activities, we will also be completing some community surveys as part of the plans for the future of the Masonville Cove watershed. As the restoration work at Masonville Cove has progressed, the partners noticed the ongoing need for a broader restoration effort upstream of the Cove in the larger Masonville Cove watershed, including Farring-Baybrook Park and the surrounding areas. In the fall of 2013, the National Aquarium took the lead on creating a Small Watershed Action Plan (SWAP) for the Masonville Cove watershed with grant funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Chesapeake Bay Trust.

A SWAP identifies strategies to bring a small watershed into compliance with water quality standards and goals, in collaboration with community partners. It goes beyond traditional government capital projects and includes actions in partnership with local watershed associations, citizen awareness campaigns, and volunteer activities.

The Masonville Cove SWAP will include a comprehensive watershed assessment that will provide valuable baseline data and guide future protection and restoration projects that will lead to improved water quality. Since stakeholder involvement is necessary to determine project scope, define goals and develop priorities, the plan places a high priority on community engagement and citizen stewardship. You will have an opportunity to participate in this important part of the planning process on March 29th! We welcome any interested volunteers, especially those from the community surrounding Farring-Baybrook Park, to join a survey group during the event to help us perform some community surveys as a part of the SWAP creation process.

TIMING:

- **Please arrive at the site at 9:00am** to check in.
- Feel free to take breaks as needed. The National Aquarium will provide water and granola bars.
- Take a lunch break whenever you are ready. Volunteers will need to bring their own lunch.
- We plan to finish planting by 2:00pm, but end time is variable depending on weather and work load.

THINGS TO BRING:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rain Gear | <input type="checkbox"/> Necessary Medications |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunglasses | <input type="checkbox"/> Visor/Hat |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Bottle | <input type="checkbox"/> Backpack |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lunch | <input type="checkbox"/> Closed-toed shoes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wear clothing that can get dirty! | |

We will provide portable restrooms for the day.

SAFETY:

Safety is paramount. We've developed a detailed safety plan for the project, and all participants will be briefed daily on safety issues. A project Leader will be in charge of all related safety issues and will coordinate the daily briefings and liability release forms. **Closed-toe shoes must be worn.**



WEATHER:

Unless weather conditions are extreme or dangerous, planting will continue as scheduled. Please dress for the weather. If we make the call to cancel a particular day's activities, you will be contacted with as much notice as possible. If you do not hear from us, then the planting will go on as planned.

DIRECTIONS & PARKING: 4501 Farring Court, Baltimore, MD 21225

Farring-Baybrook Park is located 7 miles south of the Baltimore Inner Harbor, in between I-695 and I-895. This address leads you to Farring-Baybrook Recreation Center, and we will be working in the park area behind the rec center. Free parking is readily available along Virginia Avenue, as well as in a small parking lot located at the address. Keep an eye out for event signs and flags on Saturday to guide you as you get close.

MTA: The closest bus stop is at Virginia Ave and Farring Ct, bus Route # 64 stops here. From there you will walk across the street to the park. Visit <http://mta.maryland.gov/local-bus> for more info to plan your trip.

CONTACTS:

NAME	AFFILIATION	OFFICE PHONE	CELL PHONE	EMAIL ADDRESS
STEPHANIE PULLY	National Aquarium <i>Volunteer Contact</i>	410-576-1014	443-386-8407	SPully@aqua.org
LAURA CATTELL NOLL	National Aquarium <i>Alternate Contact</i>	410-576-1508	443-386-8407	LCattell@aqua.org

PLEASE NOTE THAT OUR STAFF WILL BE OUT OF THE OFFICE THROUGHOUT THE WEEK LEADING UP TO THE PLANTING. THE BEST WAY TO GET IN TOUCH WITH US WILL BE VIA THE CELL PHONE NUMBER PROVIDED.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

The National Aquarium wishes to gratefully acknowledge the following partners as critical to the continued success of this project. These partners include, but are not limited to: Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks, TreeBaltimore, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, BlueWater Baltimore and Parks and People Foundation. This project is part of the larger *Students Restoring Urban Streams* initiative, which is funded through the Governor's Stream Restoration Challenge.