

# THE CRANEY ISLAND CONNECTION

CRANEY ISLAND EASTWARD EXPANSION NEWS AND INFORMATION

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 10

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## Work Underway at Paradise Creek Mitigation Site

The Craney Island Eastward Expansion project includes an environmental mitigation plan that will improve several sites along the Southern Branch of the Elizabeth River. The Virginia Port Authority and the Army Corps of Engineers are teaming up to plant wetlands, create oyster reefs, and do sediment remediation at these sites.

Work on the Paradise Creek site in Portsmouth began in December, with CT Purcell, Inc. as the excavating contractor. Having completed pre-construction access roads, erosion and sediment control, site clearing and equipment mobilization, they are now in the process of excavating more than 310,000 cubic yards of material to create the wetland basin. The excavation will prepare the site for future tidal channels, low and high marsh vegetation, and grass-covered slopes and terraces. Excavation work will continue through the Fall.

CT Purcell is beneficially reusing the excavated material as fill for an adjacent industrial property, which is keeping thousands of material-hauling trucks off of local roads.

The contractor has designed its operations to maximize efficiency as much as possible by using off-the-road trucks that can be filled in just two scoops and are able to carry more than 15 cubic yards of material at a time. A standard dump truck typically has a 10 cubic yard capacity. A local contractor, Domestic Fuels and Lubes of Chesapeake, is providing fuel to the jobsite.

After site excavation is complete, 11 acres of wetlands will be planted. The wetlands will act as a natural buffer to filter run-off and improve the quality of the creek, create fish and wildlife habitat, and assist with flood control and erosion. The wetlands are part of a larger plan by the Elizabeth River Project to develop the site into an educational nature park.



Using large excavators and off-the-road trucks to move dirt at the site maximizes project efficiency.



The wetland restoration will be accessible to the public for canoeing and kayaking at the park.



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## VPA and USACE Pitch in to Clean the Bay

Employees and family members from the Virginia Port Authority (VPA) and the Norfolk District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), volunteered their time on Saturday, June 4, to participate in the annual Clean the Bay Day. This year, the VPA's effort was focused on the shorelines around Plum Point Park in downtown Norfolk and APM Terminals in Portsmouth. USACE volunteers removed debris from the shorelines of the Craney Island Dredged Material Management Area.

Clean the Bay Day is a statewide initiative organized by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF), in conjunction with municipalities, businesses and government agencies working together to restore the Chesapeake Bay and its rivers and streams. This year, according to the CBF, more than 6,200 volunteers statewide removed approximately 200,000 pounds of debris from 500 miles of streams and shorelines along the bay. Keep Norfolk Beautiful arranges the clean up events for the Hampton Roads area.

Collectively, the VPA gathered three tons of garbage from their clean-up sites. A partial inventory showed that more than 800 plastic products (including bags and bottles), 500 hundred cigarette butts, and about 200

glass products were collected. "The only thing we didn't find was the kitchen sink," said Heather Wood, the VPA's director of environmental affairs. "A car bumper, the door to a portable toilet, shoes, light bulbs – you name it and we probably found it."

The USACE team removed 104 bags of trash totaling 2,392 pounds, and about 1,450 pounds of "non-bagged or bulky" items from CIDMMA's shorelines. A majority of the trash included plastic bottles and Styrofoam from buoys, cups, or other containers and nautical debris.



Some unusual items that the USACE team found included a chair, a life jacket, a My Little Pony toy, lip gloss, cooler tops, plastic parts from syringes, a mini-fridge, a six-foot snake skin, a pair of pants, a remote control from a crane lift and a pair of sneakers.