



# ***Facts About...***

Center for Aquatic Life and Conservation Property  
(Voluntary Cleanup Program)

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## **Site Location**

The Center for Aquatic Life and Conservation (CALC) property, located at 101 West Cromwell Street and 2400 Clarkson Street, is 11.33 acres and is the result of the merger of two Voluntary Cleanup Program applications (Middle Branch Park and former DPW Central Garage). Middle Branch Park is a heavily vegetated, inactive 7.043-acre waterfront property and the former DPW Central Garage is the former location of the Baltimore City Department of Public Works (DPW) Central Maintenance Garage. Both properties are located in a commercial-industrial area of the city. The former DPW Central Garage was subdivided in June 2007. The southern portion of the property, totaling 4.29-acres, merged with the CALC property and the northern portion became the 101 West Dickman Street property (another VCP participant).

Located south of the properties is the Middle Branch of the Patapsco River, and to the north, across Dickman Street is Atlantic Forest Products. West of the properties is the Browning Ferris facility and to the east is Hanover Street. The southern portion of the former DPW Central Garage property is improved by a paved parking area.

Storm water run-off from the property discharges to sewers, to adjacent parcels or directly to the Middle Branch of the Patapsco River. A 300 foot-long drainage ditch bisects the property into a western and an eastern section. Five wetlands have been delineated on the property, two are tidal wetlands and three are non-tidal wetlands.

The former Middle Branch Park was created from industrial fill material and is located within the 100-year flood plain. Groundwater beneath the properties occurs in unconsolidated, unconfined shallow aquifers and in deeper confined aquifers. City of Baltimore municipal water and sanitary sewer service are available to the property.

## **Site History**

In 1926, Baltimore City obtained ownership of the property. Between 1977 and 1986, the property was extended southward into the open waters of Middle Branch of the Patapsco River under the supervision of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Fill placement accommodated the disposal of construction debris from the Baltimore Subway excavations and other sites around Baltimore City. The total amount of fill placed at the property is unknown. CALC purchased both of the properties from the City, Lot 6 on February 9, 2007 and Lot 1 on August 15, 2007. Lot 1 was subsequently subdivided into Lots 1 and 1A in June 2007; Lot 1 becoming the 101 West Dickman Street property and Lot 1A included in the CALC property.

## **Environmental Investigations and Actions**

Several petroleum releases have been documented at the former DPW property. In 1991, a leaking underground storage tank (UST) was identified and the Department's Oil Control Program (OCP) oversaw the clean up and the case was subsequently closed. In 1995, 300 gallons of diesel fuel were



released from an UST, and in 1996, another release was reported that involved 60 gallons of oil. In 1997, another leaking UST was discovered at the former DPW property.

In December 1999, a site investigation was performed at the Middle Branch Park property for the Maryland Port Authority to determine suitability as a wetland mitigation area to make up for impacts projected by a nearby dredging containment facility. In April 2000, a Phase I environmental assessment of the Middle Branch Park property was completed. In May 2001, the Maryland Department of the Environment's Brownfields and Site Assessment program completed a Phase II environmental assessment, which focused on sampling for potential environmental impacts from the former DPW Central Maintenance Garage and included a risk evaluation. The principal contaminants identified were metals and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in the soil and groundwater.

A Phase I environmental assessment was completed for the former DPW property in January 2004 and updated in June 2005. Two Phase II environmental assessments, which included supplemental sampling, were completed at the former DPW property in June 2004 and January 2006. The principal contaminants identified in the soils at the property were metals, PAHs and petroleum compounds.

### **Current Status**

On August 8, 2001, the National Aquarium in Baltimore submitted an application for the Middle Branch Park property seeking a Certificate of Completion as an inculpable person. This property was accepted into the Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP) on September 5, 2003 contingent upon their development and completion of a response action plan (RAP) to address certain risks to due soil and groundwater contamination.

On May 11, 2005, the National Aquarium in Baltimore and the Center for Aquatic Life and Conservation submitted an application for the former DPW Central Garage property seeking a No Further Requirements Determination as an inculpable person. The VCP accepted this property into the program on April 12, 2006 contingent upon their development and completion of a RAP. On June 10, 2009, CALC submitted a revised application for the combined Middle Branch Park and DPW Central Garage properties and then on June 19, 2009 submitted the proposed RAP for the properties. On October 1, 2009, a final revised RAP was submitted to the VCP and on October 30, 2009 the revised RAP was approved.

During 2010, the participant began completing the approved RAP by removing contaminated soil from the property and installing drainage systems for the future waterfront park. In 2011, temporary greenhouses were constructed at the property on the existing parking lot and several crops were grown.

### **Contact**

For additional information, please contact the Land Restoration Program at (410) 537-3493.

**Last Update:** February 2, 2012

