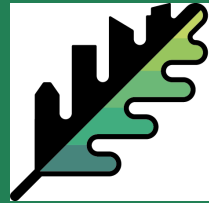


2024 Curtis Bay Tree Planting



Maryland
Department of
the Environment



BALTIMORE
TREE TRUST

Kelsey Sisko – MDE
CAP Meeting September 19, 2024



MDE's EJ Efforts

"Everyone deserves clean land, clean water and clean air."

- Efforts focusing on Environmental Justice are one of the Department's top priorities
- Efforts include, but are not limited to, outreach events/opportunities to communicate with communities, MDE's EJ Screening Tool, and regulatory initiatives
- MDE's Air Quality Planning Program is working closely with Baltimore Tree Trust (BTT) on a tree planting event to educate the community, as well as to help clean the air within the Curtis Bay Community



Health Benefits of Trees

- Planting trees helps clean our air – they absorb pollutants that impact our health and release oxygen
- Specifically in the Curtis Bay community, the trees physically block emissions being released from nearby industrial facilities
- A [recent study](#) done by researchers at the University of Louisville state that a “tree-filled neighborhood may be as beneficial to the heart as regular exercise”
- Individuals living in neighborhoods with twice as many trees and shrubs have lower levels of a blood marker associated with heart disease, diabetes, and some types of cancers compared to those who live in more tree-bare neighborhoods



Maryland's Clean Air Progress

- Over the years, Maryland has gone above and beyond the requirements of the Clean Air Act
- Maryland developed and adopted hundreds of regulations that, along with federal requirements, resulted in clean air progress
- In 2022, Maryland's air quality was the cleanest it had ever been - for the first time, all parts of the state achieved all federal National Ambient Air Quality Standards
- Maryland continues to propose and adopt regulations and programs geared towards reducing harmful emissions and cleaning the state's air to better our environment and public health



Curtis Bay Study

- On December 14, 2023, a [scientific study](#) was released by the Department along with the Community of Curtis Bay Association, the South Baltimore Community Land Trust, Johns Hopkins University, and the University of Maryland
- The study confirmed that coal dust is present in the air of the Curtis Bay community





Curtis Bay Study

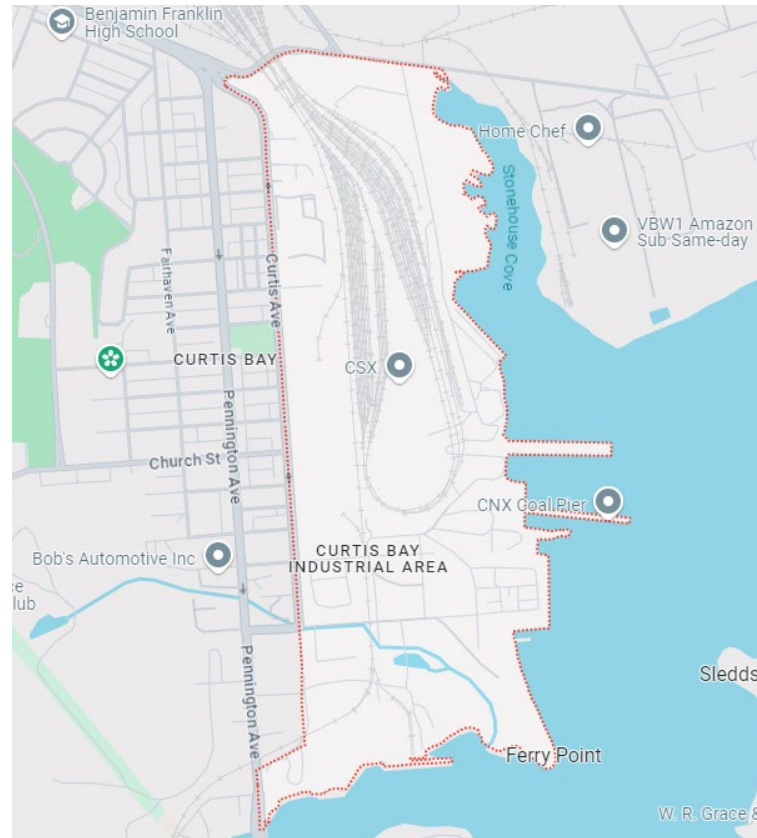
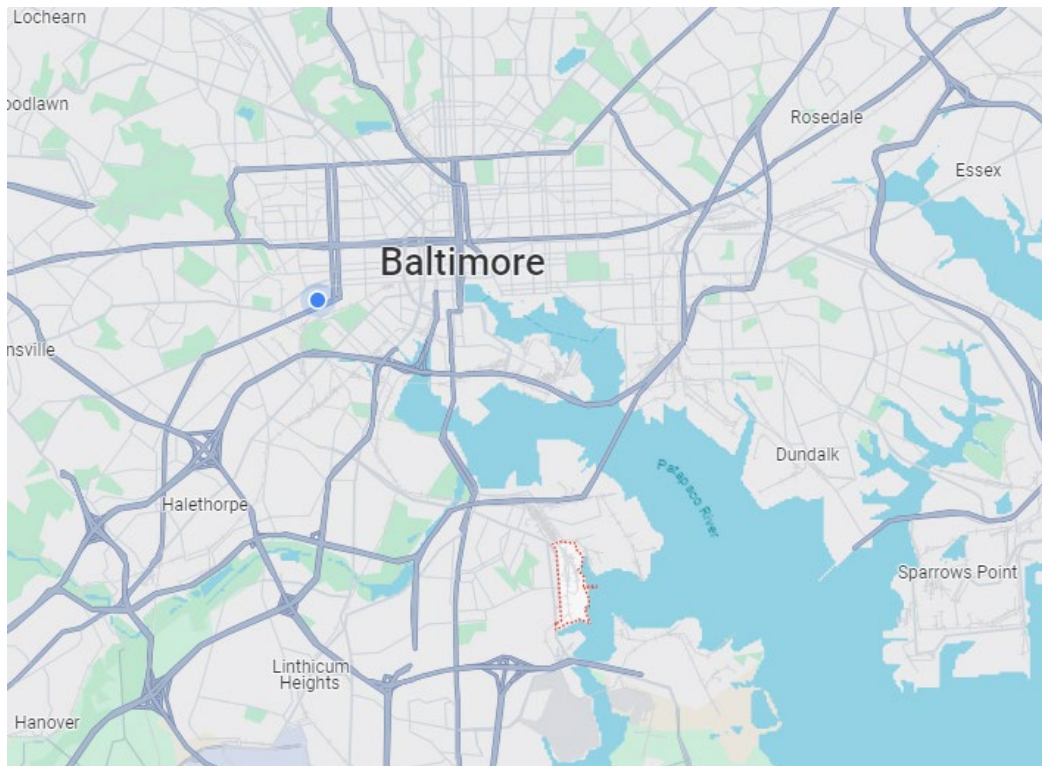
Key findings of the study include:

- Coal dust...
 - is found within the community on a day-to-day basis due to the coal terminal and wind direction
 - is present at homes, businesses, at the local church, park, and school
 - was found $\frac{3}{4}$ mile away from CSX
 - is leaving the fenceline at the terminal on a regular basis
- Particle concentrations are higher in the area due to other sources of pollution as well, such as diesel truck traffic





Curtis Bay Area





Curtis Bay Tree Plantings

MDE is working with BTT to host a tree planting event in the fall of 2024 within the Curtis Bay Community (aiming for November)

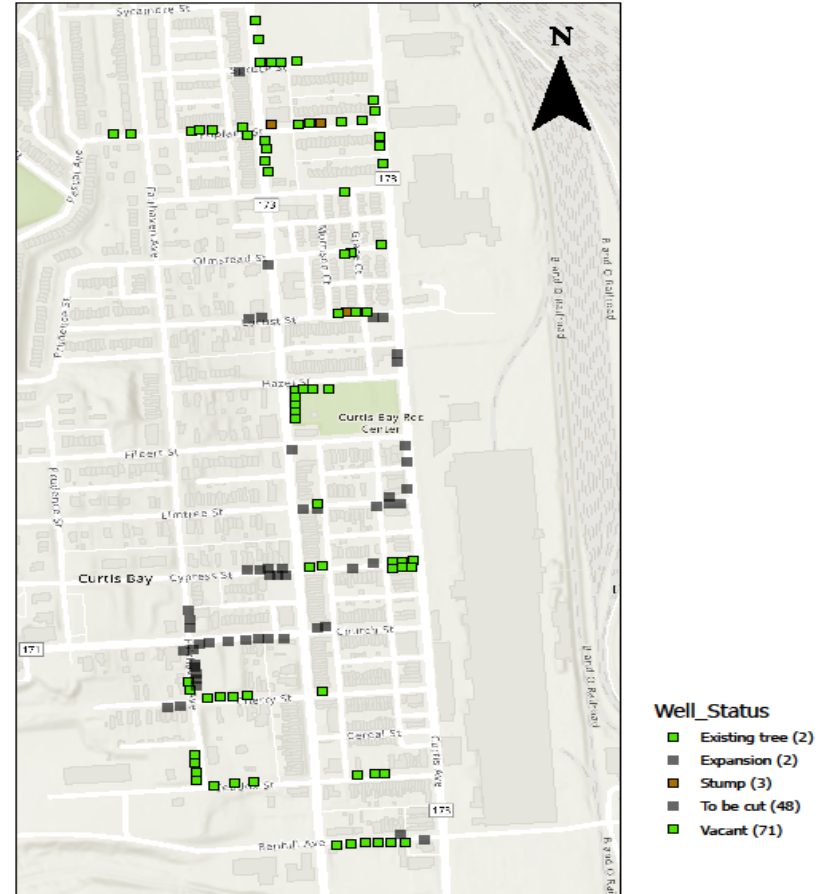


Source: Baltimore Tree Trust, 2023, <https://www.balimoretreetrust.org/about-us/our-story/>



Curtis Bay Tree Plantings

- Main areas of concern: Curtis Ave and Pennington Ave (high in truck traffic and adjacent to the CSX Coal Terminal)
- Also working to plant in the Curtis Bay Park – this will be an event open to the community to be involved in the tree planting process and gives MDE/BTT the opportunity to educate the public



Curtis Bay - Preliminary Site Assessment Results
Collected by Baltimore Tree Trust - July 2024



Curtis Bay Tree Plantings

- Current stage of the project: Outreach
- BTT is currently preparing MDE's outreach materials and working one-on-one with the Curtis Bay community. MDE is looking to be involved in this process within the next few weeks



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