

**ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
UPPER WEST RIVER & JOHNS CREEK SPUR DREDGING
September 2025**

Spur Guidelines

- Dredge only what is needed for safe navigation – minimize dredging.
- Maximum dredged depth cannot exceed the adjacent channel or waterway depth.
- No dredging within 15' of MLW or the shoreline except for boat ramps.
- Minimize dredging in SAV beds. Establish a 15' buffer to SAV beds where possible.
- Extend piers where possible to reduce dredging.
- Combine dredging with adjacent properties where possible to reduce dredging.

Spur Dredging Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

- What is a spur channel?
 - A spur channel is a side channel or “driveway” connecting a private or commercial property or pier to the proposed County main channel.
- How do projects like this work?
 - The County applies for federal and state permits to maintenance dredge a main channel for Upper West River & Johns Creek.
 - As part of the application process the County contacts adjacent waterfront property owners, coordinates spur dredging, and spur applications are included with the main channel application.
 - Following permitting and design, the County advertises the project and contracts with a dredger for the main channel dredging and is given a list of permitted spur properties.
- If I apply for a spur and obtain permits, will I be committed to dredging my spur?
 - **No**, the County dredger is given a list of permitted spurs and provides a price quote to each individual spur owner to dredge their spur.
 - When the quote is received, the spur applicant has several options; accept the contract, negotiate to revise the quote, or decide to not have any work performed.
 - The property owner can also solicit quotes from other dredgers.
- How much will it cost?
 - The County covers the cost to prepare and submit the main and spur channel permit drawings. Individual property owners are required to pay the fees for their individual permits and the cost for their spur.
 - The price for dredging varies widely.
 - Property owners are encouraged to solicit quotes from other dredging companies after permits have been obtained to determine the current cost for dredging.
 - Dredging costs are calculated on a cubic yard (CY) basis. Price quotes for County dredging projects typically range from \$100 to \$120/CY including disposal at an approved facility. It is up to the property owner to negotiate costs with their Contractor.
 - Additional mitigation fees for disturbances to submerged aquatic vegetation and shallow water habitat will be determined per applicant by the regulatory agencies. Mitigation impacts are calculated on a square foot (SF) basis.
 - Impacts to shallow water habitat are assessed at \$2.07/SF, while impacts to submerged aquatic vegetation are \$6.21/SF.

Where do we go from here?

- The County has hired BayLand Consultants & Designers, Inc. to prepare and submit main and spur channel dredging applications and to act as the agent during the review process.
- The application package will be submitted to the federal and state regulatory agencies as soon as all information has been collected and compiled and no later than December 2025.
- You will be contacted during the review process if significant revision to your application is needed or additional information is needed for your spur application.
- **Permit approval will take 9 to 12 months. Please be patient.**
- Upon permit approval, you will receive request for payment letters for your permits and instructions for validation.
- Following permitting BayLand will prepare design and construction documents.
- The project will be scheduled to be contracted for the 2027/2028 dredging season.
- The normal dredging window is between October 15 and February 15 each year to protect fish and submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV).

Waterfront property owners are encouraged to seriously consider spur dredging and should plan ahead financially for their proposed spurs. A County project is your best opportunity for dredging.

Permit and License Fee Schedule

Typical MDE Application fee for residential dredging is \$980 due at the time the applications is submitted.