Boathouse Details

Welcome to Mariners’ Lake

The Mariners’ Museum and Park is thrilled to invite you to enjoy kayaking and fishing experiences on Mariners’ Lake!

Come explore the Lake in kayaks with family and friends or enjoy fishing from a Jon boat or kayak on Saturdays and Sundays. All boats must be rented from The Mariners’ at the boathouse. Fishing along the shore and from bridges are not allowed, and a Virginia Freshwater Fishing License to fish is required for anyone 16 years and older.

For more information, call (757) 596-2222.
Online reservations are unavailable at this time.

Kayaks and Jon boat rentals are on a first-come, first-serve basis, and located at the Lake boathouse (see map above).

Personal Jon boats, paddle craft, or trolling motors are NOT ALLOWED at this time.

MarinersMuseum.org/Lake
Frequently Asked Questions

Where is the boathouse located?
The Mariners’ boathouse is accessible off Museum Drive just past NOAA’s office. The road to the boathouse is unpaved, but does not require four-wheel vehicles to reach it. View map of the boathouse location.

Is there parking at the Lake boathouse?
Yes. The parking lot is paved and offers limited spaces for the closest parking to the boathouse. There is also an open parking lot available by the Museum’s Business Entrance, and is about a short five-minute walk (both paved and unpaved) to the boathouse.

Do I need a license to fish on the Lake?
Yes. Anyone ages 16 years and older must have a fishing license.

Where do I purchase a fishing license?
Through any authorized licensing agents across the Commonwealth of Virginia (in person or online).

How much does a fishing license cost in Virginia?
Fees vary and start at $16 and up.

Can I bring my own kayak, canoe, or boat and fish from it?
Not at this time. We have been working hard in the last decade to bring the Lake to a healthy point, and that work continues to maintain that level and ensure its long term sustainability.

Why is the Lake open to the public on weekends only?
The Lake is currently used for educational programming on the weekdays as part of The Mariners’ Environmental Initiative.

What is the minimum age requirement for children to kayak?
Children must weigh at least 30 pounds and be at least five years old to participate, which includes riding in a tandem. Children ages 5-17 years old must be accompanied on the water by an adult who is responsible for their supervision. If a child cannot swim or has never kayaked, then the recommended supervision is 1:1 adult to child ratio.

What happens if you get caught fishing without a license in Virginia?
Any person who is caught fishing without a license will be faced with a Class 3 misdemeanor (a fine up to $500).

Is swimming allowed in Mariners’ Lake?
Swimming is strictly prohibited in the Lake.