



Mariners' Lake® Reopens for Third Season of Kayak and Rowboat Rentals

Lake Recognized as a Chesapeake Gateways Place for Outdoor Recreation and Environmental Education Opportunities



Newport News, VA, May 28, 2025 — [Mariners' Lake](#), a 167-acre stormwater-fed lake nestled within Mariners' Park, opened for its third season on Saturday, May 24. Amid the opening, The Mariners'

Museum and Park is also celebrating its designation as a [Chesapeake Gateways Place](#), a testament to the recreational and educational opportunities the Lake provides for the community.

While Mariners' Lake is located in the heart of Newport News, most guests agree that once they paddle out, they are transported to a different place, forgetting for a moment they are in an urban setting. The non-tidal waters and lack of motorboat traffic mean it's the perfect spot for nervous beginners.

Publicly accessible water access points are scarce in Hampton Roads," said Sabrina Jones, senior director of advancement. "Much of our waterways are industrial and private, so this is the perfect place to spend time on the water this season."

Each weekend through August 31, guests can explore the Lake's tranquil waters and soak in the panoramic Park views by renting kayaks or rowboats from the Lake's boathouse. Fishing enthusiasts can enjoy catch-and-release fishing from a kayak or rowboat (shoreline fishing is not permitted), with a fishing license required for guests ages 16 and older.

The Lake reopened in July 2023 after a decade-long closure and has since served thousands of local students and community members.

In 2024, The Mariners' installed an accessible launch alongside the existing two launch points. These launches allow easy entry into the water, making Mariners' Lake an ideal kayaking location for children, beginners, and those with limited mobility.

Chesapeake Gateways Place

In recognition of its efforts to connect people to the world's waters, [The Mariners' Museum and Park](#) was recently designated a Chesapeake Gateways Place by the National Park Service. This honor highlights sites that foster personal connections to the Chesapeake Bay watershed for the community.

Mariners' Lake meets these criteria through innovative environmental education initiatives that expand access to Chesapeake watershed education, such as the Mariners' Environmental Co-op and Lake Stewards, which engage local ninth-grade students in hands-on watershed science and stewardship.

"This designation and the start of our third Lake program season reflect our dedication to creating meaningful, engaging outdoor experiences," said Mariners' Lake Program Manager Kelly Garner, Ed.S. "We're excited to welcome the community back on the water and deepen connections to the Chesapeake Bay through recreation and education."

As summer begins, Mariners' Lake offers the perfect setting for families and outdoor enthusiasts to experience the beauty and importance of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Home to a museum, park, and lake, The Mariners' Museum and Park boasts a unique blend of history, nature, and community engagement within the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Media interested in interviews or more information about this award should contact Senior Director of Advancement Sabrina Jones at sjones@MarinersMuseum.org.

The Mariners' Museum and Park connects people to the world's waters because through the water – through our shared maritime heritage – we are connected to one another. The organization is an educational, private 501(c)(3) nonprofit institution accredited by the American Alliance of Museums and preserves and interprets maritime history through an international collection of ship models, figureheads, paintings, and other maritime artifacts. The Mariners' Museum® is home to the USS *Monitor* Center, and is surrounded by the 550-acre Mariners' Park, the largest privately owned and maintained park that is free and open to the public in North America. The Mariners' Museum Library is the largest maritime library in the Western hemisphere. Because of the Museum's world-class collection and its reputation for high-level exhibits and programs, in 1998, the U.S. Congress designated The Mariners' Museum as one of only two maritime museums that comprise America's National Maritime Museum. The Museum galleries are open to the general public with \$1 admission, and the Mariners' team will continue to offer FREE virtual programs for those who prefer to engage online with us or through our social media platforms and blog posts. The Mariners' Park and Noland Trail is open for daily use. For additional information, visit MarinersMuseum.org, call (757) 596-2222 or write to The Mariners' Museum, 100 Museum Drive, Newport News, VA 23606.

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