



The Maryland Port Administration

PRESS RELEASE

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NEWLY BORN EAGLETS CAN NOW BE OBSERVED IN MASONVILLE COVE WILDLIFE AREA

*Campus Reopens Following No-Access Policy That Aided Eaglets' Development;
Environmental Education Center remains closed; COVID-19 precautions encouraged*

BALTIMORE, MD – Visitors are now able to visit the reopened Masonville Cove urban wildlife area in Baltimore to passively observe two recently born eaglets. The Masonville Cove Environmental Education Center remains closed under COVID-19 precautions, and until recently the urban wildlife area had been closed as well to allow the eaglets time to fledge their nest. The public is now invited to observe the birds within the Masonville Cove environment. However, as Maryland continues its COVID-19 recovery, visitors are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings and adhere to social distancing guidelines.

“This is a very exciting development for all of our Masonville Cove partners,” said Kristen Fidler, director of harbor development for the Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Port Administration (MDOT MPA). “We take a lot of pride in making sure we cultivate a safe and protective environment for the eaglets. We know there is a lot of interest in seeing them in their habitat.”

The eaglets were born to the same bald eagle pair that successfully nested at Masonville Cove last year. This year's eaglets were first visible in April. To protect the birds, restrictions were imposed on all activities within a 660-foot radius of the nest. The family has been closely monitored by Maryland Environmental Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Living Classrooms Foundation. The eaglets fledged their nest sometime in late June and can now be observed flying and perched at Masonville Cove.

Masonville Cove, 1000 Frankfurst Ave., is open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, with extended hours the first Thursday of the month until 8 p.m. **Visitors who come to observe the eaglets should not approach them closely, should not chase them and should not to follow them if they fly to a different area of the site.**

Although the Masonville Cove Environmental Education Center is closed and bathroom facilities are not available, there is a check-in station in front of the building. The public should check in at the station before accessing the wildlife area. For more information, visit www.masonvillecove.org

Located along the banks of the Middle Branch of the Patapsco River, Masonville Cove is an environmental restoration success story. It is the former home of Kurt Iron and Metal and the Maryland Shipbuilding and Drydock Company. More than 61,000 tons of trash and debris dating back to the Great Baltimore Fire of 1904 were cleared by the MDOT MPA upon its opening in 2008. In 2013, it was named as the nation's first Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership.

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Today, Masonville Cove includes walking trails, a fishing pier and the education center. The Living Classrooms Foundation and the National Aquarium provide educational and environmental programs at the center that have been attended by about 2,000 students annually. On the other side of Masonville Cove is the Masonville/Fairfield auto terminal managed by the MDOT MPA.

Last year the Port of Baltimore handled a record 43.6 million tons of cargo, including more than 11 million tons of general cargo at the public marine terminals. The Port of Baltimore ranks first among the nation's ports for volume of autos and light trucks, roll on/roll off heavy farm and construction machinery, and imported gypsum. It ranks 11th among major U.S. ports for cargo handled and ninth nationally for total cargo value. A record 857,890 cars and light trucks crossed the Port's public and private piers in 2019, the most in the U.S. for the ninth consecutive year. The Port also handled a record 657,059 containers at the public terminals.

Business at the Port of Baltimore generates more than 15,300 direct jobs, and nearly 140,000 total jobs in Maryland are linked to Port activities.

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Governor Larry Hogan | MDOT Secretary Gregory Slater | MDOT MPA Acting Executive Director David Thomas

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