

FOR THIRD YEAR, EAGLES HAVE LANDED AT MASONVILLE COVE Camera Near Nest Allows Public To Monitor Mating Pair

(BALTIMORE, MD) – For the third consecutive year, two bald eagles have taken up residence at the Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Port Administration's (MDOT MPA) Masonville Cove Environmental Education Center in Baltimore. The eagles have raised four eaglets at Masonville over the past two years and could raise more this spring. The public is invited to watch the eagles through a live streaming camera installed recently near their nest by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The footage can be viewed at www.masonvillecove.org/eagles. The typical nesting season continues through May.

"We want to thank all of our partners for making it easy for the public to monitor these beautiful eagles," MDOT MPA Director of Harbor Development Kristen Fidler said. "Masonville Cove is home to many different species of birds and wildlife. It's exciting for the public to be able to watch this nesting pair, especially with the possibility of following any eaglets from egg to fledging in the nest!"

MDOT MPA's partners at Masonville – including USFWS, the Maryland Environmental Service, the Living Classrooms Foundation and the National Aquarium – have collaborated to minimize disturbances and have established a protected area for the eagles in compliance with National Bald Eagle Nest Protection Guidelines.

Masonville Cove, at 1000 Frankfur Avenue in Baltimore, is open to the public from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday. Extended hours are offered the first Thursday of each month from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Visitors are encouraged to bring binoculars, and are required to adhere to COVID-19 health guidelines that include wearing face coverings and practicing social distancing.

Access to the campus is currently limited due to breeding season. However, the public can view the eagles anytime through the streaming camera, and can also see them in person from the Captain Trash Wheel trail, which is accessible from the Masonville Cove Environmental Education Center.

In addition to the education center, Masonville Cove offers walking trails and a fishing pier. Approximately 250 different species of birds have been spotted at Masonville Cove, which is listed the Baltimore eBird list of hot spots. The Living Classrooms Foundation and National Aquarium provide educational and environmental programs at Masonville Cove attended by more than 2,000 students annually. During the COVID-19 emergency programs are being conducted virtually.

Located along the Middle Branch of the Patapsco River, Masonville Cove is an urban wildlife area and environmental restoration success story. The property has been transformed from the former home of Kurt Iron and Metal and the Maryland Shipbuilding and Drydock Co. More than 61,000 tons of trash and debris dating back to the Great Baltimore Fire of 1904 were cleared from the site. In 2013, USFWS designated Masonville Cove as the nation's first Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership.

In 2018, Masonville Cove welcomed the solar-powered Captain Trash Wheel, which collects debris in the water surrounding Masonville Cove and prevents it from entering the Patapsco River. Its operation is part of mitigation efforts associated with the neighboring MDOT MPA's Masonville Dredged Material Containment Facility, which receives dredged sediment from Baltimore shipping channels to clear the way for ships heading to and from the Port of Baltimore.

Among the nation's ports, the Port of Baltimore ranks first for autos and light trucks, roll on/roll off heavy farm and construction machinery and imported sugar. The Port ranks second in exported coal. Overall, the Port ranks ninth among all ports for total dollar value of cargo, and 12th in foreign cargo tonnage. Business at the Port of Baltimore generates more than 15,300 direct jobs, with more than 139,000 jobs in Maryland linked to Port activities. The Port is responsible for \$3.3 billion in personal income and nearly \$400 million in state and local tax revenues.

The health and safety of the Port of Baltimore workforce is paramount, and the public marine terminals have maintained stringent CDC-recommended health and safety measures to ensure safety of its labor force, tenants and partners. MDOT MPA encourages the use of face coverings and social distancing measures for individuals working at the marine terminals, and encourages teleworking for those able to do so. Temperature screenings and other preventative procedures are also continuing.

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