



*For Immediate Release*

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## **Verona to Host Free Community Event Celebrating New ADA- Accessible Dock Sunday, June 1**

### **Riverfront Activities Include Guided Paddle, Yoga, Fishing Demo, and More**

Verona, PA –Friends of the Riverfront, Steel City Rowing, and Verona Borough are pleased to announce the grand opening of a new ADA-accessible kayak launch with a free, public celebration on Sunday, June 1, 2025, from 9:00 am to 1:30 pm at the Verona Riverfront at Steel City Rowing.

The new Boardsafe ADA launch is the result of a partnership among Friends of the Riverfront, Verona Borough, and Steel City Rowing, and is designed to make it easier for people with physical disabilities to board and disembark from kayaks and canoes.

To meet ADA requirements, this public launch is installed on Steel City Rowing's dock. The rest of the dock will remain private and used by Steel City Rowing only. The launch is part of the Three Rivers Water Trail, which along with the Three Rivers Heritage Trail, is built and stewarded by Friends of the Riverfront.

The June 1 celebration will feature free outdoor activities designed to showcase the newly improved access to the Allegheny River.

**Commented [KC1]:** Steel City Rowing Club is very happy and honored to have been able to work with Friends of the Riverfront and Verona Borough to provide this wonderful resource to the community. Part of our mission here at SCRC is to provide access to the river for all and this kayak launch will now allow for many individuals, that previously have not had the opportunity, to comfortably access our beautiful stretch of the Allegheny River. We look forward to seeing members of the community enjoying the river and continuing our mission to further make our location an inclusive spot for all individuals to connect with the river.



The event begins at 9:00 AM with a guided meditation by Awaken Pittsburgh, followed by an official ribbon-cutting ceremony at 9:45 AM.

Attendees will then be able to participate in a variety of free activities throughout the morning:

- Guided Paddle & Tour of Sycamore Island led by Allegheny Land Trust (10:30 AM–12:30 PM)
- Yoga by the Water led by Be Yoga Oakmont (10:30 AM)
- Fishing Demonstration led by Pittsburgh First Catch (11:00 AM)
- Food Truck Offerings, including burgers, ice cream, and local beverages
- Public Feedback Station – Attendees can provide input on future plans for the site

All activities are free and open to the public, and no registration is required to attend the event, although the Guided Paddle has a participation limit.

The new launch is part of Friends of the Riverfront's recently released Water Trail Management Plan, which lays out strategies for improving water recreation on the three rivers which can offer positive economic impacts to the region.

Jenn Langzettel, the Executive Director of Steel City Rowing, said the ADA-accessible launch was an exciting addition to local water recreation.

"Steel City Rowing Club is very happy and honored to have been able to work with Friends of the Riverfront and Verona Borough to provide this wonderful resource to the community," Langzettel said.



"Part of our mission here at SCRC is to provide access to the river for all and this kayak launch will now allow for many individuals, that previously have not had the opportunity, to comfortably access our beautiful stretch of the Allegheny River," she added.

Kelsey Ripper, executive director of Friends of the Riverfront, said that expanding the number of ADA-accessible launches on the Three Rivers Water Trail was part of the organization's longer-term plan.

"This launch is another step in Friends' pursuit of making our trails accessible to all," Ripper said. "Our region's beautiful rivers and trails are precious assets, and we hear all the time how much it means to people to be able to use them freely."

She added, "with 35 miles of trail and more than 30 water launches, the Three Rivers Heritage Trail and Water Trail are redefining our riverfronts county-wide."

**Event Overview:**

**Location:** Verona Riverfront

**Date:** Saturday, June 1, 2025

**Time:** 9:00 AM – 1:30 PM

**Cost:** Free and open to all

For more information and to RSVP for the guided paddle tour, please visit:

[Verona Accessible Kayak Launch Grand Opening | Friends of the Riverfront](#)