



# Friends of Minsi Lake

# 2024 SUCCESS STORY

## Boat Storage Project

### SUMMARY

This project provided for the purchase, assembly & placement of two, free-standing canoe & kayak racks at the West Shore Boat Storage Area at Minsi Lake Park. Each rack has nine boat slips in which a combined total of 18 kayaks & canoes can be safely stored up off the ground, eliminating cover for water snakes (& surprised boaters!) & allowing Northampton County Parks staff to better maintain the landscape at the boat storage area. Prior to the placement of the racks, canoes & kayaks were simply stored upside down on the ground. The lower six slips on each rack are accessible for boaters with physical mobility challenges.



### CHALLENGE

Northampton County Parks recently completed a capital improvements project at Minsi Lake. These improvements included the installation of accessible restrooms & fishing & boating docks, park signage & paving thousands of linear feet of lakeside trails at the park for visitors who use wheelchairs.

One of the only remaining park amenities that needed to be improved at the lake was a better boat storage system. Until now, boaters simply locked their watercraft to a cable, upside down on the lawn next to the West Shore Boat Launch. This practice damaged the turfgrass here & prevented parks maintenance staff from doing a thorough job mowing & managing the landscape at the boat storage area.

While the Parks Department would have had to wait to budget for a boat storage system, as a community nonprofit organization & a Northampton County Parks & Recreation partner, FOML had the benefit of being able to immediately approve funding to purchase for the equipment.

### FUNDING

**FOML:**  
**\$4,730**

**Match via Parks & Rec In-Kind:**  
**\$719**

**Total Project Cost:**  
**\$5,449**

### PARTNERSHIP IS KEY

As a committee under the bylaws of the Northampton County Junior Conservation School, we thank NCJCS for its strong support & approval of FOML Projects for public benefit at Minsi Lake Park, like this one.

We also thank Northampton County Parks for its in-kind contributions managing & coordinating this project & assembling the racks in place at the West Shore Boat Storage Area.



## SOLUTION



Friends of Minsi Lake was established in 2017 to work with Northampton County Parks & Recreation to help chart the course & provide the resources needed to improve the natural & recreational assets at Minsi Lake Park & throughout the Minsi Lake Greenway. FOML rose to the challenge of funding a high quality boat storage system at Minsi Lake by allocating the necessary funds from its budget to do so—funds that had been raised over the past seven years for purposes just like this one.

Part of the solution was not only to provide a boat storage system for public use, but to select a design to ensure accessibility for individuals with mobility challenges. *“Recreation for All”* has been part of every aspect of our partnership’s recreational facilities improvements project at Minsi Lake Park.

## RESULTS

The results of this project were the installation of two boat racks with combined storage for 18 canoes & kayaks at the West Shore Boat Storage Area at Minsi Lake Park. Each storage rack condenses nine boats into a single outdoor holding space that is user & equipment friendly & occupies just 40 square feet.

Each rack has nine individual slips for kayaks, canoes or paddleboards, equipped with PVC rollers to prevent friction & exterior scratching, while providing ease of storing & removing watercraft. The racks are heavy duty, commercial grade & constructed from galvanized steel & treated lumber coated in PVC. They’re UV resistant, maintenance free & come with a lifetime warranty.

The lower six slips on each storage rack are accessible for boaters with limited reach or other mobility challenges. With its accessible fishing & boating docks, restrooms, park benches, trails, picnic area & now accessible boat storage racks, Minsi Lake Park has become the most accessible recreation destination in the region & a model for universal design in the great outdoors.

### Contact



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**\*West Shore Boat Storage Area: Before & After the Project\***

