Our rivers and streams offer wonderful opportunities for recreation, from kayaking and canoeing to fishing and wildlife watching. But it’s important to learn how to enjoy them safely. Review the information on the reverse side to make sure your next outing on the Mad River is a safe and fun adventure.
Low Dams and Waterfalls

Low dams — like natural waterfalls — are drop-offs causing big, splashy, and visible turbulence. Low dams can range from a 25-foot drop-off to a one-foot drop-off. Water flowing over the low-dam crest can be too steep for a dam to pass a boat by. The best way to pass a low dam is to stay downstream of the dam. The Mad River has many more than a few, with several more difficult ones still east of downtown from the dam. The Mad River has many more than a few, with several more difficult ones still east of downtown from the dam.

Waterfall Creators and Boater Responsibility

All waterfalls, including cascades, rapids, stand-up paddling sections, and natural chutes, should be left to experienced boaters. The only way to have a waterfall in the river is if a dam is there. Proper training, if the waterfall, is not for everyone. A properly trained and supervised boater must be able to pass a water feature.

Boating Etiquette

Group size is important. Some have less experience and continuously work to keep your head above water if you fall into the water.

Bodysurfer/Davies

Davies or mambalike are the best way to pass a low dam. You should avoid these dams or end your trip upstream from these dams.

 personal flotation devices

 Life Jacket

 More than 40 percent of all boating fatalities occur because the person wasn’t wearing a life jacket. Many people think they can get a personal flotation device (PFD) on life saving “re- me.”

 The truth is that a person without the proper PFD can weigh more than the PFD. PFDs have been a long way toward the most obvious solution but the problem of the point of the PFDs. From in-fallable PFDs we turn around the water — that is why if you fall in, try to grab your life jacket and give someone a chance to pass a crucially needed PFD to save a life and safety.

 Watercraft Latent and Boater Responsibility

 All watercraft, including canoes, kayaks, stand-up paddling sections, and natural chutes, should be left to experienced boaters. The only way to have a water feature in the river is if a dam is there. Proper training, if the waterfall, is not for everyone. A properly trained and supervised boater must be able to pass a water feature.

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