

# Mad River



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.



## MAP SYMBOLS

- |                             |                             |                     |                         |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>MR</b> Mad River         | <b>MR 00.0</b> Caution Area | U.S. Highways       | Canoe Rental            |
| <b>BC</b> Buck Creek        | MCD Flood Protection Dam    | Interstate Highways | Boat Ramp               |
| <b>GM</b> Great Miami River | Dam                         | Roadside Parking    | Whitewater Feature      |
| <b>SW</b> Stillwater River  | Caution Area                | Parking Lot         | Camping                 |
| River Access                | County Road                 | Restrooms           | Recreation Trail Access |
| River Miles                 | Ohio State Routes           | Drinking Water      | Changing Booth          |
| Low Dam                     |                             | Picnic Area         |                         |

## MAP LEGEND

### Mad River (MR)

- MR 51.1** West Liberty Park (SR 245) (roadside access left)
- MR 50.0** Pimtown Road bridge, State of Ohio (roadside access right)
- MR 48.2** Upper Valley Pike (Sullivan Road/Mennonite Road) (roadside access left)
- MR 45.8** Lippincott Road (roadside access right or left)
- MR 44.2** DAM (portage on either side)
- MR 42.8** SR 296 bridge (roadside access left)
- MR 42.7** SR 29 bridge (roadside access left)
- MR 40.9** Birchbark Canoe Livery (River Road) (access right)
- MR 40.7** Millerstown Road bridge and River Road (roadside access right)
- MR 39.1** US 36 bridge - north of the bridge (roadside access right)
- MR 39.1** US 36 bridge - south of the bridge (roadside access right)
- MR 39.1** DAM - downstream of SR 36 (portage right)
- MR 37.5** Old Troy Pike (roadside access right)
- MR 36.2** SR 55 bridge (roadside access right)
- MR 35.1** Dallas Road bridge (roadside access right)
- MR 33.4** County Line Road bridge (roadside access left)
- MR 31.9** Tremont City Road bridge (roadside access left)
- MR 29.7** Eagle City Road bridge (roadside access left)
- MR 28.8** St. Paris Pike bridge (roadside access left)
- MR 27.1** SR 41 (First Street) bridge (downstream access left)
- MR 24.4** Mad River Gorge & Nature Preserve, Clark County Park District (access left)
- MR 22.7** Lower Valley Pike (access left or right)
- MR 20.1** Mad River Adventures (Old Lower Valley Pike) (access right)
- MR 19.0** Enon Road bridge (roadside access left)
- MR 10.6** DAM downstream of Medway Road (portage right)
- Huffman MetroPark, Five Rivers MetroParks (access right)

### DAM

- MR 5.8** Huffman Dam, Miami Conservancy District (portage right)
- MR 5.8** Downstream of Huffman Dam (access right)
- MR 5.2** DAM downstream of SR 444 (Stay far left, portage dam. DO NOT continue straight into mill race VERY dangerous and ILLEGAL)
- MR 4.3** Large pipe across river (portage right or left with caution)
- MR 3.8** Harshman Road, Five Rivers MetroParks (access left)
- MR 3.0** Eastwood MetroPark, Five Rivers MetroParks (access right and left)
- MR 3.0** Small RAPID at Eastwood MetroPark (Kayak play area - access right or left)
- MR 1.6** Findlay Street bridge (roadside access left)
- MR 0.7** Whitewater Warehouse (Valley Street) (roadside access right)
- MR 0.3** Webster Street bridge (roadside access river right)
- MR 0.0** Deeds Point, Five Rivers MetroParks (access right)

### Buck Creek (BC)

- BC 7.1** DAM at Buck Creek State Park
- BC 6.8** Croft Road Parking Lot (access left)
- BC 6.8** Small low dam at Croft Road parking lot
- BC 6.7** Prairie View Recreation Area, US Army Corps of Engineers (access right)
- BC 6.6** Old Reid Park at Croft Road, National Trails Park District (access left)
- BC 5.2** Natural limestone ledge - Drop (Chute left - Class II+, portage right)
- BC 4.2** Buck Creek White Water Park (access right) - Drop 1 (Class II+) - Drop 2 (Class I)
- BC 2.8** White Water at Art Museum (access right) - Drop 1 (Class II) - Drop 2 (Class II)
- BC 2.5** Veteran's Park, National Trails Park District (access right)

### White Water at Snyder Park

- Drop 1 (Class I)
- Drop 2 (Class II)
- Drop 3 (Class II+)
- Drop 4 (Class II)

- BC 1.9** Snyder Park, National Trails Park District (access right and left)
- BC 0.3** Snyder Park, National Trails Park District (access left)

### Beaver Creek (BVC)

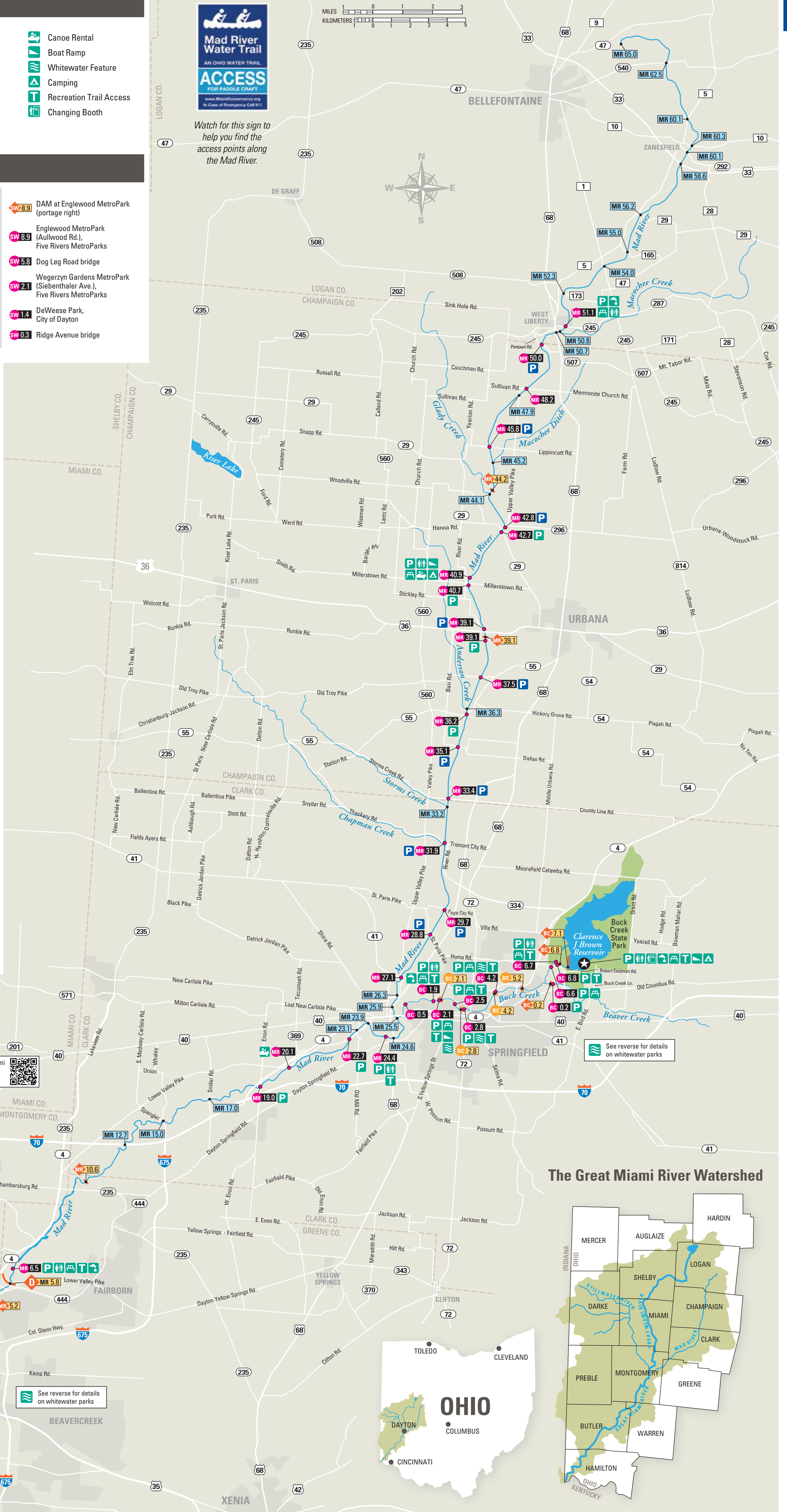
- BVC 0.2** Old Reid Park at Beaver Creek (access right)
- BVC 0.2** DAM - located on Beaver Creek (portage right)

### Great Miami River (GM)

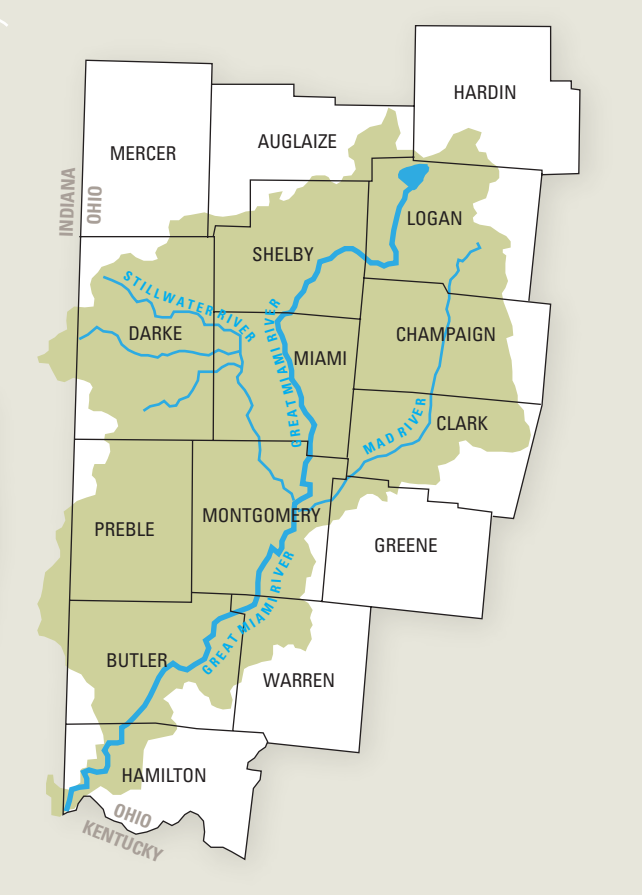
- GM 94.0** Ross Road bridge
- GM 91.0** Taylorsville MetroPark, Five Rivers MetroParks
- GM 88.3** Taylorsville Dam, Miami Conservancy District (portage right)
- GM 80.8** Taylorsville MetroPark, Five Rivers MetroParks
- GM 89.5** Great Miami Trail Bridge Little York Rd. Bridge
- GM 88.3** Rip Rap Rd. at Fishburg Rd.
- GM 88.2** Rip Rap Road Bikeway bridge
- GM 85.2** DAM at City of Dayton wellfield (portage left)
- GM 84.3** Eintracht Club, City of Riverside
- GM 82.0** Triangle Park, City of Dayton
- GM 81.7** Island MetroPark, Five Rivers MetroParks
- GM 81.3** DAM at Island MetroPark, City of Dayton (portage left)
- GM 80.7** Deeds Point, Five Rivers MetroParks
- GM 80.4** RiverScape MetroPark, Five Rivers MetroParks
- GM 80.4** River Run - Drop 1 (small rapid)
- GM 79.9** River Run - Drop 2 (small rapid)
- GM 79.9** RiverScape Park, Miami Conservancy District
- GM 76.6** DAM at Tait Station downstream of I-75 (portage right) SCHEDULED FOR REMOVAL IN 2018

### Stillwater River (SW)

- SW 9.0** Englewood Dam, Miami Conservancy District (portage right)



## The Great Miami River Watershed



For more information, a Stillwater River map is available from The Miami Conservancy District.

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See reverse for details on whitewater parks

See reverse for details on whitewater parks



# Playing It Safe

## Hazards Found on Streams

**Recreation on rivers and streams can be relaxing or thrilling, but it should always be safe. Water offers several real dangers, but with proper training, these hazards are easily managed. Boating safety classes that can teach you to handle water hazards are available around the state of Ohio. Contact the Ohio DNR at 1-877-4BOATER or [www.watercraft.ohiodnr.gov](http://www.watercraft.ohiodnr.gov) for more information.**



Paddlers should not boat on swollen rivers and streams like this high water on the Great Miami River in downtown Dayton.

## Floods and Other High, Swift Water

Paddlers should never boat on a stream with water spilling out of the banks or on a stream that is unusually swollen due to high rains or snow melt. High water causes hazards such as low dams and strainers to become even more dangerous. Unseen obstacles such as floating logs or submerged trees may also threaten a boater. Swift currents are more likely to overcome a paddler's ability to avoid hazards and may make it more difficult to reach shore once in the water.

Water levels are monitored on rivers and streams throughout the state. Check local media and sources for warnings and current conditions.

## Cold Water Immersion

Sudden immersion in cold water can be deadly. The initial "cold shock" can cause immediate, involuntary gasping, hyperventilation, panic and vertigo – all of which can result in inhaling water and drowning. It also can cause sudden changes in blood pressure, heart rate and heart rhythm that also may result in death. The longer you are immersed in cold water, the harder it is to control your body. Manual dexterity and coordination deteriorate rapidly, and within 30 minutes, hypothermia (cooling of the body's core temperature) can begin. Loss of consciousness and death with or without drowning can result.



To prevent cold water immersion, take all measures necessary to avoid capsizing your boat. Keep your life jacket securely fastened to help keep your head above water if you fall into the water.

You don't have to be submerged to become hypothermic. Wind chill, rain and perspiration can contribute to the condition. Uncontrollable shivering, slurred speech and lack of coordination are early symptoms. To guard against hypothermia, dress in layers using materials that wick moisture away and retain heat, such as silk, polypropylene, fleece and wool. Every boater should be able to recognize and know how to treat hypothermia.

## Low Dams and Waterfalls

Low dams – like natural waterfalls – are deceptively calm and can be incredibly dangerous. Low dams may range from a 25-foot drop-off to a mere 6-inch drop-off. Water flowing over the dam forms currents that can trap objects and you. Backwash and re-circulating current can trap you back against the dam then under-water before you are pushed along the bottom only to be sucked back to the dam as you rise to the surface. This circulating motion repeats over and over again. The backwash currents may even suck you in if you approach too closely from downstream of the dam. The Mad River has many dams, with several more low dams on its tributaries.



Low dams can be deadly and should always be avoided.

## SAFETY TIPS TO FOLLOW

- Know the location of all low dams and waterfalls on the river that you plan to boat.
- NEVER attempt to boat over a dam or waterfall.
- Portage (carry) your boat around a low dam and launch a safe distance, well downstream of the backwash of the low dam.
- Scout the river and know the location of hazards. Talk with boaters who are familiar with the river to gain additional knowledge.
- Boat with experienced, responsible boaters and learn from them.
- Watch for a smooth line connecting the banks. This may be the top of a low dam.
- Listen for the splashing sounds of turbulence and the dangerous currents at dams.
- Look for concrete retaining walls, which some dams have at each bank, making the dams easier to spot.

It is nearly impossible to escape the force of a low dam's currents.

Unless you are trained in low dam rescues, never enter the water in an attempt to rescue someone trapped by a low dam. Immediately call for help, then throw a line from shore to the trapped person. Untrained rescuers should never approach the top of the dam or the backwash below the dam, even in a boat. The turbulence at the dam will easily capsize a boat.



Low dam location (View looking downstream)

It looks calm and peaceful, but a low dam is only 200 feet beyond this boat, well in front of the bridge.



Huffman Dam near Wright Patterson Air Force Base is one of MCD's five flood protection dams.

## MCD Dams

The Miami Conservancy District operates and maintains five large flood-protection dams (not low dams), in the Great Miami River Watershed. These dams hold back water only when river levels are too high to pass through the large concrete tubes (conduits) that pass through the dams. *Do not attempt to boat through the dam's conduits.* Underwater portions of the dam create unpredictable currents and turbulence, which can be extremely dangerous. Plan to start your river trip downstream from these dams or end your trip upstream from these dams.



## Strainers

River obstructions that allow water to flow through them but that block or "strain" people and boats are known as "strainers." They are frequently found in the form of branches and limbs, log jams and flooded islands. Because the water flows through strainers, river currents may carry you and your boat right into the strainer. Those same currents will press against the side of your boat and cause it to tip. If you should fall into the water, the current will push you against the strainer and hold you in place with tremendous force. The current may hold you at the water surface or below the water. **All strainers should be avoided.**

## Foot Entrapments

If your boat capsizes, do not attempt to stand or walk if you are in high, swift-moving water. You may pin a foot between submerged rocks or debris. Once pinned, the force of the current can push you under the water and hold you there. Always keep your feet up, pointed downstream, and swim to calm water before standing.

*Safety information provided by the Ohio DNR Division of Watercraft and MCD.*

*PHOTOS: Dusty Hall, Jordan Hart, Sarah Hippensteel and Ryan Hulvat*

## Personal Flotation Devices/ Life Jacket

More than 80 percent of all boating fatalities occur because the person wasn't wearing a life vest. Many people think a personal flotation device (PFD) or life vest says "non-swimmer," but the truth is no boating expert would be without one. And PFDs have come a long way since the bright orange, uncomfortable life jackets of the past. From inflatable PFDs worn around the waist – that open only if they hit water – to lightweight life vests, everyone can find a comfortable PFD to insure a safe trip.

## Watercraft Laws and Boater Responsibility

- All watercraft, including canoes, kayaks, stand-up paddleboards, motorboats and most inflatable rafts, must be registered with Ohio DNR.
- United States Coast Guard approved (USCG) personal flotation devices (PFDs) are required for every boater.
- Children under the age of 10 are required to wear a properly fitted, USCG-approved PFD at all times while on a watercraft less than 18 feet in length.
- It is illegal to operate any watercraft – boats, canoes, kayaks, jet skis, etc. – under the influence of alcohol.
- It is illegal to litter in any ditch, stream, river, lake, pond or other water area.
- Children under the age of 12 operating a watercraft must be directly supervised by an adult and may not operate personal watercraft such as jet skis.

## Boating Etiquette

Group size and paddling skills are an important consideration in choosing a waterway for your trip. The recommended minimum is three boats. No one should paddle alone.

Each person has specific responsibilities in the overall group organization. The safety of the group is dependent upon everyone carrying out these responsibilities.

The lead boat is the first boat and should carry an experienced river runner. The lead boat:

- Sets the pace and continually evaluates the pace for the rest of the boats.
- Selects and communicates to the rest of the group the route to follow.
- Scouts the route when a clear section isn't visible.
- Carries first-aid and rescue equipment.

The sweep boat is the last boat and should carry an experienced rescuer. The sweep boat will only pass other boats in the event of an emergency and:

- Carries first-aid and rescue equipment.
- Assists with keeping the group together.

The remaining boats have a responsibility to stay in between the lead and sweep boats. (If a boat inadvertently passes the lead boat, it should immediately stop and wait for the lead boat to pass.)

The remaining boats:

- Maintain space to avoid collisions, but still stay compact as a group.
- Always keep the next boat upstream and downstream in sight; stop if the downstream boat isn't visible.
- Communicate boating instructions.

## Outdoor Ethic

### Dispose of litter properly – pack it out

- Repackage food to minimize waste.
- Never throw garbage into the water.
- Plastics are dangerous to wildlife – plastic bags, six-pack rings, and other clear plastics float on the water.

### Display courtesy and respect to riverfront landowners

- The access points highlighted in this guide are located on public property, but most of the shoreline and river bottom are privately owned.
- Many landowners enjoy the stream's peace and solitude from their property. Share the same courtesy that you would want.

### Leave what you find

- Leave artifacts and natural objects undisturbed. Avoid introducing non-native species, including live bait, by cleaning equipment between trips.

## Whitewater on the Mad River Water Trail

### Mad River Run (Class II) – river mile (RM) 3.7

The Mad River Run is an in-river feature that includes a right and left passageway at the main drop and then a small drop with a center passageway.



- **Novice paddlers** enter **river right** for a smooth passageway (to avoid the feature, a portage is available on river right)
- **Experienced paddlers** enter **river left** for a whitewater play feature

Access at different river levels (found here <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/usa/nwis/lv?Q3270000>):

- **Optimal use** of the Mad River Run is when river levels are **between 300 and 1200 CFS.**
- **Beginner paddlers** may be more comfortable in conditions at or **below 800 CFS.**



### Hours of Mad River Run:

Open to the public during Eastwood MetroPark hours.  
Apr. 1 – Oct. 31, 8 AM – 10 PM  
Nov. 1 – Mar. 31, 8 AM – 8 PM  
Closed Christmas and New Year's Day.

### Parking and Access at Eastwood MetroPark:

- **Park-n-Play (enter river left and river right at RM 3.7):** 1401 Harshman Rd., Dayton, OH 45431
- **Harshman Road (enter river left at RM 3.8):** 1385 Harshman Rd., Dayton, OH 45431



### Buck Creek Whitewater Project – RM 2.1, RM 2.8, RM 4.2

The Buck Creek Whitewater Project features eight in-river features each with a single passageway.

The Friends of Buck Creek have secured "Weekend Recreational Releases" through the fall from C.J. Brown Dam & Reservoir via the US Army Corps of Engineers. The releases run every Saturday and Sunday from mid-September through November.

- **Natural Limestone Ledge** – river mile 5.2
- Drop (Chute left - Class II+, portage right)

### Buck Creek Whitewater Project – river mile 4.2, 2.8, 2.1

- **Buck Creek Whitewater Park** (access left) (river mile 4.2)
- Drop 1 (Class II+) The natural limestone chutes are the most difficult rapids on this river.
- Drop 2 (Class I)

### Parking and Access for Buck Creek Whitewater Park

- Carleton Davidson Stadium - 1101 Mitchell Boulevard, Springfield, Ohio 45503

### Whitewater at Art Museum (access right) (river mile 2.8)

- Drop 1 (Class II)
- Drop 2 (Class II)

### Parking and Access for Whitewater at Art Museum

- Veteran's Memorial - 91 Cliff Park Drive, Springfield, Ohio 45504

### Whitewater at Snyder Park (access left) (river mile 2.1)

- Drop 1 (Class I)
- Drop 2 (Class II)
- Drop 3 (Class II+)
- Drop 4 (Class II)

### Parking and Access for Whitewater at Snyder Park

- Snyder Park - 1900 Park St., Springfield, Ohio 45504

## MCD is all about water. Protecting. Preserving. Promoting.

### Flood Protection

People and businesses along the Great Miami River in southwest Ohio enjoy life without flooding concerns. MCD's system of five dry dams, retarding basins, 55 miles of levees, and preserved floodplain provide a nearly unparalleled level of protection.

### Water

Water is the key to healthy people and healthy communities. MCD monitors and protects our region's water.

### River Fun

And water isn't just for drinking. Rivers are outdoor playgrounds. MCD is working to bring more and more people to the river.

### Vision

Thriving communities, a healthy watershed and a higher quality of life, sustained by well-managed water resources throughout the watershed.

### Mission

Protecting lives, property and economic vitality within the Great Miami River Watershed through an integrated and balanced system that provides unflinching flood protection, preserves water resources, and promotes enjoyment of our waterways.

## The Great Miami River Watershed



## Water Trail Partners

*All of the access point information is provided by the Miami Conservancy District and the following Water Trail partners. Special thanks to Dr. Thomas Martin, Professor Emeritus at Wittenberg University for his guidance.*

### Logan County

Indian Lake State Park  
12774 State Route 235 N  
Lakeview, Ohio 43331  
937-843-2717  
[parks.ohiodnr.gov/indianlake](http://parks.ohiodnr.gov/indianlake)

### Champaign County

Mad Men Chapter of Trout Unlimited  
[www.tumadmen.org](http://www.tumadmen.org)  
  
Five Rivers MetroParks  
409 E. Monument Avenue  
Third Floor  
Dayton, Ohio 45402  
(937) 275-PARK (7275)  
[www.metrotparks.org](http://www.metrotparks.org)

### Greene County

Greene County Parks and Trails  
575 Ledbetter  
Xenia, Ohio 45385  
937-562-6440  
[www.gcparkstrails.com](http://www.gcparkstrails.com)

### Clark County and Springfield

National Trail Parks and Recreation District  
1301 Mitchell Boulevard  
Springfield, Ohio 45503  
937-328-PARK (7275)  
[www.ntprd.org](http://www.ntprd.org)

Buck Creek State Park  
1901 Buck Creek Lane  
Springfield, Ohio 45502  
937-322-5284  
[parks.ohiodnr.gov/buckcreek](http://parks.ohiodnr.gov/buckcreek)

Clark County Park District  
930 South Tecumseh Road  
Springfield, OH 45506  
937-882-6000  
[www.clarkcountyparkdistrict.org](http://www.clarkcountyparkdistrict.org)

Springfield Conservancy District  
515 North Fountain Avenue  
Springfield, Ohio 45504  
937-408-5849



*Watch for this sign to help you find access to the Mad River*

## Report Spills

Report spills, abandoned drums, and other environmental emergencies 24 hours a day at 1-800-282-9378.

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This map has been printed on paper which is manufactured using an environmentally friendly process. This map may also be recycled.

The information contained in this map is believed to be accurate. The Miami Conservancy District is not responsible for any inaccuracies, interpretation and use of the map and its contents are the responsibility of the user.

Funding/production of this publication was a cooperative effort between MCD, Five Rivers MetroParks, and Ohio DNR.



38 E. Monument Avenue  
Dayton, Ohio 45402  
Phone: (937) 223-1271  
[www.mcdwater.org](http://www.mcdwater.org)



To help you plan your next – or first – paddling experience, MCD offers river recreation maps of the Great Miami, Stillwater and Mad water trails. The water trail maps show you the public access points, river miles, safety information and more. To download your copy visit [www.mcdwater.org](http://www.mcdwater.org)

- World-class fishing including brown trout
- Unique offers for boating
- Natural and urban parks
- 40+ public access points
- 2 whitewater drops on the Mad River
- 8 whitewater drops on the Buck Creek
- 72+ miles of rivers and streams
- In and along the Mad River, you can enjoy:

Love to paddle, row, fish or birdwatch? You've come to the right place. & Play It Safe!

# Mad River Map & Guide

Sixth Edition

