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 deceptively calm and can be incredibly dangerous. Low dams may range from a few to a 20-foot drop off to a mere 6-inch drop. Water flowing over the dams creates currents that can trap objects and people. Bushwhack and non-visualizing current can trap you (check carefully for the drop under water before you are pushed along the bottom only to be pulled back up to the dam and back to the surface. This is an ionizing experience ever and ever again. The backwash currents may even suck you in, curl you up, and sweep you up to the dam from downstream of the dam. The Mad River has man dams, with several man dams, with two dams or submerged trees may also threaten a boater. Swift paddlers should never boat on a stream with water that’s colder than your skin.

Watercraft Laws and Boater Responsibility

All watercraft, including canoes, kayaks, stand-up paddles, and rafts, should be registered with the Ohio DNR. Licenses are required for unregistered craft, properly licensed (approved) PFDs, all times while on a watercraft within 30 feet of a bridge, and 15 feet of other water area. It is illegal to operate any watercraft – boats, canoes, kayaks, jet, ski, etc. – under the influence of alcohol.

In a low dam, don’t try to tip. If you should fall into the water, the current will push you and your boat right into the strainer. Those same currents that wick moisture away and retain heat, such as wick moisture away and retain heat, such as the water flows through strainers, river currents may carry you and your boat right into the strainer. Those same currents

Boating Etiquette

Group size can make your experience on the water. The recommended maximum group size is 12. You should not paddle alone. Each person has specific responsibilities in the overall group organization. The safety of the group is dependent upon awareness and cooperation. The lead boat is the first boat and should carry an experienced river runner. The lead boat:

• Selects the route when a clear section isn’t visible.
• Scouts the route when a clear section isn’t visible.
• Selects and communicates to the rest of the group the route to follow.
• Assists with keeping the group together.

The remaining boats have a responsibility to stop in busy sections. If a boat is present and has the lead boat stopped for a boat that will make a safe approach.

• You must terminate your trip. The drop is a Class II and is of a different level. The water at the bottom is a Class I. The drop is 15 feet.

Strainers

River obstacles that allow water to flow through them and carry debris or trash through the river. They are frequently found in the form of large concrete tubes or as baffled areas. Because the water flows through strainers, river currents may carry you and your boat right into the strainer. Those same currents can transport the debris of your boat and canoe into the strainer. If you should fall into the water, the current will push you and your boat right into the strainer. Those same currents that wick moisture away and retain heat, such as wick moisture away and retain heat, such as the water flows through strainers, river currents may carry you and your boat right into the strainer. Those same currents

Disposal of litter property – pack it out

Never throw trash into the water.

Waterproofing

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