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 Water Trail is a safe and fun adventure.

For the most up-to-date information on this water trail, visit our website at madriverwatertrail.com or call (937) 426-4740.

Map Symbols

- River Miles
- Water Trail Access
- Local Access only
- Park
- Picnic Area
- Canoe Rental
- Boat Ramp
- Recreation Feature
- Boat Ramp
- MR 00.0
- GM 79.9
- River Miles
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Low Dams and Waterfalls
Many low-dam waterfalls are — despite their beauty — can be incredibly dangerous. Low dams can range from a 25-foot drop to a mere inch or two. Just letting your foot down over the dam may cause you to slip off. Even low dams have the power to throw you over. Backwash and eddies current can trap you back against the dam then undermined before you are pulled ashore. Parks with low dams may only be visited back to the dam as you rise to the surface. This circulating current may happen over and over again. The backwash current may even suck you in if you approach too closely downstream of the dam. The Mad River has many low dams, with additional low dams on its tributaries.

Waterways and Boater Responsibility
• All watercraft, including canoes, kayaks, and motorboats, must be registered with Ohio DNR.
• United States Coast Guard (USCG) approved personal flotation devices (PFDs) are required for all users on the water.
• Children under the age of 10 are required to wear a properly fitted, USCG approved PFD at all times, on or off the water.
• It is illegal to operate any watercraft— boats, kayaks, jetskis, etc. — under the influence of alcohol.
• It is illegal to launch into a dry stream, stream, river, lake, pond, or other water area.
• Children under the age of 12 operating a watercraft must be directly supervised an adult and may not operate personal watercraft such as jet skis.

Boating Etiquette
Group size and paddling skills can be important considerations in choosing a waterway for your trip. The more experienced boaters are, the better, cheaper and faster. Group size and paddling skills are an important consideration. Some trips may be easier for groups of boaters. The location is the first boat and should carry an experienced rower. The lead boat: 
• Set the pace and coordinates the pace for the rest of the boat.
• Sails and communications to the rest of the group the route to follow.
• Ensures that the safer section isn't visible.
• Carries first-aid and rescue equipment.
• The sweep boat is the lead boat and should carry an experienced rower. The sweep boat may surprise those in the backboat with their paddling skills. The sweep boat: 
• Assists with keeping the group together.
• The remaining boats have a responsibility to stay in between the lead and sweep boats. (If an immediate stop is not possible, the outrigger should immediately stop and wait for the lead boat to pass.) The lead boat: 
• Maintains pace to avoid collisions, but still allows the group to stay together.
• Always keep the natural upper and downstream current in mind, it may be stronger than you thought it was.
• Communicates leading instructions.

Outdoor Ethic
Dispose of litter properly — pack it out
• Never throw any garbage into the water. Pack out your garbage, including plastic waste, food waste, and other trash.

Foot Entrapments
If your foot capsulae, do not attempt to stand or walk away from where you are. You may get stuck 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 in calm water before leaving. When paddling, always enter and exit with your back to the current.

Water Trail Partners
The following water trail partners provided all the accurate buoys, buoys, and dive sites for information on the Miami Conservancy District:

Legends
10M—10/2014
Miami Conservancy District
Be prepared for the worst. Know how to get to roads or help to return.

Buck Creek State Park
937-437-3311
5380 State Route 73 East
Springfield, OH 45502
www.metroparks.org

Five Rivers MetroParks
www.fiverriversonline.com

Greene County Parks and Trails
1301 Mitchell Boulevard
Springfield, OH 45502
937-322-5284
www.greencountyparks.org

Lumby Dadu: All-Race Course
4285 Monarch Avenue
Toledo, OH 43623
937-394-3700
joesalinas@wm.net

National Trail Parks and Recreation District
937-322-5284
Springfield, OH 45502
www.metroparks.org

Ohio State Park
Ohio State Parks
24 hours a day at 1-800-282-9378.

Regional Medical Center
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1301 Mitchell Boulevard
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