

# Maumee River Water Trail



## Maumee State Scenic River

The Maumee River, named by the Miami Indians, was designated a State Scenic River on July 18, 1974.

Located in the northwestern part of Ohio, the Maumee flows northeasterly through portions of Paulding, Defiance, Henry, Wood and Lucas counties.

The Scenic portion of the Maumee River originates at the Ohio-Indiana state line and extends 43 miles to the U.S. 24 bridge, west of Defiance. This section is characterized by a broad meandering floodplain. Here, riverbanks rise sharply in comparison to the flat, surrounding terrain. The river banks support a healthy, forested corridor.

The recreational portion, from the U.S. 24 bridge west of Defiance to the US 20/ S.R. 25 bridge at Perrysburg and Maumee, is 53 miles long. In this segment the river greatly changes in character. Its floodplain widens and its channel doubles in size; the topographic relief is much less pronounced; and forest cover becomes sparse.

The historic and cultural heritage of this section is of major state and national significance, making it worthy of designation. In the era when wilderness reigned supreme and travel was by foot or water, the river constituted one of the chief modes of transportation.

During the late 17th and 18th centuries, the Indian people moved southward

and westward into the Maumee River Valley because of tribal warfare and the pressures of the European settlements. The Miami Indians were the predominant group; they settled at the headwaters of the river.

Many battles of the French and Indian War and the War of 1812 occurred in the river valley, which played a decisive role in the opening up of the "Northwest Territory" for settlement.

The Maumee River, once a part of the Great Black Swamp, underwent extensive drainage to yield vast, fertile, agricultural lands, a part of the landscape that remains today. Indeed, this major river of northwestern Ohio constitutes an important historical and cultural resource for the citizens of Ohio.

The Maumee River Watershed is over 5,000 square miles and drains some of the richest farmland in Ohio. The agriculture community continues to work with local, state, and federal organizations to reduce nutrient and sediment loading to the river. Coupling these agronomic practices with conservation buffers have yielded reductions in sediment and phosphorus pollution.

Precision farming and conservation tillage practices are being implemented throughout the watershed. Specifically, no-till farming has increased dramatically and has assisted in protecting the river.

Development of new residential areas is on the rise and stormwater runoff from urban areas can be a serious threat to the river if not properly managed.

## Ohio's Scenic Rivers

The mission of Ohio's Scenic Rivers Program is to preserve the natural qualities of Ohio's finer streams so present and future generations may experience their natural beauty and value.

The Ohio Scenic Rivers Program works with citizen groups and all levels of government to identify and protect the best of Ohio's waterways.

Many people make a direct contribution each year to preserve Ohio's scenic rivers. Volunteers regularly assist in litter cleanups, tree plantings, stream bank stabilization projects, and stream quality monitoring. On-going reforestation efforts beautify rivers and play a fundamental role in protecting the quality of our river ecosystems.

### In appreciation of our partners

Funding and production of this publication was a cooperative effort of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and Metroparks Toledo, with a special thanks to the Maumee Valley Planning Organization and the Defiance Soil & Water Conservation District for helping coordinate the initiative. Thanks as well to all of the access site owners and local stakeholder groups who have contributed their time and resources.



In case of emergency dial: **911**

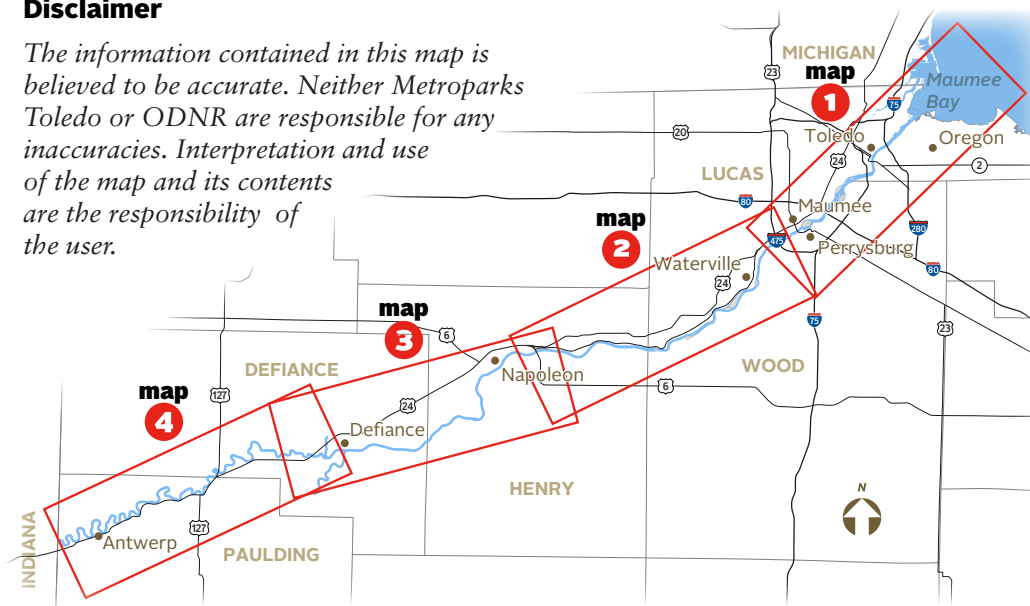
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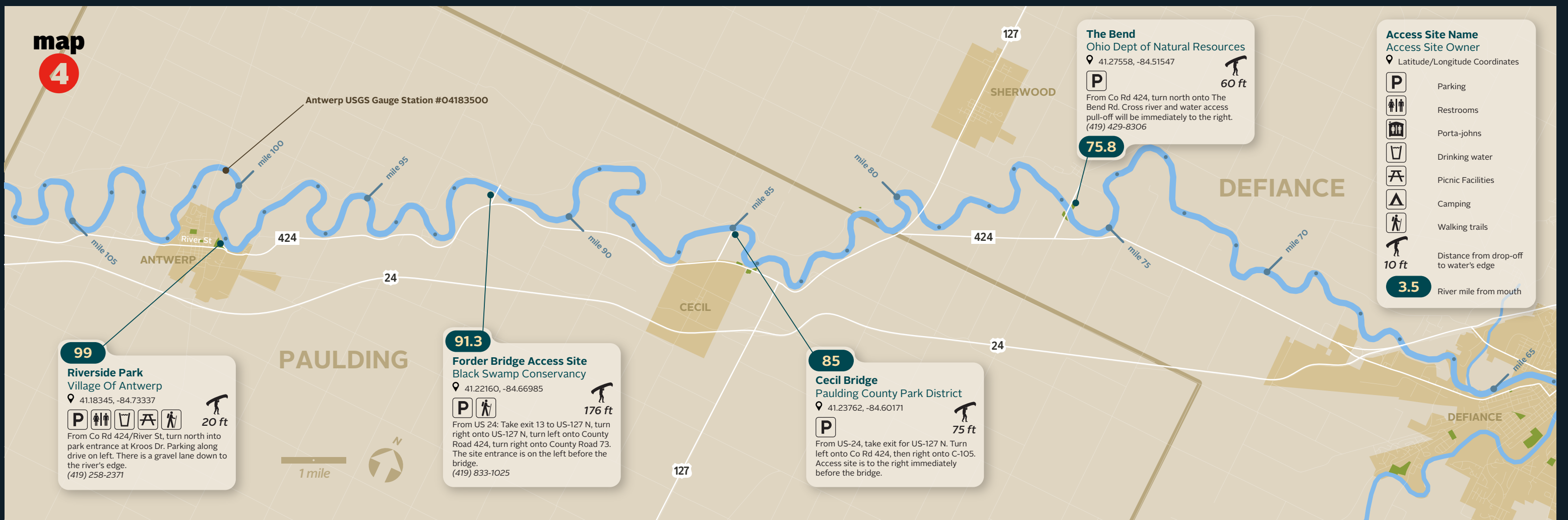
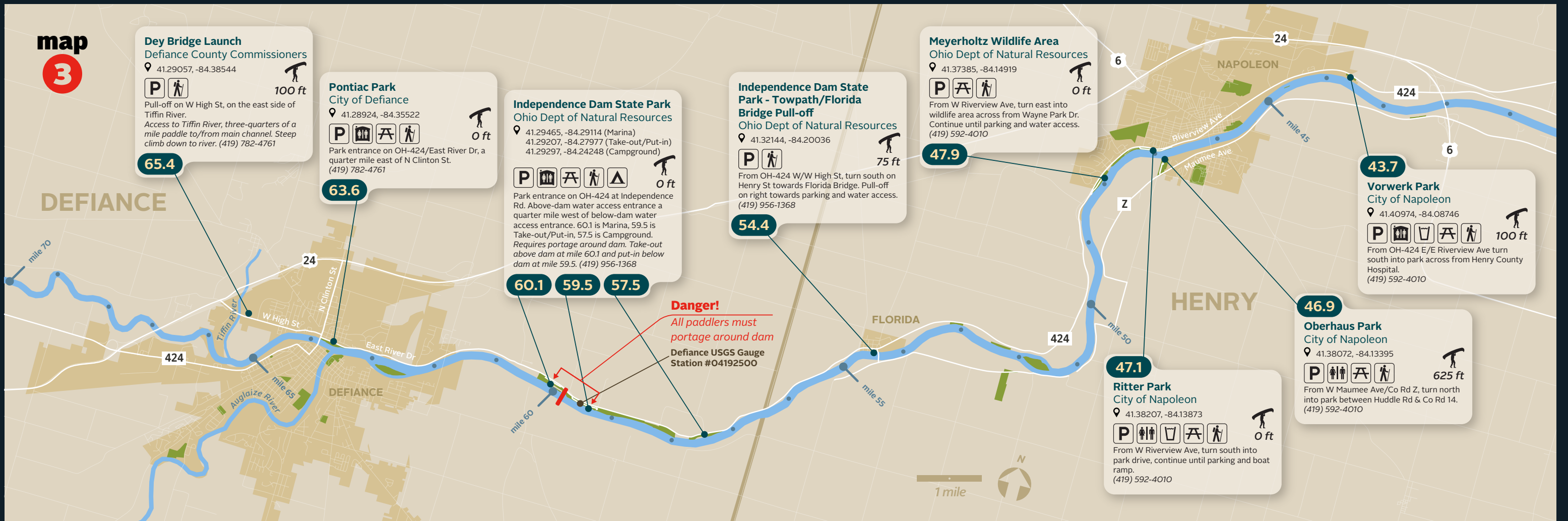
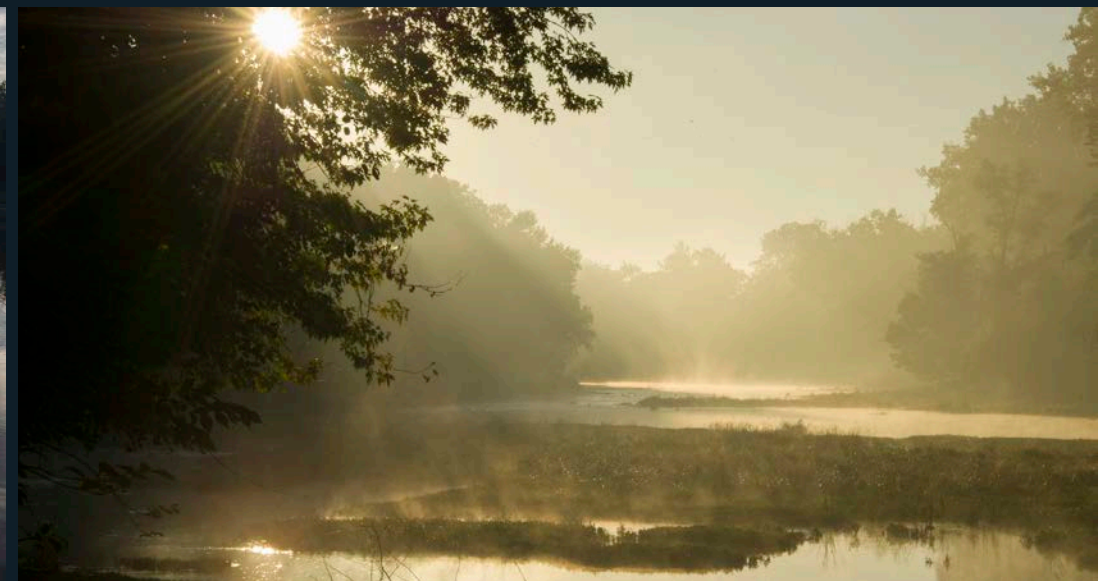
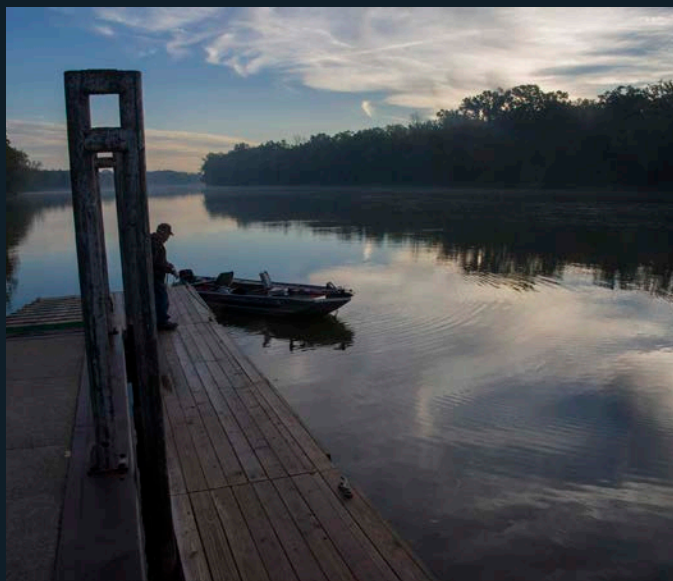
- Metroparks Toledo  
[metroparkstoledo.com](http://metroparkstoledo.com)
- ODNR Division of Parks & Watercraft  
[watercraft.ohiodnr.gov](http://watercraft.ohiodnr.gov)
- ODNR Division of Wildlife  
[wildlife.ohiodnr.gov](http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov)
- ODNR Paddle Ohio  
[paddle.ohiodnr.gov](http://paddle.ohiodnr.gov)
- Wood County Park District  
[woodcountyparkdistrict.org](http://woodcountyparkdistrict.org)
- USGS Water Data  
[waterdata.usgs.gov](http://waterdata.usgs.gov)



### Disclaimer

The information contained in this map is believed to be accurate. Neither Metroparks Toledo or ODNR are responsible for any inaccuracies. Interpretation and use of the map and its contents are the responsibility of the user.





## Outdoor Ethic

**Dispose of waste properly** — pack it all out!

**Travel on durable surfaces** — rock, gravel, and sand. Use existing, improved access sites. When using a natural river bank to launch your boat, stay clear of vegetation or mud.

**Stay on the trail while portaging** (carrying your boat)

**Leave what you find.** Appreciate artifacts and natural objects but leave them undisturbed.

**Prevent spreading invasive species,** including live bait, by completely cleaning and drying equipment between trips. Do not bring any standing water or water from another lake or river -- it may contain live plants or animals.

**Respect wildlife** — observe from a distance; don't feed, follow or approach wildlife. Control pets or leave them at home.

**Be considerate of other visitors.** Avoid boisterous behavior. Let nature's sounds prevail.

**Respect the privacy and rights of landowners.** Access sites shown in this publication are public property, all other lands should be considered private property.

## Common Hazards

### Foot Entrapments



- Do not attempt to stand or walk in swift-moving water. Feet can become entrapped between submerged rocks, risking drowning if a strong current holds one's body under water.

- Always keep feet up and pointed downstream.

- Swim to shore or calm water before standing.

### Lowhead Dams and Waterfalls



- Know the location of lowhead dams and waterfalls. Portage (carry your boat) around the hazard and launch at a safe distance downstream.

- NEVER attempt to boat over a dam or waterfall. Small dams are very dangerous because of the hydraulic turbulence at the base of the dam that trap boats and people.

### Strainers



- Avoid all strainers, or river obstructions such as overhanging branches, downed trees, log jams, and flooded islands, especially in swift water.

- Portage around any section of water about which you feel uncertain.

### Cold Water Immersion and Hypothermia



- 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 water inhalation and drowning. It can also 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. You don't have to be submerged to succumb to hypothermia — wind chill, rain, and perspiration can contribute to the condition.

- Avoid capsizing your boat. Keep your life jacket securely fastened to help keep your head above water if you fall overboard.

- Dress appropriately: wear layers using materials that wick moisture away and retain heat, such as silk, polypropylene, fleece, and wool.

- Bring an extra change of clothing with you in a waterproof bag. Neoprene shoes or tennis shoes with woolen socks are recommended footwear.

- Be able to recognize and know how to treat hypothermia. Uncontrollable shivering, slurred speech and lack of coordination are early symptoms.

### Floods and Swift Water

- Know the water conditions before you go. Water levels and flood information are monitored throughout the state: [waterdata.usgs.gov](http://waterdata.usgs.gov)

- Never boat on flooded rivers. High water causes hazards such as lowhead dams and unseen obstacles such as floating logs or submerged trees to become even more dangerous.

## Safety Tips

### Never boat alone

**Wear a lifejacket at all times,** particularly in moving water. By law, children under 10 must wear life jackets of an appropriate size.

**File a "float plan" with a reliable person,** indicating where you are going and when you will leave and return.

Remember to contact the person once you have returned safely.

**Know where you are along the trail at all times.** Know how to get to roads if you must walkout

**Do not overload or unevenly load your boat** Keep the weight in the boat low and centered to maintain stability.

**Be prepared to swim** If the water looks too hazardous to swim, then don't boat on it!

**Always maintain three points of contact** (for example, two hands and one foot touching the boat) while moving around in the boat.

**Be aware of motorized boats,** stay close to shore unless crossing, wear bright colors for visibility, always point your boat into the wake to avoid capsizing.

**If you capsize,** hold onto your boat unless it presents a life-threatening situation. Position yourself on the upstream side of the capsized boat.

### Carry plenty of drinking water

**Avoid overexertion** and guard against extreme weather conditions.

**In case of emergency call 911.** Know where you are along the trail in case you need to request emergency assistance.

