Maumee River Water Trail

The Maumee River, named by the Miami Indians, was designated a State Scenic River on July 18, 1974. Located in the northeastern part of Ohio, the Maumee flows north-south through portions of Paulding, Defiance, Henry, Wood, and Lucas counties.

The scenic portion of the Maumee River originates in 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 28 S/R, 23 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 southwest 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 Water Trail is over 5,000 square miles and drains some of the richest farmland in Ohio. The agricultural community continues to work with local, state, and federal organizations to reduce nutrient and sediment loading to the river. Cooperating these agronomic practices with conservation buffer 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.

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

Ohio’s Scenic Rivers

For more information:
Metroparks Toledo
metroparkstoledo.com
ODNR Division of Parks & Watercraft
watercraft.ohiodnr.gov
ODNR Division of Wildlife
wildlife.ohiodnr.gov
ODNR Paddle Ohio
paddle.ohiodnr.gov
Wood County Park District
woodcountyparkdistrict.org

USGS Water Data
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.

In case of emergency dial: 911
Outdoors 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 them undisturbed.

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. Foot can become entrapped between submerged rocks, risking drowning if a strong current holds one’s body underwater.

• 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, drowned 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, involuntary shivering, panicking, and hyperventilation which can result in death. The longer you are immersed in cold water, the harder it is to control your hyperventilation, hyperventilation, panic, and hyperventilation, and hyperventilation can result. You don’t have to hyperventilation, hyperventilation, panic, and hyperventilation.

• Avoid capsizing your boat. Keep your life jacket securely fastened to help you keep your head above water if you hyperventilation, hyperventilation.

• Dress appropriately: wear layers using a core temperature) can begin. Loss of core temperature) can begin. Loss of hyperventilation, hyperventilation, panic, and hyperventilation can result. You don’t have to hyperventilation, hyperventilation, panic, and hyperventilation.

Safety Tips

Never boat alone

Wear a life jacket 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 hyperventilation, hyperventilation.

Keep your head above water if you hyperventilation, hyperventilation, panic, and hyperventilation can result. You don’t have to hyperventilation, hyperventilation, panic, and hyperventilation.

Do not overload or uneventfully load your boat. Keep the weight in the boat line and centered to maintain stability.

Be prepared to swim if the water looks too hazardous to swim, then don’t boat out at.

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 upstream 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 at all times. Know how to get to roads if you have returned safely.

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Access Site Name

City of Napoleon

Access Site Owner

Napoleon-Lincoln Landowners

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